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First Re-Globe Course and Seminars

Mapping the Importance of Sustainability for the EU Approach to Reforms of the Global Economic Governance

The month of July saw the last successful exams of the Re-Globe students. 40 young scholars coming from all over the world -from China to Brazil, from Denmark to Greece, including Russia and Ukraine- attended the first Re-Globe Course and Seminars from February until May 2022, discussing the most challenging issues of International Economic Law, considering the EU approach to the reform process of the governance of the global economy, and achieving highly positive results in their final exams taken between May and July 2022.

During the lectures, the Re-Globe Coordinator, Professor Elisa Baroncini presented and discussed with the students International Economic Law in the light of the new developments of the EU trade policy. Therefore, considerable attention has been devoted to the principle of sustainable development and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda which are the targets of the EU international initiatives. The significant action of the EU within the World Trade Organization has been analyzed, presenting the EU proposal to overcome the crisis of the WTO Appellate Body through the Multi-Party Interim Arrangement, the initiatives to improve environmental and biodiversity protection through new WTO trade tools, the commitment to widen and deepen multilateral rules, also through the Joint Initiatives on Electronic Commerce, Investment Facilitation for Development, Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), Services Domestic Regulation, Trade and Environmental Sustainability, Plastics pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade.

The new generation of EU Free Trade Agreements engaged a significant part of the Re-Globe Course. Beyond the WTO-Plus provisions of the EU FTAs, the governance of these mega-regionals, the participation of civil society, the bilateral dispute settlement mechanism were explained. A lively debate was promoted on the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapters (TSD Chapters), underlining that they are currently the most innovative elements of sustainability in International Economic Law. The disputes on *Ukraine – Wood Export Ban* and *Korea – Labour Commitments* have been discussed with students and invited experts (Professor Olena Nihreieva, from the University of Odessa, and Professor Tonia Novitz, from the University of Bristol).



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



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The EU FTAs chapters on investment protection and promotion were considered, together with the project for a Multilateral Investment Court (MIC), underlining how they are importantly completed by the EU proposal on due diligence for economic operators working in or acceding in the EU market. Also, the reform debate for the greening of the Energy Charter Treaty has been proposed.

On all the topics considered, the importance of the principle of transparency for accountability of the various institutional levels and the participation of civil society has been underlined. The policy of the European Commission for transparency in negotiations and the involvement of civil society in shaping, implementing and enforcing the EU trade tools has been widely considered.

Professor Alessandra Castellini delivered 6 hours seminars also to the students of the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences, thus introducing them for the first time to the EU policy on international trade in agri-food products, developing all the connected sustainability aspects.

The unprecedented impact of the economic sanctions adopted to react to the Russia / Ukraine conflict has also been debated, considering the security exceptions in the WTO and EU FTAs, also with reference to International Investment Law.

A wide set of Re-Globe seminars has been offered, all reported in the Re-Globe website <https://site.unibo.it/reglobe/en/events>

Inter alia, the final event of the Re-Globe Course has to be highlighted, as it has been devoted to “Economic Responses and International Economic Law - The Russia / Ukraine Conflict”. During this Re-Globe Seminar, together with Professor Frank Altemöller, from the University of Münster, the trade sanctions against Russia have been presented, discussing their relation with free trade and investment protection, as well as their effectiveness, and their impact on energy and food security.

During the Re-Globe Course and the Re-Globe seminars, the Re-Globe Research Assistant, dr. Ludovica Mulas preciously and constantly assisted students and guests.

On October 17, 2022, a Re-Globe International Conference will be held, devoted to “Transparency, Civil Society and International Economic Law: The Approach of the European Union”.

Picture from the final event of 18 May 2022

