

EU Trade Policy – Seminar

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The objective of this seminar is to furnish the students with comprehensive understanding of the EU's common commercial policy (CCP) and the regulation of trade with non-member countries and international organisations. The seminar specifically addresses the distribution of powers between the EU and its Member States, roles, powers and instruments of the EU institutions in the area of trade policy, the EU's autonomous trade policy, bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements, the Union's activities within the World Trade Organization (WTO) and similar fora, and the implementation of trade policy in the Member States. The course is based on EU constitutional law as articulated in the foundational treaties, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice, and in both bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, together with international law. Additionally, the negotiation processes, dispute resolution systems, and the operations of investment tribunals are examined. We will concentrate on the EU's post-2009 strategies and initiatives with regard to overarching objectives such as human rights, sustainability, and gender mainstreaming. The discussion encompasses substantive, institutional, and procedural dimensions of the subject. The course seeks to enhance the student's methodological awareness and elevate their critical thinking and scientific approach. The students will acquire adequate knowledge and abilities to autonomously identify, analyze, and resolve issues pertaining to the regulations governing the operation of the EU's trade policy.

The first part of the course provides the legal, theoretical and historical background of international trade and trade policy by looking into the main theoretical and historical mechanisms that drive the EU's international trade and foreign direct investment policies. We will look at and analyse

- the global settings for international trade,
- strategies of multinational enterprises and their impact on the global value chain and economic globalization,
- the main institutions and tools of trade policy in general,
- the legal foundations of the EU's trade policy and its resulting regulatory, procedural and institutional setting.

The second part focuses more on specific dimensions of EU trade policy. Here we will look at

- the specific tools of the EU's autonomous trade policy and its unilateral policy instruments,
- the international trade policy of the EU within the multilateral trading system (WTO) in general,
- the international trade policy of the EU within specific plurilateral settings (e.g. the International Tropical Timber agreement, the International Cocoa Agreement, the International Coffee Agreement, the International Natural Rubber Agreement, the International Sugar Agreements etc.),
- the bi- and plurilateral trade relations of the EU (e.g. CETA, EU-MERCOSUR, EU-Chile etc.), and the more specific "region-to-region" agreements (e.g. the Samoa agreement between the EU and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the Economic Partnership agreements etc.).

In the third part, we concentrate on the development of some normative objectives of European trade policy, as they have emerged particularly since the Lisbon Treaty. The focus is on questions regarding the linking of trade policy instruments with objectives and principles of action such as sustainability, human rights, gender justice, labor standards and democratic legitimacy.

- Do the dynamics of international trade politics and global governance erode parliamentary democracy? Given the overall evolution of the WTO, some parliaments are intensifying their focus on issues relating to their – potential, existing, or missing - role in international trade, multilateral trading systems and international trade organisations' decision-making. Other parliaments do not stop to complain about the loss of their policy-making or control possibilities, without taking into account that they themselves authorize(d) shifts of competences and power-allocation through the process of ratifying international treaties – such as the TEU and TFEU.
- How do parliamentary actors in different (supra)-, (inter-) and -national and socio-political settings, and forged in different national traditions, adapt to common challenges, constraints and opportunities for which they are mainly responsible themselves, since they have ratified the fundamental set-up of these opportunity structures?
- Do international treaties matter - and in how far do they matter - for the set-up and the functioning of parliamentary involvement?
- What is the nature of the challenges facing parliaments in a growing global trade regime?

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attendance: you may be absent from a maximum of two units with prior excuse or subsequent certificate (attestation).
2. Regular reading and processing of the compulsory literature as well as participation in the discussions in the seminar.

Performance requirements:

3. Every week, all students write a thesis paper on selected topics and readings (see seminar schedule and reading list). Students are allowed to form a working group of two students. Each group is required to submit a short analytical paper summarizing and evaluating the literature. These papers may take the form of a classic, academic paper, or – in about 50% of the assignments – some kind of a typical EU briefing or debriefing paper (“imagine you were posted in dept. X of the European Parliament and you should draft a short briefing / speaking note / debriefing on”) Two/Three students (randomly selected) summarize the readings in the form of an oral presentation and initiate the discussion.
4. Minimum requirements for all papers are:
 - Plausibility check of the chosen topic based on a conceptual or theoretical approach.
 - General problem definition and guiding question
 - Brief, preliminary explanation of the reasoning (course of the investigation)
 - The following sections should be included:
 - Guiding questions
 - (if required): Theoretical model and resulting hypotheses
 - Justification for processing the guiding question
 - Empirical, descriptive or analytical part for the investigation
 - Conclusion = revisiting the question in light of the hypotheses
 - Use of compulsory literature (no Wikipedia, no AI!!!)
5. Evaluation grid for assignments

Spelling / grammar Summary of the line of argument(s) Critical evaluation of the conceptual approach (usefulness, explanatory power, weaknesses) = 30 % or the final mark + Oral Paper Presentation (40 %) + Active participation in the seminar (30%)

Basic literature

Gstöhl, Sieglinde/de Bièvre, Dirk: The Trade Policy of the European Union, London, Palgrave 2018.

