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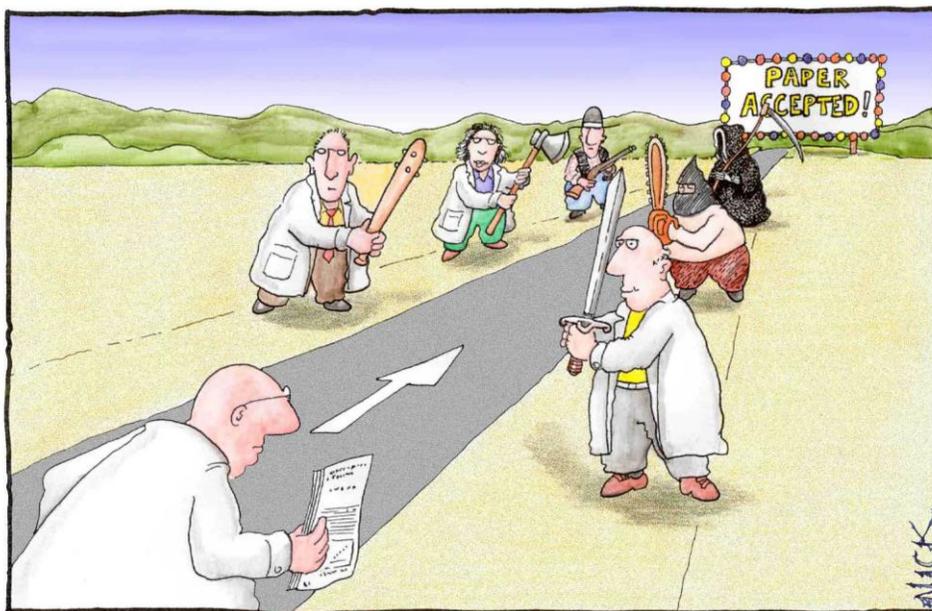
[Johanna Jacobsson](#)

[Maria Laura Marceddu](#)

[Susan Isiko Štrba](#)

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

SIEL 2018 Global Conference



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

We have received a large number of proposals! Thank you to everyone who submitted their work. The double-blind peer review process is still ongoing, and we will revert to you in due course. The SIEL Conference Team

SIEL GOVERNANCE

Officers

Gabrielle Marceau (President); Shin-yi Peng & Holger Hestermeyer (Executive Vice-Presidents); Junji Nakagawa & José Caiado (Treasurers); Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer & Markus Wagner (SIEL Corporate Secretaries)

Executive Council

Padideh Ala'i, Freya Baetens, Michael Ewing-Chow, Meredith Kolsky Lewis, Jurgen Kurtz, Andrew Lang, Gracia Marin-Duran, Maria Laura Marceddu, Suresh Nanwani, Jumoke Oduwole, Federico Ortino, Colin Picker, Amelia Porges, Susan Isiko Štrba, Lisa Toohey, Galina Zukova

International Economic Law in Unsettling Times

Today, international relations are facing challenging times where multilateral consensus, particularly regarding international economic matters, seems increasingly unattainable. Various expressions of these unsettling times in international economic law will be the centre of discussions during our upcoming July SIEL conference in Washington. This was also the backdrop against which the WTO ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires last December took place. Showing resilience and determination, WTO Members nevertheless agreed to continue promoting global trade by issuing four ministerial decisions that reaffirmed their commitment to negotiations or work programmes on small economies (WT/MIN(17)/63), fisheries subsidies (WT/MIN(17)/64), electronic commerce (WT/MIN(17)/65). They also agreed to extend the moratorium on TRIPS non-violation and situation complaints (WT/MIN(17)/66).

The most innovative outcome of this ministerial conference was a series of joint plurilateral ministerial statements, signed by significant subgroups of WTO Members, to address specific negotiation areas, including informal work programmes for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) (WT/MIN(17)/58/Rev.1), investment facilitation (WT/MIN(17)/59), electronic commerce (WT/MIN(17)/60), Fossil and Fuel subsidies (WT/MIN(17)/54), as well as for the advancing of negotiations on domestic regulation (WT/MIN(17)/61) within the WTO Working Party on Domestic Regulation. These joint ministerial statements, although issued by sub-groups of WTO Members and therefore "plurilateral" in nature, declare that the deals are open to

all WTO Members. These statements suggest a new 'dynamism' for the WTO and may provide the impetus for novel approaches to the evolving nature of international economic law. This move towards finding consensus among like-minded countries initiating work programmes and negotiations that may end up being sectoral, and or plurilateral or multilateral agreements indicates a new direction for the WTO or at least a new negotiation technique based essentially, at least at this stage, on 'critical mass' participation.

