
The Re-Globe Jean Monnet Module

presents

EU Trade Policy, Sustainability, and Private Parties

Re-Globe Seminar Cycle

Introductory Remarks and Discussant

Prof. Elisa Baroncini

University of Bologna, Re-Globe Coordinator

“Sustainability through Corporate Human Rights Due Diligence”

Dr **Monika Feigerlová**, Senior Researcher, Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Centre for Climate Law and Sustainability Studies, Visiting Researcher at the Department of Legal Studies of the University of Bologna within the activities of the Excellent University Departments Project, funded by the Italian Ministry of Instruction, University and Research

19 November 2024, 17:00-19:00, Sala Feste, Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni, 22, Bologna

online [link](#)

“Enforcing Sustainability in the EU PTAs: the Role of Private Parties”

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

20 November 2024, 17:00-19:00, Aula 3, Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni, 22, Bologna

online [link](#)

“AfCFTA - Sustainable Development and Corporate Responsibility”

Robert **Lodde**, PhD Candidate, University of Münster

26 November 2024, 17:00-19:00, Aula 12, Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni, 22, Bologna

online [link](#)

“The Legal Value and Practical Effects of Referring to CSR Soft-law Instruments in PTAs Involving the EU: Open Questions and Tentative Answers”

Dr **Niccolò Lanzoni**, Postdoc Researcher, Adjunct Professor, University of Bologna

28 November 2024, 17:00-19:00, Aula 12, Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni, 22, Bologna

online [link](#)

The lectures are organized within the activities of the Re-Globe Jean Monnet Module, co-funded by the European Union

For more information on the Re-Globe Seminar Cycle in Bologna please contact niccolo.lanzoni2@unibo.it

Presentazione: Il ciclo di seminari del modulo Jean Monnet Re-Globe (si veda la pagina web [qui](#)), dedicato alla *trade policy* dell'Unione europea, considera gli obiettivi di sostenibilità che caratterizzano accordi internazionali e misure autonome dell'Unione Europea dedicate al *Green Deal*, le sfide che normative così ambiziose pongono per le parti private, e il ruolo che la società civile può avere nella definizione e nell'*enforcement* delle impegnative regole europee dedicate a tutelare l'ambiente e a promuovere standard sociali. Le lezioni proposte esamineranno la direttiva UE sulla *due diligence* per le imprese, il regolamento sulla deforestazione e quello sulle batterie; gli accordi preferenziali commerciali di nuova generazione dell'Unione europea (*Preferential Trade Agreements*, PTAs); e i sistematici richiami alla responsabilità sociale delle imprese e alle sue fonti di *soft law* che caratterizzano i PTAs promossi dalla UE. Una prospettiva di comparazione verrà offerta dall'analisi che la responsabilità sociale delle imprese ha nell'Accordo di libero scambio del continente africano (*African Continental Free Trade Agreement*, AfCFTA). I relatori sono accademici esperti nei settori del diritto internazionale dell'economia e dello sviluppo sostenibile, nella *trade policy* dell'Unione europea, e in *business and human rights law*.

Presentation: The Jean Monnet Re-Globe (see the webpage [here](#)), Seminar Cycle “EU Trade Policy, Sustainability, and Private Parties” aims to present the challenges that economic operators face because of the new EU autonomous measures based on the concept of human rights due diligence they will have to observe, and the role private parties can play in the definition and enforcement of the EU trade policy tools. The seminars will analyze the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, the EU Regulation on Deforestation and the EU Batteries Regulation; the new generation of EU Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and their monitoring and dispute settlement mechanisms; and the extensive referral to corporate social responsibility (CSR) put in place by the EU PTAs. A comparative perspective will be offered considering the role CSR has in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The lecturers are academic experts in the fields of international economic law, international law for the sustainable development, EU trade policy, and business and human rights law.

Abstracts and Short Bio of the Speakers

Sustainability through Corporate Human Rights Due Diligence. Abstract: Global value chains often spread production across multiple countries, creating a complex network of interdependencies. The business practices by EU enterprises can indirectly contribute to environmental degradation elsewhere in the world. To address this, the European Union is advancing mandatory supply chain due diligence, requiring certain EU-based companies and those within their supply chains—including third-country entities—to evaluate their operations for adverse human rights and environmental impacts. The EU has implemented specific legislation based on the concept of human rights due diligence, derived from the legally non-binding United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, both horizontally (Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive) and across different sectors and products (e.g. the Regulation on Deforestation-free Supply Chains or the Batteries Regulation). The lecture will explore the EU landscape of the supply chain due diligence regulations, with a particular focus on the climate impacts of the activities of major corporate greenhouse gas emitters.

