

# Workshop Public Law III

## Ius Commune Conference 2007

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Friday, 30 November (09.00 – 12.00)

Location: Hotel Bedford, Quai Saint Léonard 36

Room: Linière

[Participants](#)

**Theme:** Towards normative convergence in the international legal order? The quest for a regulatory balance between market values and societal values

**Chair:** Ramses A. Wessel (University of Twente)

For the coming years the programme leaders have placed a focus on the balance between economic market values and societal values, including socio-cultural, environmental and public health objectives as well as fundamental constitutional principles such as human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Apart from challenging some of the foundations of international law, economic globalization raises questions in particular with regard to the positive and negative effects it may have on the aforementioned societal values. This workshop will focus on the increasing complexity of systems of global and regional economic regulation against the background of the following three working hypotheses: 1. The ongoing economic globalization increases the chance of a disruption of the balance between economic and other societal values in particular when globalization is connected to a regulation by semi-public or private actors and a retreating national and international government; 2. When classic governmental tasks are left to (semi-)private actors, it becomes more difficult to scrutinize and maintain control over public interests; 3. The development as described above calls for new arrangements; within the global and regional legal order, regulation of economic interests will have to be reassessed to find a balance between 'government' and 'market'. From an international legal constitutional point of view the main question will be to what extent we will have to take into account that in global governance there is no single government, but rather numerous different (public as well as private) entities that all in their own way influence our daily lives through complex and often connected normative processes.

The general discussion will be based on presentations by

**Peter van den Bossche** (Maastricht), *Economic and Non-Economic Values in the International Legal Order*

**Cedric Ryngaert** (Utrecht), *Environment-Related International Trade Restrictions*

**Arne Vandaele** (Brussel), *The ILO, Fundamental Rights and Globalisation*

**Bart de Meester** (Leuven), *The WTO, the EU and Banking Mergers*