
SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project

presents

SustainEUorPlanet Seminar in Bologna

Monday, April 14 2025 h. 9-11

Aula 1/2 SPISA, Edificio in Bo, Via Belmeloro 10, Bologna

Clean Energy Transition and International Trade Law in the 21st Century

Dr. Mandy Fang Meng

Assistant Professor at the City University School of Law
Hong Kong

Introductory remarks and Discussant

Prof. Elisa Baroncini

University of Bologna, SustainEUorPlanet Jean Monnet Chair

Abstract: Clean energy transition and international trade law, as administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO), have closely intertwined with each other in the 21st century. International trade and rules governing international trade can shape an enabling environment for countries transitioning away from a fossil fuel-based economy. Nevertheless, the WTO obligations might, in some cases, create uncertainties regarding members' use of trade-related measures for clean energy transition. This lecture aims to shed clearer light on the policy space under the WTO for members' clean energy ambition and offers actionable recommendations on strengthening the alignment between international trade law and clean energy transition.

Dr. Mandy Fang Meng: Dr. FANG Meng Mandy joined the City University School of Law as an Assistant Professor in July 2020. Her research interests focus on the interface between international trade, environmental protection, and energy transition. Her publications appear in journals such as the Virginia Journal of International Law, Leiden Journal of International Law, World Trade Review, Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, Utilities Policy, and edited books published by Cambridge University Press, among others. Her research project on China's environmental governance of plastic pollution received competitive funding (HKD 471,500) from the Hong Kong Government, Research Grant Council for a duration of 24 months. She was awarded the Richard M. Buxbaum Prize for Teaching in Comparative Law by the American Society of Comparative Law in 2023.

Prof. Elisa Baroncini: Cum laude Law Degree and PhD in EU Law, is Full Professor of International Law at the University of Bologna, where she currently teaches International Economic Law, International Law on Sustainable Development, and International Energy Law.

After having served for ten years (2012-2022) as Co-Chair of the ESIL IG on International Economic Law, in 2019 Elisa co-founded and is currently Coordinator of the Interest Group on International Economic Law of the Italian Society of International Law (DIEcon); and in December 2023, she has been elected as Member of the Executive Council of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL). She has been Visiting Professor at the China-EU School of Law, speaker and organizer of many international conferences, Visiting Researcher at the European University Institute. Elisa coordinates and participates in international and national research projects. She has been awarded the Jean Monnet Module "Re-Globe - Reforming the Global Economic Governance: The EU for SDGs in International Economic Law" (2022-2025), the Jean Monnet Chair "SustainEUorPlanet - The EU as a Global Actor in the International Law for the Sustainable Development of the Planet – Advancing Fairness, Expanding Accountability and Promoting Security" (2025-2028), and the research fund by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the project "L'Organizzazione mondiale del commercio quale protagonista dello sviluppo sostenibile nel rilancio del sistema multilaterale". Elisa has recently been the Coordinator of two UNA Europa Seeds Research Projects: "WHC@50 - Forever Young: Celebrating 50 Years of the World Heritage Convention"; and "ImprovEUorGlobe - The UN 2030 Agenda in the EU Trade Policy: Improving Global Governance for a Sustainable New World". Member of the Scientific Committee of the "Centro Interuniversitario sul Diritto delle Organizzazioni Internazionali Economiche" (CIDOIE), Elisa has also been part of the Promoting Committee of the University of Bologna to honour the 1972 UNESCO Convention, and Member of the Scientific Committee of the Institute of Advances Studies (ISA) of the University of Bologna. In June 2022 she has been appointed by the European Commission TSD Expert for the dispute settlement mechanisms of the new generation of EU free trade agreements. In May 2023, Elisa Baroncini has been appointed Independent Non-executive Director of the Board of Eni S.p.A. She is also Member of the Editorial Board of "The Journal of World Investment & Trade" and the Editorial Board - Section of Bologna of "Diritto del commercio internazionale". Elisa publishes extensively mainly in English and Italian, and her main fields of research include: the reform process of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism; the relation between free trade and non-trade values; transparency and civil society in international economic law; the new generation of EU FTAs and their enforcement; the participation of the European Parliament and the Commission in the EU treaty-making power; the relation between free trade and investment protection and cultural heritage protection; EU and international energy law.

SustainEUorPlanet: The Project proposes an interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the EU's international policies and legal frameworks directed to economic and social fairness, respect for the environment, access to clean energy and essential goods, while looking for security to overcome geopolitical tensions and asymmetries. SustainEUorPlanet has a twofold purpose. On one side, it offers a set of activities envisaging the promotion of a ruling and academic class of excellence, involving EU, national and international civil servants, politicians, NGOs, local businesses and public administration. On the other side, SustainEUorPlanet shows the leading role of the EU as a global actor in constantly promoting a sustainable agenda for trade, environment, energy and climate policies, highlighting the importance of economic operators' accountability and the relevance that EU citizens can have in shaping and enforcing EU's external tools through

participation and transparency. Likewise, the Project focuses on political security policies in world economy. More information available on the Project's [website](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).

