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A Polyphony of Principles

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A Polyphony of Principles

The Application and Classification of the Principles of European Union Law

PhD thesis propositions

1. There is a gap between legal theory and practical legal scholarship, and it ought to be bridged. European Union law is no exception to that rule.
2. It is doctrinally and practically necessary that a distinction is made between norms, values, policies and sources.
3. There are two types of norms: rules and principles, although their 'deontic' difference is not absolute, but relative.
4. Federalist theory offers a better explanation of the nature of the European Union than state sovereignty theory and constitutional pluralism.
5. General principles are not at the pinnacle of the hierarchy of norms of European Union law, and neither are systemic principles.
6. Of the three ideal types of classification of the principles of European Union law, the substantive classification overlaps most with the Court's own normative system of classification.
7. There is a hierarchy of principles in European Union law, but not quite.
8. Voltaire was incorrect when he wrote in his *Essay on Universal History, the Manners, and Spirit of Nations* (1756) that the 'Holy Roman Empire was in no way holy, nor Roman, nor an empire'. The Holy Roman Empire that existed from 800 until 1806 was in fact holy, Roman and an empire -- and most of all, as Chesterton remarked in *What's Wrong with the World* (1914), a 'United States of Europe'.