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Newsletter editors

[Freya Baetens](#) and [José Caiado](#)

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

A. SIEL 2014 Bern Conference

The Fourth Biennial SIEL Global Conference was a great success! Over 300 participants from 40 countries and every inhabited continent gathered from 10-12 July at the World Trade Institute and the University of Bern. The event opened with Professor Thomas Cottier introducing the conference theme, Regulatory Challenges in International Economic Law: Convergence or Divergence?; featured keynote addresses given by Professor Michael Trebilcock (Toronto), Professor David Unterhalter (Witwatersrand and former member of the WTO Appellate Body), and Dr. Eva Hüpkes (Financial Stability Board); over 20 panels of presenters; and innovative sessions including “speed

research” and a hot topic round table discussion. The participants held lively debates both in the formal sessions and during the breaks, and enjoyed the wonderful hospitality and efficient organization of our hosts. At the SIEL Annual General Meeting, Colin Picker, one of the two SIEL founders and Co-Executive VP since SIEL’s inception, stepped down from his Executive VP position onto the Executive Council. Holger Hestermeyer was elected to replace Colin as Executive VP. In addition, Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer was elected to a position on the Executive Council Thank you for having joined us in Bern.

B. SIEL News

SIEL is now on Social Media

Following the successful experience in Bern (#SIEL 2014), we have now entered the world of social media, offering our members more ways to keep in touch. You can now find us on [Facebook](#), on Twitter - [@sielnet](#), and on [LinkedIn](#).

SIEL website upgrade

Over the next few weeks, the SIEL website will be undergoing an upgrade. Please be patient as some parts of the site will not be available. We look forward to offering members a new and improved site in the near future.

SIEL Officers and ExCon

SIEL welcomes **Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer** as a new ExCon Member. Krista is SNF Professor at Law Faculty of the University of Basel. She has been elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Bern for the SIEL ExCon for a 2 years mandate.

We are also proud to announce that **Holger Hestermeyer**, from the ExCon, was elected Vice-Executive President. Holger is to soon join the King’s College London as Shell Reader in International Dispute Resolution.

President’s corner

The text of the President’s corner will exceptionally not be published in this edition.

SIEL GOVERNANCE

Officers

Gabrielle Marceau (President); Meredith Kolsky Lewis & Holger Hestermeyer (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, Locknie Hsu, Jurgen Kurtz, Andrew Lang, Nokuhle Madolo, Junji Nakagawa, Shin-yi Peng, Colin Picker, Krista Schefer, Lisa Toohey, Tania Voon, Markus Wagner, Heng Wang

C. 2014 WIF

SIEL is an Organization Partner of the 2014 WIF organized by UNCTAD (see page 3).



SOME THOUGHTS ON THE PAST & FUTURE OF SIEL

At the SIEL Annual General Meeting a few weeks ago I stepped down as Executive Vice-President, becoming a regular member of the Executive Council (Excon). The Society will see and feel a smooth transition as Holger joins Meredith as one of the Executive Vice Presidents, responsible for the daily operation of the Society. At such times of transition there is the opportunity to reflect on the past and the future of the Society. Gabrielle has ceded the President's corner of the newsletter to me for that purpose.

The Genesis of SIEL

In the decades before the creation of SIEL in 2008, the field was not sufficiently appreciated or recognized as an autonomous and flourishing field of law. From time to time research on International Economic Law (IEL) would be discussed at a one-off or ad hoc workshop or conference. Usually trade would be the focus. Sometimes investment. Rarely the two together. Even more rarely would finance, monetary, IP, development, and the other components of IEL be the subject of the event.

There was, however, one significant exception - the American Society of International Law's IEL interest group (ASIL-IELG). ASIL's IELG held its first conference in 1992 and by the time SIEL was created ASIL-IELG had been a major presence within the field. Indeed, it was that very success that was troubling to some of us. For by the mid-2000s, the ASIL's IELG biennial meetings had become the default global meeting of IEL. While providing excellent conferences, it did not seem right to me that the ASIL-IELG should be the global hub for academic IEL, despite the fact that I was then a chair of the ASIL-IELG. My reasons had little to do with the excellent quality or success of the interest group. Rather, I had three major concerns. The first was that I thought the field's primary academic meetings should not be under the auspices of a national or even regional organization. The field is, after all, global. As inclusive and excellent as ASIL is, it is still an American society. The second major reason was that because the ASIL-IELG was itself part of one organization, it could not easily serve to support other networks as a global umbrella organization. This leads to the last, and most important of my reasons for the need for SIEL - there was a pressing need to bring the academic side of the field to those parts of the world then not well-served or supported by the field. I did not feel that an interest group of a regional organization could rise to that challenge.

