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Friedrich Erlbacher has studied law at the Universities of Vienna and Paris as well as at King's College London. Since 1996 he works for the EU institutions, first as case handler of competition cases in the European Commission, between 1998 and 2004 in the Chambers of Judge Azizi in the General Court and, since 2004, as member of the Legal Service of the Commission. Currently he holds the function of legal adviser in the field of EU external relations. He has been agent for the European Commission in around 150 cases in the European Courts as well as before national courts and dispute settlement bodies. He lectures European law at the University of Salzburg and has published widely on different subjects related to European law.