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The origins of this book may be traced back to the good judgment of John Temple Lang and Brian Doherty in suggesting that a series of legal seminars should be organised on the implications for the island of Ireland of the Withdrawal Agreement (especially the Protocol) and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement for the Irish Centre on European Law (ICEL) of Trinity College Dublin. I was delighted to be asked to organise these, together with Stephen Brittain, the Director of the Centre. These took place, in collaboration with the School of Law at Queen’s University Belfast, during the months of November and December 2020, and then in March 2021, via teleconference. These seminars attracted a significant audience, including many legal practitioners, public officials of several governments, and members of the judiciary from Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Coincidentally, as a member of the Northern Ireland Judicial Studies Board (JSB), I proposed and then organised, in close collaboration with Sir Bernard McCloskey and Terence Dunlop, respectively the Chair and Secretary of the Board, a separate series of in-house, Chatham House Rule seminars for all tiers of the Northern Ireland judiciary on the implication of the Protocol for their work. These were conducted online between January and June 2021. The enthusiastic support of the then Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Sir Declan Morgan, was critical to the success of these judicial seminars and I thank him for his support throughout the project, for his insightful contributions to the discussions, and for generously providing the Preface to this volume.

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