

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SIEL 2014 Bern Conference

p.1

President's Corner

p.1

SIEL Conferences

p.2

Publications of SIEL Members

p.2

IEL Activities

p. 3

Regional & Network Activities

p. 3

Call for Proposals

p. 3

IEL Jobs

p.3

Other Activities

p. 3

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Should you wish to include an item in the next SIEL newsletter, please contact the editors.

The "President's Corner" text is the sole responsibility of the author and does not necessarily reflect the views of the WTO.

A. SIEL 2014 Bern Conference

The SIEL [2014 Bern Conference](#) is approaching. Over 300 participants and more than 100 paper and poster presentations are expected. Confirmed key note speakers include **Eva Hüpkas, Michael Trebilcock and David Unterhalter**. This is our 4th global conference, adding to dozens of regional and network events that SIEL supports throughout the world, such as the PEPA Conference and the ELSA WTO Moot Court, the most recent of which are discussed on page 3. The SIEL concept was first discussed in Bretton Woods in 2006, followed by a kick-off meeting in London in 2007. Since

formally establishing the society, we have held global conferences in Geneva, Barcelona and Singapore. On page 2, you will find an overview of these conferences. This year, we are very happy to be welcomed at the University of Bern and the renowned World Trade Institute. Preparations began as early as 2012, and all of us from SIEL, along with dozens of academic supporters from Bern and all over the world, have participated in the planning. We hope you will find this to be a fascinating and unique event and we look forward to seeing you there.

B. President's Corner

Regulatory Challenges in International Economic Law: Convergence or Divergence?

This mid-July we will meet in Bern. The theme of our conference will encourage us both to rethink the old foundations of international economic law and to dive head-first into the new challenges and opportunities brought about by the explosion of international economic relations.

Non-discrimination is a core principle of our multilateral trading system and of international economic law generally. But has it been able to bring us closer to a world of peace, harmony, cooperation and convergence, as the framers of the GATT hoped? How has the non-discrimination principle worked in practice, and how will it operate in the future, especially as new regional and other preferential arrangements might be said to pose a challenge for the fundamental premise of equal treatment for all? On top of these questions, the increasingly integrated nature of our globalizing world has caused some commentators to wonder whether non-discrimination is enough. Often traders and exporters, in particular, want more. Some wish for regulatory harmonization.

Has the GATT principle of non-discrimination favoured convergence of national regulatory frameworks? On the other hand, many of the new "mega" regional trade arrangements appear to favour convergence of national regulatory systems. But by splitting the nations of the world into those "inside" and those "outside" such arrangements, do they harden polarization and thus further entrench divergence?

How should the international community – governments, of course, but also academics and practitioners – respond to the need for regulatory convergence? As a matter of fact, harmonization is not always feasible; mutual recognition of standards may often be a more realistic avenue, but sometimes at the cost of potential discrimination allegations from those who are refused a mutual recognition

SIEL GOVERNANCE

Officers

Gabrielle Marceau (President); Meredith Kolsky Lewis & Colin Picker (Executive Vice-Presidents); Galina Zukova & Federico Ortino (Treasurers); Amelia Porges & Freya Baetens (SIEL Corporate Secretaries)

Executive Council

Lorand Bartels, Tomer Broude, José Caiado, Michael Ewing-Chow, Holger Hestermeyer, Locknie Hsu, Jurgen Kurtz, Andrew Lang, Nokuhle Madolo, Junji Nakagawa, Shin-yi Peng, Lisa Toohey, Isabelle Van Damme, Tania Voon, Markus Wagner, Heng Wang

requests. Where is the line between unacceptable discrimination and acceptable mutual recognition? The convergence question is further complicated by the fact that important divergences and sometimes even tensions exist between regulatory and legal systems. Indeed, the very meaning of 'regulatory' and 'legal' systems may not be the same in different countries and on different levels of governance.

These are some of the issues that we will explore, thanks to you, SIEL members, in Bern. The strength of SIEL is its amazing membership, the intellectual creativity, as well as the new, sometimes revolutionary approaches suggested by its participants. Bern in July is another occasion for SIEL to celebrate, challenge, and engage with the roots and the future of international economic law.

SIEL Conferences

- A. Bretton Woods & London
- B. Geneva 2008
- C. Barcelona 2010
- D. Singapore 2012
- E. Bern 2014
- F. SIEL 2016

Publications of SIEL Members

- Toohy
- Van Aaken
- Voon

investment and finance. The opening lecture was named in honour of Professor Robert E. Hudec, one of the field's best loved and most admired scholars, whose formidable work continues to inspire the current generation. It was appropriately given by Professor John H. Jackson, whose contributions to the formation of the field are also universally recognized and admired, his fine lecture establishing what has since proved to be a worthy tradition.

