



Call for Papers

International Workshop on

Trade Agreements

14-15 March 2014, Leuven (Belgium)

jointly organized by

Policy Research Centre on "Foreign Affairs, International Entrepreneurship
and Development Cooperation" for the Flemish Government

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven

Leuven Centre for Irish Studies, KU Leuven

International Network for Economic Research (INFER)

Workshop Objectives

This workshop brings together researchers from various disciplines to discuss recent topics related to **Trade Agreements**. Researchers are invited to submit both theoretical and empirical papers. In particular, we welcome papers related to the following topics:

- Regional and preferential trade agreements
- Multilateralism versus regionalism
- Economic, trade and welfare implications of trade agreements
- Political economy aspects of trade agreements
- Methodological issues related to trade agreements
- Trade policy
- Interdisciplinary aspects of trade agreements
- Regulatory barriers to trade
- Trade potential and welfare assessment of new trade agreements

More details on the context of this workshop can be found at the end of this call.

Keynote Speakers

We are happy to welcome the following internationally distinguished keynote speakers:

Prof. Scott Baier (Clemson University)

Prof. Benjamin Zissimos (University of Exeter)

Mr. Joao Aguiar-Machado (European Commission – DG Trade)

Organization

The workshop is jointly organized by the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies and the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies of KU Leuven and the International Network for Economic Research (INFER). It is organized within the framework of the Policy Research Centre on "Foreign Affairs, International Entrepreneurship and Development Cooperation", set up at the University of Leuven in order to advise the Flemish Government.

The **Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies** is an interdisciplinary research centre of the Humanities and Social Sciences at the KU Leuven. It was set up to promote, support and carry out high-quality international, innovative and interdisciplinary research on global governance. In addition to its fundamental research activities the Centre carries out independent applied research and offers innovative policy advice and solutions to policy-makers on multilateral governance and global public policy issues. Website: www.ggs.kuleuven.be

The **Leuven Centre for Irish Studies** is a multidisciplinary research centre of KU Leuven, with the support of the Irish government. It is located in the historical and recently renovated Irish College in Leuven. The economics research group of the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies focuses in particular on international trade and innovation. Website: www.irishstudies.kuleuven.be

INFER is a non-profit international scientific organization that stimulates research and research networking in all fields of economics through international workshops and conferences. Website: www.infer-research.net.

Submission of Papers

Full papers or extended abstracts may be submitted, preferably in pdf-format, by sending an e-mail to Jan Van Hove (jan.vanhove@kuleuven.be).

Submission Deadline: February 5, 2014. (extended)

Authors are allowed to submit more than one paper. All submitted papers will be peer reviewed according to a high-quality and fast referee process. By mid-February 2014 authors will be notified whether their paper is accepted for presentation at the workshop.

Paper presenters are expected to discuss one other paper during the workshop. The discussant assignments will be made by the workshop organizers at a later date. As the workshop intends to build a network in this research area, participation is welcome even without paper contribution.

Registration, Registration Fee and Accommodation

All participants have to register for the workshop. A registration fee has to be paid. Please note that paper submission is not regarded as a registration. After your registration, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. We offer you the possibility to register with or without accommodation.

1. Registration without Accommodation

The registration fee for presenting and non-presenting participants is:

120 EUR (for INFER members)

170 EUR (for others)

(Please note that the annual INFER membership fee is 25 EUR only)

This fee includes all lunches, drinks and the conference dinner (March 14). It does not include travel or accommodation costs. These participants have to take care of booking their own accommodation.

2. Registration with Accommodation

The registration fee for presenting and non-presenting participants is:

300 EUR (for INFER members)

350 EUR (for others)

(Please note that the annual INFER membership fee is 25 EUR only)

This fee includes all lunches, drinks and the conference dinner (March 14). It does not include travel costs. It also includes two nights of accommodation (March 14 till March 16, single room + breakfast) in the Irish College in Leuven, i.e. the conference centre building where the workshop takes place. The Irish College is a recently renovated historical building in the centre of Leuven that offers nice facilities (including free internet). This arrangement is very favorably priced compared to general hotel prices in Leuven. Additional nights can be booked at 120 EUR per night. Please visit the website for more information on the Irish College, the surroundings and the accommodation possibilities: <http://www.leuveninstitute.eu>

Registration can be done in two ways.

Registration Option 1:

Please register and pay the registration fee on the INFER website (www.infer-research.net). Payment can be done via PayPal on the website. Note that you can use the same website to become an INFER member.

Registration Option 2:

Register by sending an e-mail to jan.vanhove@kuleuven.be

Payment can be done by bank transfer by mentioning your name and 'Trade Agreements Leuven'. Please transfer the fee to the INFER account in Germany:

HypoVereinsbank Ludwigshafen

IBAN: DE33 5452 0194 3020 2199 97

SWIFT (BIC): HYVEDEMM483

Deadline for registration and payment: February 25, 2014.

In case of late registration, the fees will be increased by 50 %.

Location and Travelling

The workshop takes place at the Irish College in Leuven that hosts the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies. Address: Janseniustraat 1, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.

Leuven is a very nice, historical and lively city close to Brussels. The University of Leuven (KU Leuven) was established in 1425 and currently has an excellent international reputation in many research areas. More information about Leuven can be found at: www.leuven.be. More information about the university is available at www.kuleuven.be.

Travelling to Leuven is rather easy. There is a direct train connection between Leuven and all other Belgian train stations, including Brussels-South train station where most international trains arrive. If you travel to Belgium by plane, it is best to fly to Brussels Airport and then take a direct train from the airport to Leuven which takes 15 minutes. The Leuven Centre for Irish Studies is about 20 minutes walking distance from the Leuven Railway Station.