Accordingly, this idea of creating an authentic global association focusing exclusively on IEL was discussed at the biennial conference of the ASIL's IELG, aptly held in 2006 at the Mount Washington Resort at Bretton Woods (in many of the same rooms in which the delegates in 1944 had created the IMF and World Bank). At the conclusion of the conference, those in attendance then supported the idea to create a world IEL organization, with many of the attendees committing their time and energy to making that happen. Many of them continue to this day to hold leadership positions in SIEL (including Amy, Federico, Galina, Junji, and Tomer). Within two years SIEL was a reality, having held its first global conference in Geneva in 2008.

The First Six Years of SIEL: 2008-2014

At its most basic level, SIEL was designed to be global, pluralistic and inclusive. Its first six years have proven to be a great start to realizing those goals.

Global

Being global meant that SIEL would work in all parts of the world, though focusing most on those parts that need more support to enable them to fully take part in the development of the international economic legal order. Although at the time of SIEL's creation, Europe and America had their respective groups, the other continents and regions did not have any active regional IEL groups. One of the first things SIEL did was to push for the creation of regional networks, either through encouragement within already existing international law societies (such as the Australia New Zealand Society of International Law) or as free standing independent societies. As a result of SIEL's efforts, many new and active regional IEL networks (IELN) were created, including the Asia IELN, the Africa IELN and Red Latinoamericana. In addition, a South Asia IELN is in the embryonic stage at this time. These networks are independent of SIEL, but work closely with it.

Pluralistic

SIEL reflects the fundamental idea that the international economic legal order comprises connected fields that are organically, theoretically, historically and institutionally linked together. Thus, trade, investment, finance, monetary law, international IP, development and other parts of the IEL order are best understood, considered and developed together, or at least not in isolation from each other. While specialization within each of these fields produces depth of understanding, there is still a critical need for knowledge of or communication among the different fields. SIEL operates to support and encourage such an 'interdisciplinary' method.

SIEL particularly strives to include in its coverage those other fields of IEL that would not otherwise receive necessary support, with many of those fields having a significant public law nexus. The society provided support through backing relevant events and competitions and the creation of substantive networks. For example, recently at the 2014 conference SIEL helped launch the IEL & Development Law Network and the International IP Network. Those networks now join already constituted groups such as the *International Financial and Monetary Law Network*, and are, unlike the regional ones, a formal part of SIEL and thus have much of their active life at the SIEL conferences. It is hoped that in the future these thematic networks will assume a larger role, holding their own events and running their own projects.

Inclusive

SIEL understands that some constituent groups within IEL need additional, specialized or unique support to ensure they realize their full potential and hence that the field benefits fully from their contributions. Those constituents include academics, practitioners, government officials and students. One area of particular progress has been the activities of the Postgraduate and Early Professionals/Academics Network (PEPA). By launching a global mentoring network (more below) that constituency will be supported even further.

The Future of SIEL

While SIEL has had unqualified success over these last years, there is, as suggested above, more to be done. SIEL needs to become even more active in the field, ensuring it does not just expend its energies in running conferences. Though those conferences are important, providing opportunities for SIEL members to: network and launch collaborations; disseminate research; showcase the field, both as a whole and its different parts; honour distinguished participants; bring the field's participants to different parts of the world; and even to try out unusual and innovative conference approaches – such as the recently trialled *Speed Researching*.

Of course, SIEL has launched and run non-conference projects, including: a translation of IEL materials; supporting IEL moots; and an IEL research paper competition (with Cambridge University Press). Another new project SIEL is hoping to set up is a global mentoring network which will link senior IEL participants with junior IEL participants that are located in an environment where the mentoring is deficient or absent or could productively be supplemented.

While the above efforts are commendable, especially in such a young organization, more can and should be done. But, SIEL has no secretariat, no part- or full-time employees, no major institutional support and is generally resource-poor. All the work of SIEL is done by the officers, members of the Excon and others as volunteer work, in their scarce spare time with little support from SIEL (e.g. all officers and Excon members pay their own way to SIEL events, and even pay registration fees). But, SIEL needs to both expand this volunteer model, so more SIEL members are active in working and running projects, and it needs to eventually have professional staff. The latter may require institutional support of some sort. Figuring out the way forward will be difficult, but is necessary if SIEL is to realize its goals.

