

UiO : SMART



CALL FOR PAPERS
CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OSLO 9 – 10 MAY 2017

TRADE AND INVESTMENT: SUSTAINABLE MARKET ACTORS

This conference concerns the ‘Trade and Investment’ aspect of the Sustainable Market Actors for Responsible Trade (SMART) EU Horizon 2020 project led by Professor Beate Sjøfjell at the University of Oslo. Information relating to the wider project is available at: uio.no/smart.

Our aim is to consider the interaction between public international law and private law in this field (as well as between hard and soft law) from the perspective of 'sustainability'. We can understand ‘sustainability’ as ‘Development that meets the needs of the present while safeguarding Earth’s life-support system, on which the welfare of current and future generations depends.’ (Griggs et al, 2013) Yet, the means by which to achieve that objective, including the balance between environmental, economic and social pillars, remains contested. We want to explore the controversies that have arisen regarding the legal drivers for and barriers to achievement of sustainability. In so doing, we seek to draw on the expertise of various scholars in diverse fields, including public international law, international economic law, international human rights law, international environmental law, development, international labour law, investment law, financial securities law, EU external relations, corporate law and corporate governance. We also welcome contributions from other disciplines that have relevance to these issues.

We are calling for papers that examine the relevance of theories of sustainability and recent developments considering their application to ‘the market actors’ in trade.

Here we would be considering the role of the State and regional/international institutions in trade, finance (that fuels trade) and investment. However, we would also consider who the private actors might be who have regulatory effects: corporations, unions, NGOs, financial institutions etc. We would also hope to include contributions investigating the relevance of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals to trade and investment in various respects.

We are further interested in papers specifically addressing international economic law and sustainability.

Such papers might address specific topics at issue in the World Trade Organisation at present, relating to trade, services, intellectual property, as well as procurement, investment and competition law. In this respect, we would welcome papers which considered the significance

of recent multilateral and bilateral international instruments (such as bilateral investment treaties), including CETA, the TPP and drafts and proposals for TTIP.

We would also welcome papers on the significance of commercial law, private finance, corporate regulation and transfers of laws issues.

Additionally, we are seeking contributions on specific topics relating to sustainability in trade and investment, such as:

- Environmental concerns
- Economic objectives
- Development objectives
- Governance issues (anti-corruption etc.)
- Human rights
- Labour Standards
- Education

Further, we will be holding sessions relating to issues arising regarding enforcement in trade and investment disputes.

International dispute settlement within international institutions, forms of arbitration and conflicts of laws rules regarding jurisdiction would all be relevant here.

Abstracts for papers can be submitted on our webpage at:

<https://nettskjema.uio.no/answer/73941.html>

ON OR BEFORE 30 SEPTEMBER

All those who invited to present will be informed on or before 15 OCTOBER 2016.

A condition of presentation at the conference is the submission of a working paper on or before 1 APRIL 2017, for posting in the [University of Oslo Faculty of Law Legal Studies Research Paper Series](#) (SSRN).

The usual conference fee will be waived for all speakers, but we are unable to provide travel and accommodation.

We look forward to your response.

Dr Clair Gammage and Prof. Tonia Novitz
5 July 2016



SMART: SUSTAINABLE MARKET ACTORS FOR RESPONSIBLE TRADE