The legal nature and effect of these joint plurilateral ministerial statements are not clear. Consensus multilateral decisions have been considered, in some circumstances, to be 'subsequent agreements' or 'subsequent practices' with important interpretative value. After the *Whaling* ICJ decision and the Nolte report for the ILC, some

have argued that in certain situations, non-consensus multilateral decisions may also carry interpretative value pursuant to Article 32 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, as part of the historical context. But the Buenos Aires plurilateral statements were not striving for such legal (interpretative) value, and that is not why they are so significant. Rather, it is because these plurilateral statements demonstrate the capacity of WTO Members to adapt to the current unsettling times and to the increasing differentiation between states' short-term interests. They may also help in charting a new course that will enable the WTO to continue sailing towards multilateralism. This experience in Buenos Aires as well as other international efforts in the current unsettling times are some of the topics we will expand on during our 12-14 July SIEL Conference in Washington.

Gabrielle Marceau



On 12-14 July 2018 the American University Washington College of Law will be hosting the 6th Bi-annual SIEL Conference.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Results of the 2017 AGM election

Publications by SIEL members

SIEL/JIEL/OUP Essay Prize

Call for papers

- A. Geneva Trade and Development Workshop
- B. Geography and legal culture on the international bench
- C. International Investment Law and Competition Law

Save the Date

- A. PEPA/SIEL
- B. ELSA Moot Court Competition

Vacancies

- A. PhD fellowships at the Oslo University
- B. Post-doctoral fellowship at the Dublin City University

SIEL members on the Move

Results of the AGM 2017 election

Dear SIEL Members,

We would like to thank all of you who helped make our 2017 AGM a success. The full minutes of the meeting are on our webpage, but we would like to announce the results of the election directly: Holger Hestermeyer was re-elected for a second term as Executive Vice President.

Please keep in mind that the 2018 AGM will take place at the Biennial Conference in Washington, DC. We hope that many of you will be able to join us in person to elect a number of persons to various positions. Please also take some time to consider whether you would like to join the governing of our organization by being a candidate. A call for nominations will follow this Spring.

Wishing you all a good start to your 2018, Krista and Markus

Publications by SIEL members

Thomas Cottier and Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer, Co-Head of Legal Services (eds) [Encyclopedia of International Economic Law](#) (Edward Elgar Publishing 2017)

Colin Picker, Heng Wang, Weihuan Zhou (eds) [The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement - A 21st-Century Model](#) (Hart Publishing 2017)

Gracia Marín Durán, '[Untangling the International Responsibility of the European Union and its Member States in the World Trade Organization Post-Lisbon: A Competence/Remedy Model](#)' (2017) 28(3) *European Journal of International Law* 697

Gracia Marín Durán, '[Sheltering Government Support to "Green" Electricity: the European Union and the World Trade Organization](#)' (2018) 67(1) *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* 129

SIEL/JIEL/OUP Essay Prize

The Society of International Economic Law, the Journal of International Economic Law, and Oxford University Press have jointly established the SIEL/JIEL/OUP Essay Prize to award the best essay submitted on any topic in any field of international economic law.

The deadline for submissions for the 2017-2018 SIEL/JIEL/OUP Prize is Friday 16 February 2018.

The competition is open to all current undergraduate and graduate students of any university or other tertiary education institution, and those who have graduated from a university or other tertiary education institution no earlier than five years before the submission deadline.

Further information is available [here](#).

Any queries should be addressed by email to Dr [Gracia Marin Duran](#) (UCL).

Call for papers

A. Geneva Trade and Development Workshop

The Geneva Trade and Development Workshop (GTDW) organizers are currently accepting submissions for papers to be presented in the Spring 2018. The series will start again in February 2018 and as in the past, the workshops will be held every Tuesday from 12:30 to 13:30.

