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Newsletter editors

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

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

A. SIEL New Membership Structure

Beginning later this month, we will be making some changes to our membership structure. These changes will enable us to streamline our processes to make membership renewal simpler for you and for us. There will be two changes: **First**, our membership term will be changed from one year to two years. For most members, this will be less than two years at the current one-year membership fee. **Second**, we will shift to three membership categories instead of six. **Category 1** will be the regular membership and will apply the same as always, to individuals in private sector employment regardless of location. The two-year membership fee for category 1 will be GBP 140 or an average of GBP 70 per year. This will thus be a cost savings over the previous fee of GBP 85/year. **Category 2** is also unchanged and will be for academics/NGO/government employees working in countries listed in the highest of the four [United Nations income categories](#) (high income). The two-year membership fee for category 2 will be

GBP 90 or an average of GBP 45 per year. This compares with the previous annual fee of GBP 50. **Category 3** will be for academics/NGO/government employees working in any of the three lowest United Nations income categories and for full-time students. This category combines four current categories: upper-middle income; lower middle-income; LDC; and student. The two-year membership fee for category 3 will be GBP 20 or an average of GBP 10 per year. This compares with previous annual fees of GBP 15 for upper-middle and lower-middle income members and GBP 5 for LDC and student members. As in the past, our conference fees for members will be set sufficiently lower than non-members fees so as to incentivize membership. Existing members do not need to make changes until their current membership expires. When your membership comes up for renewal, you will need to change membership category to access the two year rates.

B. President's corner

Are (Mega) RTAs/STAs a threat to the WTO... Shhhh, is there someone coming down the hall?

Critics have suggested that the rise of regional trade agreements (RTAs) or sectorial trade agreements (STAs) such as the TPP, the TTIP, or the TISA threaten to decentralize or even fragment international trade relations. According to these critics, the increasing number of (mega) RTAs/STAs reflects a general dissatisfaction with the WTO.

The reality may be more complex than this account suggests, and there is not necessarily any contradiction or opposition between these trade groupings – that is, between the WTO on the one hand and RTAs/STAs on the other. Indeed, the WTO is more than a mere 'group', and Members know this very well: for many, especially developing countries, the WTO has become the world institution for trade governance. So why move away from it? It is possible to have both the WTO and regional trading blocs, because although different, they seem to be mutually supportive. Indeed the TPP, the TTIP, and the TISA offer smaller membership negotiations, and are therefore necessarily easier than WTO negotiations, which are themselves characterized by important, but challenging, principles of positive consensus and single undertaking. Smaller groupings, animated by a desire to improve their commercial situations, might be forums where ideas can be explored and cultivated and market access and other conditions of exchange improved in a more pragmatic manner.

The TPP, TTIP, and TISA can thus also be understood as logical and perhaps even healthy to the signatories, but also to the world trade system as a whole, because they stimulate new dimensions and respond to new demands. At the same time, there are always limitations to smaller group negotiations, including the risk of losing the economic benefits resulting from broad application of the MFN principle.

Faced with multiple treaty obligations, the main concern for States that are Members of both the WTO and one or more regional trading agreements is the possible existence of conflicting commitments under multiple treaties. But negotiators know that it is possible to comply coherently with RTAs/STAs and the WTO via the WTO flexibilities for RTAs, via Members' decision or Schedules, or via the WTO dispute settlement system. So what is the problem? Would States neglect the WTO because of their improved situations in RTAs/STAs? Why would they? The WTO

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

offers an institutional framework that has matured over 70 years. The issue is not whether the WTO is perfect: it is not. But, so far, the WTO remains the only world forum where world trade governance can be debated actively, creatively, openly and transparently through the mechanisms of its councils and committees, on which all Members can be represented. The real issue is rather whether and how such WTO bodies could or should deal with the TPP, the TTIP, the TISA, and other related issues. There is an RTA committee within the WTO; but its activities are rather limited, and the scope of the (mega) RTAs is so broad that it overlaps with the work of several WTO committees. It is well known that in recent years, the number of WTO disputes (many of which could be handled under RTA mechanisms) has increased significantly – so States trust the WTO system. What is yet to be decided is to what extent issues related to TIPP, TTIP and TISA can be formally discussed in WTO institutional bodies (rather than quietly whispered in WTO corridors).

