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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. Call for papers for the 2016 SIEL Global Conference in Johannesburg

The Society of International Economic Law (SIEL) is pleased to announce the call for papers, panels & posters for its 5th Biennial Global Conference that will be held from 7-9 July 2016 at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. **You can access the call for papers here: [SIEL 2016](#).** The Conference Theme will be "International Economic Law in a Diverse World" The 2016 SIEL conference invites academics, practitioners and government officials at various stages in their career to submit research and papers addressing these issues. For example, how should the traditional policy goals such as trade liberalization, investment protection or monetary stability be reconciled with human and labor rights, human health and environmental concerns within and among the different

regimes of international economic law? To what extent should governments determine where to draw the line in balancing these matters? Is greater convergence necessary or even possible given the divergent goals that different actors in international economic law pursue? How can different epistemic communities within IEL be brought together? What are avenues to meaningfully integrate emerging governmental actors within the existing regimes and how can the voices of non-governmental actors be properly integrated? Are the existing mechanisms adequate for current and future challenges? Is there a need to reconcile the potentially centripetal forces of diversity with the need for functioning international regimes?

### B. President's corner

#### The BRICS: a new approach to IEL and the WTO

Without question, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) are stimulating change and promoting new dimensions and perspectives in international economic law (IEL), even though the BRICS countries differ importantly in a variety of ways, including economically, and even if the BRICS "miracle" has turned out to be less miraculous than some might have hoped (although the recent economic slowdown in some BRICS countries is perhaps not a sign of failure so much as an inevitable stabilization after a period of extraordinary but, some would say, unsustainable growth). The creation of the "New Development Bank BRICS" and the intensified economic relations among the BRICS are giving rise to new types of legal issues, and suggesting fresh agendas in international organisations such as the WTO. Indeed, the WTO remains one of the preferred international fora for developing countries, and for BRICS in particular, on account of, inter alia, the general consensus rule that equalizes power in decision-making and the WTO dispute settlement system, which treats all WTO Members as equals. At the sixth BRICS summit in July 2014, the BRICS expressed their strong support "for an open, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent and rule-based multilateral trading system", including "the WTO dispute settlement system as a cornerstone of the security and predictability of the multilateral trading system". Another reason why developing countries, including the BRICS, support the WTO is because of the ways in which it allows for differential treatment to Members with differing levels of development. The WTO covered agreements, including the recently concluded Trade Facilitation Agreement, contain robust special and differential treatment provisions in favour of developing and least-developed WTO Members. Additionally, WTO rules are sufficiently flexible to permit agreements between subsets or subgroups of Members - a flexibility utilized recently when a group of WTO Members created the Information Technology Agreement, which covers around 1.3 trillion dollars of annual trade. Even if India, Russia, South Africa and Brazil declined to be parties to this agreement, those who signed it, including China, agreed that their critical mass was worth a deal even if the benefits of such tariff reductions must be applied on a Most-Favoured-Nation basis, including to Members who are not party to the agreement. The relationship between the WTO and the BRICS is not without challenges. The conclusion of the Doha Round has proved to be tortuous in view of, among other things, the BRICS's changed position in international relations, and their evolving views on the structure and content of new rules in IEL. These developments have both positive and negative sides, and they have contributed to complicating an already very difficult and complex situation. The developments are positive because the BRICS push forward new issues and may help protect the interests of

## SIEL GOVERNANCE

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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

developing countries better than ever. They may be seen as negative because in areas such as agriculture, BRICS now use more subsidies than developed countries ever did – to the detriment of least-developed and small developing countries. The situation is difficult and complex because building future IEL/WTO rules based on past mistakes is not an easy task: it is difficult to accept the proposition that BRICS may use otherwise prohibited subsidies just because the EU and the US may have abused them in the past; and it is complex to assess the degree of responsibility that the BRICS should assume for climate change actions when much of the damage has been caused by certain developed countries. In brief, there are no simple answers to questions raised by political change and development of economic power, but the WTO seems well-placed to host the great debate, thanks to an adapted consensus rule, where developed, developing and least-developed countries may find the means to enhance international economic governance. And, of course, all of this provides a rich source of fascinating research and analysis for all SIEL members!

