



International Workshop of the UNIBO Research Project Co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

UNIBO-MAECI Project

The WTO as Major Driver of Sustainable Development and its Reform Process

L'Organizzazione mondiale del commercio quale protagonista dello sviluppo sostenibile nel rilancio del sistema multilaterale

Bologna, Tuesday 15 April 2025

Sala Armi, Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni 22, 9-19

09:30 - 10:15 Welcome Greetings

Federico Casolari (*Director of the Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna*)

Cosimo Risi (*Professor at the Luiss University, Rome; former Ambassador*)

Elisa Baroncini (*Coordinator of the UNIBO-MAECI Project, University of Bologna*)

10:15-11:15 – First Panel

Chair: Pavel Šturma (*Full Professor of International Law, Charles University, Prague*)

The WTO Reform Process and the European Union, Elisa Baroncini (*Full Professor of International Law and Coordinator of the UNIBO-MAECI Project, University of Bologna*)

An Update on WTO Dispute Settlement Activity, Jorge Castro (*Director of the Legal Affairs Division in the World Trade Organization*)

The WTO DSU Reform, Davide Grespan (*Legal Advisor to the Permanent Mission of the European Union to the World Trade Organization*)

Q&A

Coffee Break

11:45-13:00 – Second Panel

Chair: Attila Tanzi (*Full Professor of International Law, University of Bologna*)

National Security in the WTO (LEGAL) System – Where we Stand and the Path Ahead, Jan Bohanes (*Senior Counsel at the Advisory Centre on World Trade Organization Law*)

Subsidies Reform in the WTO System: The Issue of Transparency, Luca Rubini (*Associate Professor of International Law at the University of Milan*)

Allowing Subsidies under WTO Law: A New Regime of Exceptions to Empower Sustainable Development and Economic Resilience, Pierfrancesco Mattiolo (*Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant at the University of Antwerp*)

The Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement, Niccolò Lanzoni (*Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in International Law; University of Bologna*)

Q&A

"This workshop is realized with the support of the Policy Planning Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation pursuant to art. 23-bis of Presidential Decree 18/1967. The opinions contained in this Report are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation"



Lunch Break

14.30 – 16:00 – Third Panel

Chair: Carla Gulotta (*Associate Professor of International Law at the University Milano-Bicocca*)

Women's Economic Empowerment at the WTO, Klarissa Martins Sckayer Abicalam (*PhD Candidate in EU Law, University of Bologna*)

The WTO Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP) & the Global Plastic Treaty, Alessandra Quarta (*PhD Candidate in EU Law, University of Bologna*)

The EU Digital Trade Instruments & the WTO System, Susanna Villani (*Junior Assistant Professor in EU Law, University of Bologna*)

The EU Digital Policy in the Framework of WTO and for Africa's Development Potential, Federico Ferri (*Senior Assistant in EU Law, University of Bologna*)

Q&A

16:15 – 17:15 – Fourth Panel

Chair: Elisa Baroncini (*Full Professor of International Law and Coordinator of the UNIBO-MAECI Project, University of Bologna*)

The Unilateral Turn of European Union Trade Policy in the Light of Open Strategic Autonomy: The Case Study of the New EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, Federico Siscaro (*Trainee Manager for the Italian National School of Administration/PhD Candidate in EU Law, University of Bologna*)

The WTO Compatibility of the EU Deforestation Regulation, Carla Gulotta (*Associate Professor of International Law at the University Milano-Bicocca*)

The WTO Compatibility of the EU Batteries Regulation, Fang Meng Mandy (*Assistant Professor at the City University School of Law, Hong Kong*)

Q&A

17:15 - 18:00 - Conclusions

Min. Plen. Enrico Valvo (*Head of Common Trade Policy, Directorate-General for Europe and International Trade Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*)

Emeritus Professor Giorgio Sacerdoti (*Former Member of the WTO Appellate Body*)

[Link Teams](#)

For further information please write to alessandra.quarta5@unibo.it and giulia.bortino2@unibo.it

Institutional Sponsors