Gabrielle Marceau

Publications by SIEL members

Regional & Network Activities

- A. PEPA
- B. AFIELN
- C. Joint Asian IEL Conference

IEL Activities

- A. Kaliningrad WTO Forum
- B. BIICL/IIEL WTO Conference

Publications by SIEL members

Lorand Bartels, [The EU's Human Rights Obligations in Relation to Policies with Extraterritorial Effects](#) (2014) 25 EJIL 1071

Christine Chinkin and Freya Baetens (eds) [Sovereignty, Statehood and State Responsibility: Essays in Honour of James Crawford](#) (CUP, 2015)

Gabrielle Marceau (ed), [A history of law and lawyers in the GATT/WTO: The development of the rule of law in the multilateral trading system](#) (CUP, 2015)

Lisa Toohey, Colin Picker and Jonathan Greenacre (eds), [China in the International Economic Order: New Directions and Changing Paradigms](#) (CUP, 2015)

Markus Wagner, 'Regulatory Space in International Trade Law and International Investment Law' (2014), 36 U Penn JIL1.

Regional and Network Activities

A. PEPA Network

The 4th PEPA/SIEL Conference took place in Milan on 16-17 April. This year, we received over 150 applications and had the chance to hear 42 selected junior participants from more than 30 universities and leading research and policy institutes from throughout the globe, as well as senior discussants from academia, international courts and organizations. We hope junior and senior participants found the discussions to be useful and we take this opportunity to thank the University of Milan, Prof. Angela Lupone, Prof. Giovanna Adinolfi and Dr. Anna Micara for the wonderful organization of the event. Apart from the regular panels on several IEL issues, participants attended a workshop led by Dr. Brigitte Reschke from Springer, and enjoyed a conference dinner sponsored by SIEL and a final conference aperitif offered by the DISSETTLE program. PEPA will soon release a Call for Venue for institutions interested in hosting the 2016 Conference. If you are interested, please contact [José Caiado](#) or [Freya Baetens](#) for more information.

B. AFIELN

The Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Lagos will host the 3rd Biennial Conference of the African International Economic Law Network and Prince Claus Chair Roundtable on 29-30 April, Lagos, Nigeria. The conference focuses on the *Role of International Economic Law in African Development* while the Roundtable will be centred on *The Right to Development in Africa*. This Conference and Roundtable is poised to attract internationally acclaimed African scholars, practitioners, researchers, academics, policy-makers from Africa and the rest of world. Registration and further information about the conference can be found [here](#).

C. Joint Asian IEL Conference

The Joint Asian International Economic Law Conference will be held on 20-21 July. The theme of the conference is *Regionalism in Asia-Pacific and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities*. Registration is now open and early bird rates apply until 25 April.

The conference is a joint project between the Asian WTO Research Network (AWRN), the Asian International Economic Law Network (AIELN) and the International Economic Law Interest Group of the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law (ANZSIL IELG). The program and registration are [available online](#). For queries about the conference or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact Dr [Lisa Toohey](#).

IEL Activities

A. Kaliningrad WTO Forum

SIEL was present at the International Annual Forum on WTO Law in Kaliningrad (25-27 March). In addition to SIEL giving the welcoming address at the opening session (Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer), SIEL co-organized a panel on Dispute Settlement within the WTO, chaired by José Caiado (SIEL) and composed of Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer (SIEL), Izadnia Rodd (WTO) and Carlo de Stefano (Bocconi). More information about the Forum can be found [here](#).

B. BIICL/IIEL WTO Conference

SIEL is pleased to announce its collaboration with the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) and the Georgetown Law School Institute of International Economic Law (IIEL) in organizing the BIICL 15th Annual WTO Conference to be held in London on May 6 and 7. For the first time this year, the conference issued a call for papers in order to provide speaking opportunities for emerging scholars. More information about the event can be found [here](#).

IEL jobs

- A. Ottawa – Assistant Professor
- B. JIEL – Editorial Assistant
- C. italaw – Associate Editors

Calls for papers

- A. JWIT

Other Activities

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

IEL Jobs

A. Ottawa - Assistant Professor

The Ottawa Faculty of Law has announced a [professorial position](#) available in the International Trade and Investment Law field at the Assistant Professor level.

B. JIEL – Editorial Assistant

The Journal of International Economic Law is currently collecting recommendations or applications from persons who might wish to take on the position of [Editorial Assistant](#) to the Journal of International Economic Law (JIEL).

C. italaw.com – Associate Editors

[italaw.com](#) is seeking expressions of interests from lawyers and academics with a knowledge of international investment law who would like to serve as Associate Editors.

Calls for Papers

A. JWIT

The Journal of World Investment & Trade announced a Special Issue on The Latin American Challenge to the Current System of Investor - State Dispute Settlement, to be Edited by Dr Katia Fach and Dr Catharine Titi. More information can be found [here](#).

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 can be found [here](#).

B. 2015 SIEL/CUP Essay Prize

The deadline for the 2015 SIEL/CUP Annual Essay Prize is 30 September 2015. 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. 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.

D. 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.

E. Other

SIEL seeks to **publicise 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

2015 SIEL/CUP Essay Prize

