



The Evolving Nature of the Rule of Law in International Economic Law

Tuesday 17 January 2023

The rule of law is the cornerstone of effective legal systems. Among its many facets, the rule of law promotes legal certainty, prohibits arbitrary action by the executive, guarantees effective judicial review, which includes respect for fundamental rights by independent and impartial courts, and seeks to ensure equality before the law. In international relations, the rule of law serves to place constraints on the exercise of power by sovereigns in inter-State relations in the interests of international community. In the modern globalised world, the rule of law has received a new dimension, increasingly focusing on the impact of the international rule of law on individuals. As the concern for the public interest of the international community permeates transnational activities, international economic law faces the challenge of playing a more proactive role in achieving global justice beyond economic interests.

Bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives in international and EU law, international relations and criminology, this conference will explore the evolving dynamics between the rule of law and the governance of international economic relations, with particular focus on interaction and integration of broader policies into international trade and investment. The conference is funded by the Erasmus+ EUChMIS Jean Monnet project of the Metro Institute with an aim to foster a policy dialogue between academic and policy community in the EU.

Program

8.30–9.15: Registration

9.15–9.30: Welcome (Nicolas de Sadeleer and Michael Faure)

9.30–11.15: Panel I: The evolving nature of the rule of law in global governance

Moderator: Michael Faure, Professor of Comparative and International Environmental Law, Maastricht University

- The concept of the rule of law and global governance: Theoretical perspectives (Henri Culot, Professor at UC Louvain; partner Prioux Culot)
- The rule of law in international trade law (Iveta Alexovičová, Assistant Professor of International Economic Law, Maastricht University)
- The rule of law in international investment law (Ivana Damjanovic, Lecturer in Law, University of Canberra)
- The rule of law in international environmental law (Nicolas de Sadeleer, Professor at USL Brussels)

Including panel discussion and Q&A (30 min.)

11.15–11.30: Coffee break

11.30–13.00: Panel II: Emerging trends in global trade governance

Moderator: Ivana Damjanovic, Lecturer in Law, University of Canberra

- Enforcing environmental obligations through trade treaties (G. Marin Duran, Associate Professor in International Economic Law, UCL)
- Disciplining health regulations through trade treaties (Denise Prévost, Associate Professor of international economic law, Maastricht University)
- Enforcing labour obligations through trade treaties (Giovanni Gruni, Assistant Professor, Esade)
- Trade and gender in international agreements (Dr. M. Garcia, Head of Polis, University of Bath)

Including panel discussion and Q&A (30 min.)

13.00–14.00: Lunch break

14.00–16.00: Panel III: New avenues for global trade and investment governance

Moderator: Iveta Alexovičová, Assistant Professor of International Economic Law at UM

- EU unilateral measures in addressing the global footprint (Nicolas de Sadeleer, Professor at USL Brussels)
- Enforcing sustainable obligations through trade treaties (TBC)
- Chinese perspectives on the rule of law in international economic law (Jun Xiao, Associate Professor at Wuhan University)
- Trade and Criminality: Trade in waste and hydrocarbons (Giardi Giulia, PhD researcher at Maastricht University)
- Trade and Criminality: People Smuggling at Ports (Richard Staring, Professor Erasmus School of Law and Criminology)

Including panel discussion and Q&A (30 min.)

16.00: Summaries and Concluding Remarks: Michael Faure

16.30: End of the event

Location: StayOkay, Maasboulevard 101, Maastricht

Registration: [here](#)