Dr Monika Feigerlová, LL.M., PhD., works as a Research Associate at the Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences (since 2016) and the Centre for Climate Law and Sustainability Studies (since 2020). She obtained a PhD at the Charles University in Prague (2009) and completed the Master in International Dispute Settlement at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and University of Geneva (2012). She was admitted to the Czech Bar Association (2007) and practices law in Prague. She is also a lecturer in the LL.M. programme at Charles University (2023) and the initiator of a new subject on sustainability in business within the master's programme. She is

also member of the Committee for Doctoral Theses at the Charles University, of the International Committee of the International Association of Legal Science (IALS), of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and its Climate Change Law Specialist Group, of the Czech branch of the International Law Association, and the Executive member of the Czech Society for International Law. Her research focuses on transnational corporations, international investment law, dispute resolution and climate change law. She is the author of chapters on corporate climate responsibility and international economic law in the recently published first Czech book on climate law.

Enforcing Sustainability in the EU PTAs: the Role of Private Parties. **Abstract:** The EU trade policy has traditionally and constantly been a distinctive part of the international action of the Union. More and more characterized by the principle of sustainable development, and considered as a major driver for the achievement of the SDGs of the UN 2030 Agenda, since the Lisbon Treaty the common commercial policy of the European Union has been promoting a new generation of preferential trade agreements (PTAs). The latter are highly innovative and rich instruments in promoting environmental and social standards, biodiversity and gender protection, and fighting climate change while pursuing economic integration between the EU and its trade partners. The present lecture aims at illustrating the main features of the EU PTAs, with a focus on their trade and sustainable development chapters (TSD chapters), considering the role private parties have in the monitoring, implementation and enforcement of these new treaty tools. In particular, the bilateral dispute settlement mechanisms of the EU PTAs will be analyzed, together with the new EU mechanism of the Single Entry Point (SEP) and the EU Trade Barriers Regulation, presenting the role economic operators, and more generally civil society, may have in pursuing the observance of the sustainability obligations of the EU trade agreements.

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 “SustainEU-orPlanet- 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.

AfCFTA - Sustainable Development and Corporate Responsibility. **Abstract:** The African Continental Free Trade Agreement is an ambitious project to improve trade in Africa. No other free trade agreement involves so many countries and covers such a geographical area. The aim is to enable 1.3 billion people to trade freely and increase economic trade in Africa. Until now, African countries have exported more goods outside Africa than between African countries. The AfCFTA aims to change this and opens up a multitude of new opportunities, but also challenges. Sustainable Development and

Corporate Responsibility should be mentioned in particular in this context. The explicit aim of the AfCFTA is to lift people out of poverty. Can this be achieved in a way that is sustainable? Can a continent that is so diverse and large and also has such different levels of economic development be able to accumulate prosperity in a free trade agreement? What role can companies play in this development? This lecture will attempt to provide some answers to these questions.

Robert Lodde is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Customs and International Trade Law at the University of Münster in Germany. From 2016 to 2022 he studied law at the University of Münster and at Università degli studi di Modena with a scholarship of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. During his studies, Mr. Lodde passed the Foreign Law and Language Program of the University of Münster. He also works for the Federal University of Science of Germany, which educates German customs officers and held lectures on EU Customs Law. Mr. Lodde is part of the IMPACCT working and research group, which is supported by the Logistics Cluster and the UN OCHA. As part of his research, he visited the University of Bologna for several months. He has published about trade and customs law, especially regarding international trade law as well as European customs law.

The Legal Value and Practical Effects of Referring to CSR Soft-law Instruments in PTAs Involving the EU: Open Questions and Tentative Answers. **Abstract:** The lecture discusses the legal value and practical effects of incorporating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) soft law instruments into preferential trade agreements (PTAs), particularly those involving the European Union (EU). The lecture highlights the increasing inclusion of international CSR standards within these agreements, reflecting the growing importance of sustainable development and responsible business practices in international economic law. Despite the traditionally voluntary nature of CSR, references to soft law instruments in free trade agreements are raising questions about their regulatory status and potential to influence binding legal obligations. The article examines the complexities of this trend, including the legal interpretation of CSR references in free trade agreements and their impact on corporate responsibilities. The article concludes that although CSR remains largely voluntary, its role in free trade agreements signals a shift towards greater standardisation and accountability in global governance.

Dr Niccolò Lanzoni is post-doctoral research fellow in International Law at the Department of Law and adjunct professor in International Law at the Department of Cultural Heritage. He holds a PhD in International Law from the University of Bologna and has been admitted to the Italian Bar. He has obtained the "National Scientific Qualification" (*Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale*) for the position of associate professor in International Law in Italian universities. Previously, he held the position of post-doctoral research fellow (*assegnista di ricerca*) and adjunct professor at the same university. A visiting research fellow at the Heidelberg Institute para América Latina and former guest lecturer at the Eastern Mediterranean University, he served as research assistant for the Italian Defence College in the M/V 'Norstar' case (Panama v Italy).

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