

Seminar Second Term 2006-2007

EC Trade Law and Policy and Sustainable Development

Professor Marise CREMONA

Thursdays 17.15 - 19.00, Sala Triaria

Starts: January

This seminar is designed to examine EC trade law and policy from a sustainable development perspective. Sustainable development has appeared as a key objective in Article 2 of the EC Treaty since 1997; more recently the EC has linked sustainable development explicitly to its external policies. The Guiding Principles for Sustainable Development adopted by the European Council in 2005 refer not only to the promotion of sustainable development worldwide but also to the need to ensure that the EU's internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments.

In particular, the seminar will discuss the inter-relationship between the EC's common commercial policy, as expressed in Article 131-133 EC, and the Community's environmental and development policies. In doing so it will address the contribution of the EC to the global debate on sustainable development, the different instruments available to the EC in seeking to evolve a coherent trade policy in line with its stated sustainable development objectives, and the role played by WTO law in the development of EC law and policy.

The seminar will be held each Thursday, from 17.00-19.00, at Villa Schifanoia (Sala Triaria). Each seminar session will begin with an introduction by Professor Cremona, followed by discussion and presentation of (short) discussion papers by seminar participants. In order to "pass" the seminar requirements, regular participation and presentation of a discussion paper (at least 2-3 pages) on a mutually agreed subject are required.

The topics covered will include the following, although the precise choice of seminar topics can be redefined to reflect the particular interests of seminar participants:

- EC trade law: its rationale and scope; the boundaries of trade policy; the objectives of trade policy and the Community interest; the imperative of uniformity; the commitment to liberalization.
- Development policy within the EU: its genesis and rationale, its current agenda and instruments. Sustainable development.
- Trade and development: different objectives? Using trade for development objectives, the EU in the Doha Round.
- The EC's GSP system and sustainable development: incentive clauses, WTO compatibility.
- The Cotonou Convention, trade and the EPAs.
- Trade and environmental protection.