C. Barcelona 2010

The second biennial conference, held at the IELPO at the University of Barcelona, was in some respects the first real conference for the established SIEL. The prior Geneva conference was an event to establish the SIEL. By the time we got to Barcelona, the SIEL was already real. The question then was whether to keep the same approaches, knowing it would set a pattern for all future SIEL global conferences. In the end, given the Geneva conference seemed to have worked well and that we simply did not, as usual, have the resources to start from scratch we decided to model the Barcelona conference on the Geneva one – creating what is now the typical format and approach. The highlight for many was the Hudec Lecture delivered by Joseph Weiler at the start of the conference, in a magnificent and historic hall of the Barcelona municipality. Otherwise, the conference largely proceeded very smoothly, due to the excellent logistical work of the IELPO personnel.

D. Singapore 2012

SIEL held its third conference in Singapore in July 2012. The conference, which was hosted by the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre for International Law (CIL) and the NUS Faculty of Law, was a huge success. The event featured three keynote sessions: the Robert Hudec Lecture, delivered by Chang-fa Lo, Justice of the Constitutional Court (Judicial Yuan); an international investment law keynote with Meg Kinnear, Secretary-General of ICSID as the main speaker and Anna Joubin-Bret, Partner with Foley Hoag LLP as discussant; and for the first time, a financial/monetary keynote dialogue between Masahiro Kawai, Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute and Cynthia Lichtenstein, Professor Emeritus, Boston College Law School. The conference also introduced poster presentations which were very well-received and facilitated significant exchanges of ideas between the usual Panels. SIEL 2012 also saw the WTO Chairs Program host a Dialogue on "The Future of the WTO" and UNCTAD launch their World Investment Report 2012. SIEL Singapore had over 100 speakers and 275 attendees, including scholars

from 50 countries representing 150 institutions. Speakers came from all six inhabited continents, and hailed from Argentina to Zambia. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Conference, with Gabrielle Marceau being elected President, Meredith Kolsky Lewis & Colin Picker being re-elected as Executive Vice-Presidents. For more about SIEL 2012, please visit the conference [page](#).

E. Bern 2014

While we are all still recharging our batteries after the 2012 Singapore Conference, arrangements for the 2014 Bern Conference had long started. A Call for Venue applications was published already in 2012, and in 2013 the SIEL Venue Search Committee, composed by 8 senior academics and legal professionals, awarded the fourth SIEL conference to the World Trade Institute (WTI) and the University of Bern. Soon enough, SIEL members from throughout the world were being assigned to working groups to assist our Officers and WTI colleagues in the organization of the conference.

F. SIEL 2016

Even before the Bern conference takes place, the SIEL Venue Search Committee is already at work. We are very pleased about the success of our 2016 Call for Venue, and will soon report the institution hosting the 5th SIEL Biannual Conference.

SIEL Conferences

A. Bretton Woods & London

The initial idea of a global organization for the field was first discussed at the ASIL-IELG's November 2006 conference, aptly held at the historic Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. Shortly thereafter, some of the participants at that conference put together the Founding Committee, and then the Founding Executive Council. Subsequently, on May 24-25 2007, there was a planning meeting at the London School of Economics to allow the Founding Committee, Executive Council and others to discuss our shared vision for SIEL. The input we received from the participants at that meeting has helped us to clarify and advance our vision of what SIEL would do and be, and how it ought to be structured and governed.

B. Geneva 2008

SIEL's first major public event was its inaugural conference in July 2008. The conference was held in one of the historical centres of international economic law, on the side of Lake Geneva, hosted by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, a stone's throw from the World Trade Organization's Centre William Rappard – an origin point of sorts, which felt appropriate for the (second) birthplace of a new organisation in international economic law. Due in no small part to the diligence and professionalism of the staff of the Graduate Institute, the conference far exceeded expectations. Over 300 delegates from more than 40 countries generously gave their time to participate in panels and discussions around the international law of trade,

Publications of SIEL Members

This **new section** will publicize academic work by SIEL members. If you have any recent or upcoming publications that you would like to share with the SIEL community, please email either [José](#) or [Freya](#) with the details.

Wang, H., ed. [International Trade Law](#), Law Press, Beijing: Law Press, 2014.

Toohy, L. "[Accession as Dialogue: Epistemic Communities and the World Trade Organization](#)." *Leiden Journal of International Law* 27, no. 02 (2014): 397-418.

Van Aaken, A. "[Delegating Interpretative Authority in Investment Treaties: The Case of Joint Commissions](#)." *Transnational Dispute Management (TDM)* 11, no. 1 (2014).

Van Aaken, A. "[Control Mechanisms in International Investment Law](#)." In *The Foundations of International Investment Law: Bridging Theory into Practice*, edited by Zacharias Douglas, Joost Pauwelyn and Jorge Vinuales, 409-435. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Voon, Tania, ed. [Trade Liberalisation and International Co-operation: A Legal Analysis of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement](#). Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2013.

