

Editorial

“All good things go by three”, the saying goes. As editors, we hope, firstly that readers will consider EYIEL to be “a good thing”, and secondly that EYIEL will not go by after this third volume.

Like volume two, Part I of EYIEL 3 (2012) focuses on two topics we considered to be of particular relevance for International Economic Law: 10 years of membership of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in the WTO; and Global Energy Markets and their legal regulation under International Economic Law.

China’s accession to the WTO marked a milestone in the development of the WTO as a truly global institution, for many reasons. It expanded its territorial reach significantly and it brought the economy, which will pretty soon – presumably – not only be the world’s largest exporter but also the largest economy in the world, under the disciplines of the world trade regime. Whether the relationship between the traditional and remaining trade powers, in particular the US and the EU, on the one hand, and the PRC on the other hand will develop smoothly or will become more bumpy with tensions rising, remains to be seen. It will be a dominant factor for the overall development of International Economic Law at any rate. The contributions in Part I devoted to China’s tenth WTO birthday shed light on different aspects of China’s membership and of its trading relations – and conflicts – with other major WTO members, and they treat the problems from different perspectives.

Energy is one of the sources of life which is absolutely indispensable and at the same time potentially devastating. Long before the nuclear catastrophe of Fukujima and the re-assessment of nuclear energy, it was already clear that the regionally asymmetric availability of energy sources and their similarly asymmetric consumption patterns bring about particular difficulties for the regulation of trade in energy. The second thematic focus of Part I tries to give an overview of the quite diverse regulatory approaches being used to deal with energy trade, globally in the WTO, bi- or tri-regionally in the Energy Charter Treaty, regionally in the newly established Energy Community of the Balcan and – of course – in the European Union. It clearly demonstrates that the regulation of international energy markets touches

upon much more than just trade restrictions, namely investment protection, transfer of technology, competition law and network regulation.

The contributions in Part II deal with dispute resolution developments under NAFTA, with the Rule of Law in the regional integration process in sub-Saharan Africa and with the trends in the recent trade agreement practice of the European Union. The institutional reports in Part III treat the activities of the G8/G20, dispute settlement practice of the WTO, the WTO Doha negotiations, the new IMF financial structure and – as a novelty – the activities of the World Customs Organization (WCO). Customs law is the legitimate mother of International Economic Law but is often neglected by its offspring. We are very happy to re-unite “the family” by covering the WCO in the Institutions’ Part of EYIEL.

The publication calendar of EYIEL allows directing the attention already to the next volume. Vol. 4 (2013) will focus mainly on Global Competition law. With Vol. 4, Markus Krajewski will join us and complement the then editorial team with his particular competencies in the fields of WTO law, competition law and regulation of services of general interest.

Again, we would like to express our gratefulness to a great number of people without whom EYIEL could never be published. Firstly, we thank our reliable and cooperative contributors. EYIEL is first and foremost their work! Secondly, we are thankful for the support by our Editorial Advisory Board’s members. Dr. Brigitte Reschke of Springer was the extremely professional and supportive contact at the publisher we have got used to over the last years. Finally, we thank our academic and student assistant teams at the Universities of Passau and Hamburg respectively for their professional handling of the manuscripts. A particular gratitude goes to Christoph’s secretary, Ms. Liane Dobler for the formatting of most of EYIEL Vol. 3 (2012). All remaining omissions and errors are – of course – our sole editorial responsibility. We can only hope for having minimised their number.

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