



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



RE-GLOBE

REFORMING THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE:
THE EU FOR SDGS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW



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Re-Globe Special Lecture

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The Role of Civil Society in Promoting the Respect of Sustainable Development Principles in Preferential Trade Agreements

Speaker: Dr. Andrea Mensi



Introductory Remarks and Discussant:

Prof. Elisa Baroncini - University of Bologna , Re-Globe Coordinator

START

16h00 - 19h00

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The Role of Civil Society in Promoting the Respect of Sustainable Development Principles in Preferential Trade Agreements

Sustainable development goal 17 refers to the specific and decisive role of the multilateral trading system based on the WTO and the promotion of sustainable development through trade liberalization. Despite the lack of a generally accepted definition of the legal content of sustainable development, the principle has been included in different international treaties, such as in the Preamble of the WTO Agreement and in seminal multilateral environmental treaties, including the Paris Agreement. The principle is also systematically playing a pivotal role in the context of next generation preferential trade agreements (PTAs) and especially in their TSD chapters which contain ambitious and innovative provisions on sustainable development, including in the field of environment. The inclusion of dispute settlement and transparency mechanisms which makes, in principle, those provisions enforceable represents an innovative tool to ensure the effectiveness of sustainability and environmental principles. However, the drafting of such provisions and the formulation of enforcement mechanisms vary depending on the agreements, thus potentially diminishing in many instances their effectiveness. Some of these agreements provides participatory and dialogue mechanisms with the civil society, whose potentialities remain, however, still mostly unexplored. In such framework, the aim of this seminar is to illustrate the potential role that the civil society may have in the conceptualization of more efficient dispute settlement and enforcement mechanisms to support of sustainable development provisions in the PTAs.

Dr. Andrea Mensi is a generalist public international lawyer with a specific interest in indigenous rights and international disputes settlement. Andrea holds a PhD in public international law from Bocconi University in Milan and a master's degree in law cum laude from Cattolica University in Milan. He has been adjunct professor in international environmental law at the University of Milan and postdoc researcher at the University of Lugano. He practices as an arbitrator in international commercial disputes and as an attorney representing applicants before the European Court of Human Rights and as a registered counsel before the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights. He is the author of the book 'Indigenous peoples, natural resources and permanent sovereignty' published in 2022 by Brill (Queen Mary Studies in International Law Series).