**Gabrielle Marceau**

## Publications by SIEL members

### IEL Activities

- A. New blog for the Pacific Alliance
- B. FDI Moot & ICSID Conference
- C. TTIP Conference in Leiden

### Regional & Network Activities

- A. PEPA

### Calls for papers

- A. IEL Conference in Ravenna, Italy
- B. 2016 SIEL Global Conference
- C. 5<sup>th</sup> PEPA/SIEL Conference

### Other Activities

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

## Publications by SIEL members

**Azaria, Danae.** Treaties on Transit of Energy via Pipelines and Countermeasures. Oxford University Press, 2015.

**Broude, Tomer.** "Selective Subsidiarity and Dialectic Deference In the World Trade Organization." Law and Contemporary Problems 2016 (2015).

**Broude, Tomer, and Shai Moses.** "The Behavioral Dynamics of Positive and Negative Listing in Services Trade Liberalization: A Look at the Trade in Services Agreement Negotiations." 2015), Research Handbook on Trade in Services, London: Edward Elgar (2015).

## IEL Activities

### A. New blog for the Pacific Alliance

SIEL members may be interested in a new blog, [Shaping the Pacific Alliance](#), which aims to contribute to discussion about the Pacific Alliance, an integration scheme comprising Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The blog provides a platform for governmental and intergovernmental communities to engage with civil society, academics and industry in constructive conversations about the future prospects of and challenges facing the Pacific Alliance. The blog is edited by Ana María Palacio, a current PhD student and member of the [Global Economic Law](#) Network at Melbourne Law School, the University of Melbourne, formerly with Colombia's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism. Her research project will propose a viable legal architecture to support the Pacific Alliance in long term consolidation. The blog can be accessed [here](#).

### B. FDI Moot & ICSID Conference

At the end of October, King's college will host this year edition of the [FDI Moot competition](#). SIEL has provided funding for the team from African Nazarene University, Kenya. Just before the moot, on the afternoon of Thursday 29 October, the college is organising a conference titled "ICSID at 50: the next 50 years". Marking the ICSID Convention's 50th anniversary this year, the conference will focus on re-evaluating the core benefits of treaty arbitration, including those it was originally meant to provide, and discuss what alternatives there are to arbitration, including whether an investment court could be the way forward for the next 50 years of the convention. If you wish to have more information, please contact [Federico Ortino](#).

### C. TTIP Conference in Leiden

On 4 and 5 December 2015, Leiden University is organizing a conference on [The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\): an EU perspective on global economic governance](#) with various speakers from academia, law firms and European institutions. Everyone welcome to attend!

## Regional and Network Activities

### A. PEPA/SIEL

A [call for papers](#) has been issued for the 5th PEPA Conference (Luxembourg, 14-15 April 2016). Submissions should include a CV and a research abstract (no more than 400 words). They are to be sent no later than 16 November 2015 to the conference organizers. Papers will be selected based on a double blind review conducted by a senior practitioner or academic and a conference organizer. More information can be found [here](#).

## Calls for papers

### A. IEL Conference in Ravenna, Italy

The Interest Group on International Economic Law of the European Society of International Law and the Italian Branch of the International Law Association, with the **special** support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organize in Ravenna, Italy, a Conference on "Transparency vs Confidentiality in International Economic Law: Looking for an Appropriate Balance". The Conference will be held on 20 November 2015, and the speakers will be selected through the [call for papers](#) (deadlines: 30 September 2015).

### B. 2016 SIEL Global Conference

See call [here](#).

### C. 5<sup>th</sup> PEPA/SIEL Conference

See call [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

**Andrew Lang** is now Professor of International Law at the London School of Economics

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

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