Kuijper, Pieter J./Wouters, Jan/Hoffmeister, Frank/De Baere, Geert/Ramopoulos, Thomas: The Law of EU External Relations, 2nd. Edition, Oxford University Press 2015

Meunier, Sophie: Trading Voices. The European Union in International Commercial Negotiations, Princeton University Press 2005.

Stavridis, Stelios/Irerra, Daniela (Eds.) The European Parliament and its International Relations, Milton Park, Routledge 2015.

Stavridis, Stelios/Jancic, Davor (Eds.): Parliamentary Diplomacy in European and Global Governance, Leiden/Boston, Brill/Nijhoff 2017.





Woolcock, Stephen: European Union Economic Diplomacy, Farnham, Ashgate 2012.

OEIL: <https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/home/home.do>

Legislative train schedule: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/>

International Agreements EURLEX: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/browse/directories/inter-agree.html>

International Agreements Council: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/treaties-agreements/>

- 07.02.2025 Introduction
- Presentation of the seminar and participants
 - Set-up of working groups
 - Lecture: Why do we study EU trade policy
 - Chapt. 1 Gstöhl, Sieglinde/de Bièvre, Dirk: The Trade Policy of the European Union, London, Palgrave 2018.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321395549_Introduction_Why_Study_EU_Trade_Policy
- 14.02.2025 The legal foundations of the EU's trade policy and its resulting regulatory, procedural and institutional setting - I
- Chapt. 2 Gstöhl, Sieglinde/de Bièvre, Dirk: The Trade Policy of the European Union, London,
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321395639_The_Legal_Development_of_the_Common_Commercial_Policy
- 21.02.2025 CONSIMIUM COUNCIL – No course !** → **22.02.2025 – 10.30-12.30: Online lecture and seminar**
- The legal foundations of the EU's trade policy and its resulting regulatory, procedural and institutional setting - II
- Chapt. 2 Gstöhl, Sieglinde/de Bièvre, Dirk: The Trade Policy of the European Union, London,
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321395639_The_Legal_Development_of_the_Common_Commercial_Policy
 - Holmes, P., & Kempton, J. (1996). EU anti-dumping policy: A regulatory perspective. Journal of European Public Policy, 3(4), 647–664.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13501769608407058>
- 28.02.2025 Global and Regional Institutions of international trade
-  WTO Introduction.pdf
- 07.03.2025 The regulatory framework of EU trade policy I – Trade defense
- https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/enforcement-and-protection/trade-defence_en
 - https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/enforcement-and-protection/trade-defence/anti-dumping-measures_en
 - https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/enforcement-and-protection/trade-defence/anti-subsidy-measures_en
 - De Bièvre, D., & Eckhardt, J. (2011). Interest groups and EU anti-dumping policy. Journal of European Public Policy, 18(3), 339–360.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2011.551068>
 -  anti-dumping-investigation-in-the-eu-h
 -  0828D EU anti-dumping guide
 - Holmes, P., & Kempton, J. (1996). EU anti-dumping policy: A regulatory perspective. Journal of European Public Policy, 3(4), 647–664.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13501769608407058>
- 14.03.2025 The regulatory framework of EU trade policy II – Global Value Chains and the Trade toolbox
- Erixon, Fredrik et.al. (2022): The new wave of defensive trade policy measures in the European Union: Design, structure, and trade effects, ECIPE Occasional Paper, No. 04/2022, European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE), Brussels,
<https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/299150/1/1802101306.pdf>
 - Weinhardt, C. et.al. (2022). The EU as a Geoeconomic Actor? A Review of Recent European Trade and Investment Policies. In: Babić, M., Dixon, A.D., Liu, I.T. (eds) The Political Economy of Geoeconomics: Europe in a Changing World. International Political Economy Series. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-01968-5_5
 -  EPRS Trade Defense appraisal.pdf

