



Call for Papers

The Horizon 2020 Project EUTIP on EU Trade and Investment Policy (<https://more.bham.ac.uk/eutip/>) is organizing an interdisciplinary conference on

Global Politics and EU Free Trade Policy

The EUTIP Project strives for an exploration and evaluation of current EU trade politics in view of current challenges to the global economic order. EU trade policy is an important factor determining the EU's role on the global scene. There is therefore the need to consider pressing international challenges and to factor them into the determination and evaluation of EU trade policy.

EU trade policy moves in a changing global environment. Multilateral institutions are in danger, and at the same time trade disputes are increasing. Current events show the close connection between trade and security policy. Protectionist trade sanctions are allegedly motivated by security policy reasons; conversely, security policy measures affect international trade. The subject of this conference therefore is the exploration of the relations between Global Policies and EU Trade Policy. For this purpose, three sub-themes have been identified which will structure this event, and to which we invite contributions from scholars from any related discipline (Law, Politics, Economics, Sociology). The conference will be opened by a key note on "The relationship of EU-FTA to multilateral trade rules in a rapidly polarising and isolationist world" given by Prof *Mary Footer*.

Theme 1: Relation of EU FTAs to Multilateral Trade Rules

The first theme relates to the assessment of EU trade policy in view of the multilateral trade framework of the WTO whose rules need to be observed in tailoring EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Among the challenges identified are the compliance of WTO plus or minus rules with WTO law, the relationship between regional FTAs and multilateral governance structures or between the respective dispute settlement mechanisms, and the provision of trade defense instruments in EU FTAs. The simultaneous membership of the EU in several regional trade agreements raises the question of possible overlap and inter-relation with regard, e.g. to Rules of Origin or the Most Favoured Nation principle. Prof *Marco Bronckers* will address the increasing gap between FTAs and the WTO in his keynote.

Theme 2: EU Trade Policy in Global Policy Context

In a broader perspective, since EU FTAs also are an instrument of general external policy of the EU and its Member States, trade liberalisation by entering into FTAs may have repercussions on global policy issues, like security policy and the EU's partnership within the NATO, or on human rights policies. Unilateral security policies may also have repercussions on multilateral trade relations. One recent example is the US preparing for enforcement of its trade ban against Iran also against WTO members that want to continue their trade with Iran. Another one is the increased use of security exceptions in WTO law to block trade with WTO Members for true or disguised security reasons. Prof *Sven Biscop* will deliver a keynote for this panel.

Theme 3: EU Trade Defence Instruments in a Protectionist Environment - Fit for Purpose?

Related to the latter theme, the far-spread use of trade defence measures and the resulting trade diversions pose the question as to whether EU trade defence instruments in their new shape comply with multilateral rules. Furthermore, one can ask whether they are a feasible means for implementing security concerns, and whether (and how) EU trade defence is apt to respond to the new protectionist forces. Prof *Frank Hoffmeister* from the European Commission will open this panel with a keynote.

Interested scholars are welcome to submit an abstract (300-500 words) for a presentation within one of the three themes. **Deadline for sending the abstract is 15th October 2018.** Please provide a short biographical note together with your submission. Please send them both to Prof Dr Wolfgang Weiß, profdrweiss@gmail.com and Robert Böttner, boettner@uni-speyer.de. The selected speakers will be informed by 20th October 2018.

The conference will take place in Brussels at the premises of the University of Birmingham (Avenue d'Auderghem 22-28, 22-28 Oudergemselaan, B-1040 Brussels) from 10th December 2018, 1 pm until 11th December 2018.

The organizers are able to cover travel and accommodation costs of chosen speakers up to a maximum of 300 €uro.

On behalf of the organizers Prof Dr Wolfgang Weiß, University of Speyer

This event is part of the EUTIP ITN research network. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 721916, as well as funding from the Deutsche Bundesbank.