IEL Activities

- A. SIEL support to ELSAs African Round

Regional & Network Activities

- A. PEPA

Call for Proposals

- A. ELSA Moot Court

IEL Jobs

- A. GO Associates

Other Activities

- A. IEL Publisher Discounts
- B. New Positions/Titles
- C. 2013 SIEL/CUP Essay Prize
- D. Other

IEL Activities

A. SIEL support to ELSA Moot Court

The ELSA Moot Court Competition has for many years allowed students from all over the world to deepen their understanding and practice their legal skills in an international environment through Regional Rounds happening on different continents. This year, the very first African Regional Round took place at the University of the Witwatersrand (Mandela Institute) in Johannesburg, South Africa, and three African teams qualified to compete in the Final Oral Round in Geneva. The participation of african teams was personally commended by WTO Director-General Azevêdo, and was possible in part **thanks to a generous donation by SIEL**. The Final Oral Round itself was a successful event, with the top 20 teams from all over the world, out of more than 80 teams in total, competing to be the world champions in international trade law. In the Grand Final, which took place in the WTO Headquarters, a team from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens won against Harvard Law School in front of a panel consisting of top experts in the field of trade law. This year, SIEL contributed to the moot court in numerous ways. In addition to SIEL's financial support, several SIEL members assisted the moot court by serving on the Academic Board, by judging regional and final rounds, and in the organization of the moot. In particular, Dr Lorand Bartels, Dr Federico Ortino, Prof Meredith Kolsky Lewis and Gabrielle Marceau.

Regional and network activities

A. PEPA Conference

The **3rd PEPA Conference** took place in São Paulo, Brazil, 24 - 25 April 2014. Almost 100 participants from throughout the world participated in the intensive debates at the law school ([Direito GV](#)). Some pictures of the event can be found [here](#).

Call for Proposals

A. ELSA Moot Court

ELSA International invites proposals from prospective case authors to write the Moot Court Case for the 13th edition of the EMC² Moot Court Competition on WTO Law. The case proposal (between 1,000 and 2,000 words in length) should present a factual scenario and identify approximately three to four WTO legal issues (which may include procedural issues) that arise from the scenario. Ideally, the Moot Court Case would address legal issues raised but not resolved in the jurisprudence to date and provide the opportunity to study and argue existing case law. As an example, the 2014 Moot Court case, written by Professor Markus Krajewski of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, is available [here](#). Case proposals should be sent to [ELSA](#) by 6th of July 2014. The case author would be notified on 15th of July 2014 and begin work with the Academic Board to develop the case over the summer of 2014, before the case is launched on 15th of September 2014.

IEL Jobs

A. GO Associados

GO Associados, a global multidisciplinary Consulting Firm, with HQ in São Paulo, Brazil, is hiring. Both vacancies are for the team of "International Trade, Market Access and Expansion". Compensation will be negotiated according to experience and qualifications. For more information, please send résumé to [Carolina Ures](#).

Data Analysis Position: candidate must have experience in trade remedies, preferably with a background in accounting. The job will require extent collection and analysis of companies' data records, as well as margin calculations. Working hours are flexible and the work could be done locally or remotely. The position provides the opportunity to travel so the candidate must be available for international trips. Fluency in English is mandatory.

Market Access Position: candidate must have experience in tariff and non-tariff trade barriers. Background in Economics or Trade Law is preferable. Excellent research and writing skills. Flexible working hours. Work can be done locally or remotely. Fluency in English required.

Other activities

A. IEL Publisher Discounts

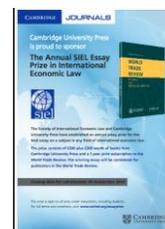
Since its inception, the SIEL has negotiated SIEL member discounts with a wide variety of publishers, all of whom have been very supportive of the SIEL. More information on discounts available from individual publishers can be found [here](#).

B. New Positions/Titles

If you have any upcoming changes, whether temporary or permanent, that you would like us to list, please email either [José](#) or [Freya](#) with the details.

C. 2014 SIEL/CUP Essay Prize

The deadline for the 2014 SIEL/CUP Annual Essay Prize is 30 September 2014. The competition is open to students and young professionals. The essay must not have been previously published. The prize consists of £200, as well as £300 of CUP book vouchers and a three year subscription to the World Trade Review (WTR). The winning essay will be submitted to the WTR for publication. Any queries should be addressed by email to [Lorand Bartels](#). Other details can be found [here](#).



D. Other

SIEL seeks to **publicize IEL events** including conferences, calls for papers, IEL competitions, IEL programmes etc. Please send us such information for posting. To view a list of past SIEL posts, please visit the [SIEL website](#). As members of a member-run organization, please consider getting in touch with Meredith Lewis and Colin Picker, SIEL Executive Vice-Presidents, with specific ideas for SIEL projects and services. We are committed to expanding SIEL activities and services wherever appropriate - whether individual or in partnership with other IEL organizations around the world. Indeed, at the moment we are in the process of developing new projects and services and once they are finalized we will let you know.

Thanks for your support and interest.

Freya Baetens & José Caiado
Executive Council Members
SIEL Newsletter Editors