- 21.03.2025 The institutional framework of EU trade policy-making I: The European Commission
- https://commission.europa.eu/about/departments-and-executive-agencies/trade-and-economic-security_en
 - van der Harst, J. The European Commission and the “Europeanisation” of EU trade diplomacy: the case of EU-China relations, 1999–2021. *Asia Eur J* 21, 413–427 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10308-023-00670-0>
 - Nilsson, L. (2018). The European Commission’s role in trade policy. Sangeeta Khorana and María García (eds.) *Handbook on the EU and International Trade*, 79–98. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781785367472.00012>
 - Guri Rosén (2016) A match made in heaven? explaining patterns of cooperation between the Commission and the European Parliament, *Journal of European Integration*, 38:4, 409-424, DOI: 10.1080/07036337.2016.1141903
- 28.03.2025 The institutional framework of EU trade policy-making II: The Council of Ministers and Member States’ administrations
- <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/trade-policy/>
 - <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/trade-policy-committee/>
 - Murphy, A. (2000). In the maelstrom of change. The Article 113 Committee in the governance of external economic policy. In T. Christiansen & E. Kirchner (Eds.), *Administering the New Europe* (pp. 98–114). Manchester: Manchester University Press.
 - Chapt. 2 and Country studies in: Johan Adriaensen (2016). *National Administrations in EU Trade Policy. Maintaining the Capacity to Control*, Springer Nature. ISBN 978-1-137-54767-5, 2016
-  Serdarevic_2010 Trade Member State
- 04.04.2025 The institutional framework of EU trade policy-making III: The European Parliament
- <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/inta/about>
 - Guri Rosén (2018). The European Parliament. Sangeeta Khorana and María García (eds.) *Handbook on the EU and International Trade*. 117–134. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781785367472.00014>
 - Van den Putte, L., De Ville, F., & Orbie, J. (2015). The European Parliament as an international actor in trade. From power to impact. In S. Stavridis & D. Irrera (Eds.), *The European Parliament and its International Relations* (pp. 52–69). London: Routledge
-  Richardson EP Trade.pdf
- 11.04.2025 Institutional Engineering in European Trade Agreement Policy - Luns-Westerterp, Framework Agreements and Consent Procedures
- Guri Rosén (2017) The impact of norms on political decision-making: how to account for the European Parliament’s empowerment in EU external trade policy, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 24:10, 1450-1470, DOI: 10.1080/13501763.2016.1227357
 - Karina L. Pasquariello Mariano & Bruno Theodoro Luciano (2019) The parliamentarization of EU trade policy: unveiling the European Parliament’s involvement in EU-MERCOSUR trade negotiations, *European Politics and Society*, 20:5, 591-608, DOI: 10.1080/23745118.2018.1559792
 - Meunier, S. Trade Policy and Political Legitimacy in the European Union. *Comp Eur Polit* 1, 67–90 (2003). <https://doi.org/10.1057/palgrave.cep.6110000>
- 18.04.2025 Civil Society and Access to EU trade documents
- Galloway, David (2014): “Classifying Secrets in the EU”, in: *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol. 52, No 3/2014. pp. 668-683;
 - Guri Rosén (2015) EU Confidential: The European Parliament's Involvement in EU Security and Defence Policy, *JCMS*, Volume 53, Issue2, March 2015, 383-398, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.12154>.
 - Maurer, Andreas (2015) Access to documents and confidentiality rules in international trade negotiations, Brussels, European Parliament DG EXPO, [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/549033/EXPO_STU\(2015\)549033_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/549033/EXPO_STU(2015)549033_EN.pdf).

- Orbie, J., Van den Putte, L., Martens, D. (2018), 'Civil Society Meetings in EU Free Trade Agreements: The Purposes Unravelling'. In: Gött H. (ed.) *Labour Standards in International Economic Law*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-69447-4_8

09.05.2025 The EU's International Trade Agreements

- Maurizio Carbone, 'The Rationales Behind the EU-OACPS Agreement: Process, Outcome, Contestations', (2021), 26, *European Foreign Affairs Review*, Issue 2, pp. 243-264, <https://kluwerlawonline.com/journalarticle/European+Foreign+Affairs+Review/26.2/EERR2021018>
- Hagemeyer, Jan; Maurer, Andreas; Rudloff, Bettina; Stoll, Peter-Tobias; Woolcock, Stephen; Costa Vieira, Andreia; Mensah, Kristina; Katarzyna Sidło (2021): *Trade aspects of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement*. Luxembourg, Brussels: Publications Office of the European Union. ISBN 978-92-846-8749-7. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/653650/EXPO_STU\(2021\)653650_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/653650/EXPO_STU(2021)653650_EN.pdf)
- Maurer, A. (2024). *Kenya and its role in intra-Africa regional trade: The prospects of the EU-Kenya EPA*. Brussels. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/702596/EXPO_BRI\(2023\)702596_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/702596/EXPO_BRI(2023)702596_EN.pdf)

16.05.2025 Politisation of Trade policy – who cares?

- Hurrelmann, A., & Wendler, F. (2023). How does politicisation affect the ratification of mixed EU trade agreements? The case of CETA. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 31(1), 157–181. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2023.2202196>
- Heyl K, Ekardt F, Roos P, Stubenrauch J, Garske B. Free Trade, Environment, Agriculture, and Plurilateral Treaties: The Ambivalent Example of Mercosur, CETA, and the EU–Vietnam Free Trade Agreement. *Sustainability*. 2021; 13(6):3153. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13063153>
- Paola Conconi, Cristina Herghelegiu, Laura Puccio, 'EU Trade Agreements: To Mix or Not to Mix, That Is the Question', (2021), 55, *Journal of World Trade*, Issue 2, pp. 231-260, <https://kluwerlawonline.com/journalarticle/Journal+of+World+Trade/55.2/TRAD2021009>