Many airlines, in particular Brussels Airlines, offer direct flight connections to Brussels Airport. For more info see:

<http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/> http://www.brusselsairlines.com/en_be/

Alternatively one can travel to Belgium by low-fare airlines, which often fly to Brussels South Airport (Charleroi). You then have to take a bus to Brussels afterwards (minimum 1 hour, depending on traffic), followed by a train to Leuven. There exists a direct bus connection between Charleroi airport and Leuven, but its frequency is limited. Hence travelling via Charleroi airport is not very convenient, but it is likely to be cheaper. For more information: <http://www.charleroi-airport.com/>

For your travel arrangements, please take into account that all presentations take place between March 14 (starting at 2 pm) and March 15 (ending at 5 pm at the latest).

Organization Team

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Scientific Committee

Filip Abraham (KU Leuven and Vlerick Business School)

Bart Kerremans (KU Leuven)

Axel Marx (KU Leuven)

Peter Bursens (University of Antwerp)

Dirk De Bièvre (University of Antwerp)

Karolien De Bruyne (HU Brussels and KU Leuven)

Gerda Dewit (National University of Ireland, Maynooth)

Terence Huw Edwards (Loughborough University)

Dermot Leahy (National University of Ireland, Maynooth)

Monica Pop Silaghi (University of Cluj-Napoca)

Camelia Turcu (University of Orléans)

Marian Rizov (Middlesex University)

Jan Wouters (KU Leuven)

Jan Van Hove (KU Leuven and HU Brussels)

For more information, please contact Jan Van Hove (jan.vanhove@kuleuven.be).

Detailed Context and Topic of the Workshop

The Bali WTO Ministerial Conference in November 2013, the negotiations for a truly plurilateral Trade in Services Agreement, the official start of EU-US talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership mark this period as a transition period for trade agreements. The Doha Round deadlock and the rise of regionalism are culminating into a new era for international trade. These recent and going events reveal glimpses of how the international trade regime will cope with these tectonic shifts. This workshop aims to bring together international trade experts from different disciplines to discuss these and other issues related to trade agreements.

Considering the focus on recent developments, the following themes and accompanying questions may serve as a starting point for the Workshop.

- **Multilateralism, regionalism and mega-regionalism:** for over a decade, the multilateral trading system has been under increased pressure from regionalism. Whether the latter is a building block or a stumbling block for the former remains unanswered. The global race to conclude 'regional' trade agreements remains unfettered. The emergence of mega-regional negotiations (talks on bi-, tri- or plurilateral trade agreements involving large economies and thereby integrating substantial parts of the global economy) may bridge the gap between multilateralism and regionalism. However, it (re)raises many questions, applicable to various disciplines, such as:
 - Will mega-regionals mitigate concerns on regionalism, such as the spaghetti-bowl phenomenon, implementation problems and increased complexity?
 - Will mega-regionals improve welfare? At what cost?
 - What does mega-regionalism and regionalism mean for the multilateral trading system?
 - Will future multilateral trade agreements be no more than a codification of the lowest common denominator in regionalism?
 - Is the end of the expansion of regionalism in sight? What benefits are left to reap? Are transaction costs increasing because of the complexity of trade rules (for example in the case of rules of origin) and their implementation?
- **Trade policy and strategy:** thorough regionalism and the emergence of mega-regionalism require rethinking various aspects of trade policy, in various disciplines. Geostrategic sensitivities practically influence economic, legal and political analyses and raise questions such as:
 - Does a first-mover advantage affect who is a rule maker and who a rule taker? What are the economic, legal and political consequences of the conclusion of an ambitious TPP for non-parties?
 - Is the position of the EU substantially weakened because of the US

- prioritising the TPP? Should foreign trade policy be altered because of it?
- What about the position of the BRIC? And Asia?
 - Will these economic partnerships reshape economic, political power balances?
 - How do these evolutions affect developing countries?
- **The future of the multilateral system:** regionalism is a reality and, in one way or another, is here to stay. The multilateral system is facing irrelevance or even disbanding if it does not find a way to adapt to the changed face of international trade.
 - What role, if any, can the WTO play in the new trade landscape as a negotiating forum, as a rule making forum, as a dispute settlor?
 - Should the WTO dispute settlement system's jurisdiction be extended to certain non-multilateral trade agreements? Will the need for a legalised adjudicator increase with the rise of mega-regionalism?
 - **The state of international trade:** overarching all the above are fundamental questions on the future of international trade. The global economic crisis has fuelled nationalism and protectionism, and international trade agreements are increasingly facing criticism for issues not directly related to trade, such as the protection of intellectual property rights. Moreover, the system is attempting to move beyond non-discrimination and into the creation of a 'global marketplace'. However, addressing non-trade barriers raises many difficult questions, such as:
 - Should trade agreements stick to non-discrimination obligations (including *de facto* discrimination, where a disparate impact on foreign products is considered discrimination)?
 - Should a 'global marketplace' be created? What does this mean in terms of democratic legitimacy? How does this impact sovereignty, regulatory autonomy, development, human rights, the environment, labour standards?
 - Should new generation trade agreements increasingly address non-trade issues, such as intellectual property rights or domestic competition policy? What does this mean in terms of democratic legitimacy?
 - **The pattern of international trade:** how do all these multilateral and regional developments affect the dynamics in international trade patterns? Do they merely influence the direction of trade flows or also their composition? Do firms react in similar or distinct ways to these policy evolutions?