

Call for Papers

Resolving the Tensions between EU Trade and Non-Trade Objectives: Actors, Norms, and Processes

The Utrecht Centre for Regulation and Enforcement in Europe's (RENFORCE) research project on the "[External Effects of the EU Law](#)" invites submissions for the workshop on the externalization of trade and non-trade objectives through EU trade law and policy on 10 November 2017 at Utrecht University.

Background

The EU's Common Commercial Policy (which encompasses EU trade and investment law and policy) is not only a tool to strengthen or protect Europe's commercial and strategic interests. It is also an important and powerful foreign policy tool. Under Article 21 TEU, the EU's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles that lay at its core, such as democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law. Article 21 also aspires to safeguard a number of objectives and interests that are not economic in nature (i.e. to preserve peace, strengthen international security, preserve the environment). As Article 207 TFEU clearly instructs, the EU's trade policy must be conducted in the context of those principles and objectives.

In this regard, the EU trade policy is confronted with a classical dilemma. The European Commission pursues multiple objectives to, on the one hand, uphold Europe's commercial and strategic interests, protect the free trade and safeguard the EU social and regulatory model, and, on the other hand, protect and promote a number of non-trade values. However, frictions may occur between the objective of increasing EU commercial competitiveness and the goal of promoting specific non-trade values. The level and nature of these tensions varies depending on the contextual interpretation of values and objectives by various institutions and actors involved in the formulation and implementation of the EU's trade and investment policy.

Given that the process of externalization of the EU's trade and non-trade objectives ultimately has impact on the EU itself, as well as third countries and private actors therein, it is important to examine the questions of how coherent, effective and legitimate the Union's action in this area is.

The Workshop Theme

The workshop explores the actors, norms, and processes that are involved in balancing and resolving the tensions between the protection and promotion of specific principles and objectives and the EU's external trade policy. The focus of the workshop is on the recent issues concerning the EU's unilateral and bilateral actions (as opposed to multilateral action) in the realm of EU's external trade law and policy.

While there are many both legal and political aspects in the field of EU trade policy and

promotion of objectives and values, we particularly welcome (but not limit) papers that address one or more of the following issues through the analyses of specific instances, examples, and/or empirical data:

- How is the pursuance of trade and non-trade objectives balanced against each other? Which values prevail in case of conflict?
- How are unilateral and bilateral actions used to advance non-trade objectives, in particular the objective of sustainable development, and how effective and coherent Union's action in this area is?
- What role do different EU actors play in the process of exportation and dissemination of EU trade and non-trade objectives? How do EU institutions shape the externalization of EU objectives and principles?
- Bilateral trade agreements that the EU has concluded in the last years, or which are currently being negotiated, commonly contain a chapter on "Trade and Sustainable Development". What is the value of those chapters and what steps are taken to implement the relevant provisions? What normative tensions does the implementation give rise to?
- What types of fundamental rights are prioritized by EU institutions in the implementation of trade agreements?
- Through what processes, by whom, and on the basis of what normative indicators, have the Sustainability Impact Assessments supporting major EU's trade negotiations been conducted?

Submission of Proposals and the Timeline

Paper proposals should include a description of maximum 500 words and curriculum vitae of the author(s). The proposal should be submitted by 1 July 2017 and include:

- Title of the paper
- Research question
- Methodology
- Expected findings

Submissions should cover work that has not been previously published. The proposals should be submitted to Dr Urszula Jaremba (u.jaremba@uu.nl).

At the workshop, the invited authors should present a paper of 7,000-8,000 words, excluding references. It is the final objective of the workshop to have the submitted papers published in a special journal edition in 2018.

Selected participants will be informed by 15 July 2017. Each participant must submit a complete paper by 27 October 2017 for distribution to the other participants.

The limited amount of funds is available to cover the invited speakers' travelling expense and accommodation for the sake of the workshop.

For substantive questions, please contact: Dr. Ingrid Koning (ingrid.koning@uu.nl), Dr. Urszula Jaremba (U.Jaremba@uu.nl), and Dr. Machiko Kanetake (M.Kanetake@uu.nl).