All submissions will be jointly evaluated by the seminar committee which includes staff members of the four organizing institutions (UNCTAD, WTO, the University of Geneva and the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration, HEI). The GTDW website is available [here](#).

If you are interested in submitting a paper, the deadline to do so is Friday 2 February 2018. Please send the relevant paper as attachment to an e-mail to the [organizers](#).

B. Geography and Legal Culture on the International Bench

On 17 and 18 May 2018, the second conference in the Identity on the International Bench Series is taking place in The Hague, organized by the PluriCourts Centre of Excellence, Oslo University.

The main focus of this conference is to analyse the causes and effects of geographic representation requirements, the prevalence of certain educational backgrounds and the professional expertise of adjudicators prior to their appointment, their average age, among other features, as well as the resulting implications for the legitimacy of the international adjudicatory institutions and the judicial decisions rendered. Deadline for submission of abstracts: Wednesday 28 February 2018. For the full Call for Papers, please see [here](#). For more information, please feel free to contact: [Prof. dr. Freya Baetens](#).

C. International Investment Law & Competition Law

The Faculty of Law of the University of Zaragoza is hosting, in the context of the Investment Law Initiative, a Colloquium on 'International Investment Law & Competition Law', which will take place on 27 & 28 September 2018, in Zaragoza, Spain. Senior and junior academics and practitioners (including PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers) are invited to participate in the call for papers. Interested authors are invited to submit, by 31 March 2018, an abstract of an original paper, which is neither published nor accepted for publication when the Colloquium takes place. More information is available [here](#).

Save the Date

A. PEPA/SIEL 2018

The 7th Conference of the Postgraduate and Early Professionals/ Academics Network of the Society of International Economic Law (PEPA/SIEL) organised by PEPA/SIEL in collaboration with the Law School of the European University of Cyprus, will take place on 13 - 14 April 2018 in Nicosia, Cyprus. Registration has to be done online at the SIEL website [here](#).

B. ELSA Moot Court Competition

In this 16th ELSA edition, 99 universities will compete representing 42 WTO Members (or those in accession) from 6 continents.

Every year the case is written by a talented academic. Many former case authors are SIEL members.

This year, the case author is James J. Nedumpara, Professor & Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. The 2018 edition regional rounds are to be held in Naples (Italy) from 28 February to 4 March, Wroclaw (Poland) from 6 to 10 March, Washington D.C. (USA) from 21 to 25 March, Bangkok (Thailand) from 5 to 9 April and Nairobi (Kenya) from 25 to 29 April.

The best 24 teams from all the regions will convene in Geneva for the Final Oral Round from 19 to 24 June 2018. Many panelists are SIEL Executive Members (Dr. Federico Ortino, Dr. Gabrielle Marceau; Dr. Gracia Marin-Duran; Mr. Markus Wagner; Prof. Padideh Ala'i).

Vacancies

A. PhD fellowships at the Oslo University

[Prof. dr. Freya Baetens](#) has been awarded a research grant by the Norwegian Research Council to conduct a project on *State Consent to International Jurisdiction: Conferral, Modification and Termination*. The project will run from 2018 to 2022, and will be hosted by [PluriCourts - Norwegian Centre of Excellence for the Study of the Legitimacy of the Global Judiciary](#).

A vacancy for two (paid, three-year) PhD fellowship positions will soon be announced on the Oslo University website, but in light of the short application deadline (28 February), interested candidates are hereby invited to [contact her](#) directly.

B. Post-doctoral fellowship at the Dublin City University

[The Brexit Institute](#), a research and policy center established at the Dublin City University in summer 2017, intends to appoint a new full-time Postdoctoral Fellow with expertise in international trade. It is envisaged that this appointment will commence already in March 2018, or at the earliest afterwards. The initial contract will be for one year. The closing date for applications is 9 February 2018. More information is available [here](#).

SIEL members on the Move

Dr. [Gracia Marin-Duran](#) has joined UCL Faculty of Laws in London as Senior Lecturer in International Economic Law on 1 September 2017.

Next Newsletter

Please note that the next SIEL newsletter is scheduled for May 2018. Should you wish to include an item in the next issue, please contact us before the end of April.

Thanks for your support and interest.
Susan Isiko Strba, Maria Laura Marceddu & Johanna Jacobsson.