

# Preface

This book assembles contributions of members and friends of the European Group on Tort Law (EGTL) in appreciation and honour of Jaap Spier on the occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and his retirement from the University of Maastricht. Jaap Spier is the founder of this Group and now one of its two honorary presidents. He has always been the inspiring intellectual force who fed the Group with new challenging ideas. This was mainly due to his broad experiences during his impressive and extraordinary career which for others could easily fill three lives: after some years first as advocate in Rotterdam (already at the age of 24) and then as scientific researcher at the University of Leiden he worked very successfully for a good number of years as legal counsel for a renowned global enterprise; after that he taught civil law as full professor at the University of Tilburg for a decade until he became Advocate General at the Hoge Raad, the Netherland's highest Court. Besides he is honorary professor at the University of Maastricht, publishes extensively and serves in many institutions and organisations as chairman, expert or in other functions. Moreover, in recent years Jaap Spier became increasingly involved in environmental matters and legal questions of climate change.

The European Group on Tort Law owes Jaap not only its existence and many inspirations but in particular a lively and exciting climate of discussion and productivity that for its members made the participation the best experience of their professional life. For many it means also friendship for life.

Dear Jaap, we like to thank you and to wish you many fruitful coming years.

*Helmut Koziol • Ulrich Magnus*