These are just some of the challenges facing SIEL at this time of leadership transition. But, given the success of SIEL to date, growing in just eight years from an idea discussed over coffee to running a large and successful conference at the WTI in Bern, I have every confidence SIEL will prevail, triumph and move from one success to another.

Colin B. Picker

Colin Picker is Associate Dean (International) and Associate Professor at the University of South Wales in Australia. He is one of the founders of the Society of International Economic Law, and is currently a member of its Executive Council. He served as Vice-Executive President between 2008 and 2014



Regional & Network Activities

A. Red

Call for Papers

- A. Kaliningrad WTO Forum
- B. P.E. of Investment Agreements

IEL Activities

- A. 2014 World Investment Forum

IEL Jobs

- A. DISSETTLE

Papers by SIEL Members

Other Activities

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

Regional and network activities

A. Red

The Red Latinoamericana de Derecho Económico Internacional has published the proceedings of its first conference as José Manuel Álvarez, Michelle Grando, Holger Hestermeyer (eds), *Estado y Futuro del Derecho Económico Internacional en América Latina* (U. Externado de Colombia, 2013).

Call for Papers

A. Kaliningrad WTO Forum

The new **International Annual Forum on WTO Law** in Kaliningrad has as an objective the dissemination of knowledge about the World Trade Organization and expansion of the international capabilities of the Kaliningrad region as a border area, identifying the actual problems Russia encountered being a Member of the organization and elaboration of the solutions. As many issues require ongoing discussion, the organizers decided to establish a permanent expert group on the application of the WTO Agreements on the basis of the International Annual Forum on WTO law. The next Kaliningrad WTO Forum will take place in March 2015 and the deadline for submission of papers is 1 November 2014. Please consult the [Forum's web page](#) for more information about the conception and the previous presentations of the Forum.

B. Political Economy of Investment Agreements

The [German Development Institute \(DIE\)](#) and the I3: International Investment Initiative of the [World Trade Institute \(WTI\)](#) are organising an international conference on the [political economy of international investment agreement](#). In light of the recent changes in the international investment regime, the main aim of this conference is bringing together economists and political scientists in particular, as well as legal scholars, who apply empirical methods in political economy – quantitative as well as qualitative – to study the effects of international investment agreements and the shifts in governments' stance towards them. The conference will take place on 8 and 9 December 2014 at DIE in Bonn. The call for papers can be found [here](#). The deadline for submissions of abstracts is 5 September 2014.

IEL Activities

A. 2014 World Investment Forum

Registrations are opened for the [2014 World Investment Forum](#) (WIF). The WIF is a high-level, biennial, multi-stakeholder gathering organized by UNCTAD, designed to facilitate dialogue and action on the world's key emerging investment-related challenges. The 2014 edition will take place from 13 to 16 October in Geneva, Switzerland at the United Nations Office housed at the Palais des Nations. The past editions of the WIF brought together almost 4,000 participants from more than 140 countries across the world. SIEL is proud to be an Organization Partner of the WIF 2014 and will co-chair a section on 'Setting a New Policy Research Agenda'.

IEL Jobs

A. DISSETTLE

Applications are invited for Early Stage Researcher (ESR) Fellowships funded as part of Marie Curie Initial Training Networks, under the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme. The project runs from 1 May 2011 to 30 April 2015. Currently there are two openings for ESR Fellowships at Bocconi University (Italy) with the start date of November 2014. More information can be found [here](#).

Papers by SIEL Members

G Marceau, & J Trachtman, '[A Map of the World Trade Organization Law of Domestic Regulation of Goods](#)', Journal of World Trade 48, no. 2 (2014): 351–432.

H Hestermeyer and **L Nielsen**, '[The Legality of Local Content Measures under WTO Law](#)', 48 Journal of World Trade 553 (2014).

Other activities

A. New Positions/Titles

Holger Hestermeyer has left his position as Référénaire in the cabinet of Advocate General Cruz Villalón at the ECJ and in January will join King's College London as Shell Reader in International Dispute Resolution.

Andrew Mitchell and **Tania Voon** of Melbourne Law School will be Senior Emile Noël Fellows at the Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law & Justice at NYU School of Law.

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.

B. 2013 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](#).

C. SIEL Website

SIEL is happy to post IEL job advertisements, conference and journal calls, and similar material on the [News, Events and Jobs](#) section of the website. Material can be sent directly to [Lisa Toohey](#). Please send appropriate text that can be cut and pasted into our section. Please do not send files for uploading, but rather a hyperlink.

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 Holger Hestermeyer, 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