



The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies of KU Leuven

In the Framework of the Jean Monnet Network 'The European Union at the Crossroads of Global Order' (EUCROSS)

Call for Papers

for an International Conference on

The EU and its Partners in Global Governance: Trade, Investment, Tax and Sustainable Development

Hong Kong, 14-15 June 2018

Papers are expected to address one or more of the following questions:

1. The European Union

How does the EU itself address the nexus between investment, trade, tax and sustainable development in its external relations and global action, both within its bilateral relationships with key international partners, including the United States, China, Russia, Brazil, India and Japan, and in its actions in multilateral settings, such as the World Trade Organization ('WTO'), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund ('IMF'), the United Nations ('UN') and the G20? To which degree do the EU and its partners set different priorities in these areas? How does this relate to their efforts in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals ('SDGs')?

2. The European Union's Partners

How do partners of the EU address the nexus between investment, trade, tax and sustainable development in their policies towards key multilateral institutions, such as the WTO, IMF, World Bank, UN and G20? What are their priorities, interests and guiding norms and principles? How do they address this nexus in their bilateral relations with other partners, including the Union? What progress has the EU made with regard to international investment agreements negotiations since the European Court of Justice rendered its Opinion (2/15) on the competence of the EU to conclude the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Singapore? Has the Opinion

affected ongoing negotiations and what will the impact be on the EU's attempts to regulate international investment? How does China involve the EU in the "Belt and Road Initiative", implemented since 2013?

3. Global Governance

Multilateral Level

How were sustainability concerns discussed and addressed at the 2017 Buenos Aires WTO Ministerial Conference (considering, for example the failed negotiations of a multilateral agreement on fisheries subsidies)? What is the G20's track record on investment, trade, tax and sustainable development and can tangible results be pointed out?

Bilateral Level

How can we make sense of the design of Trade and Sustainable Development Chapters in different trade agreements? What is the implementation record of environment and labour chapters in the context of specific bilateral agreements? Are there ways to strengthen the enforcement of the nexus between trade/investment and sustainability? To what degree do voluntary partnership agreements which link environmental and social protection to trade, including the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade – Voluntary Partnership Agreement ('FLEGT-VPA'), serve as best practice? Are bilateral investment treaties able to effectively address sustainable development, and if so, how?

Unilateral Level

How effective are Generalized Scheme of Preferences ('GSP') schemes in enforcing the link between trade and sustainable development? What are the main challenges faced by exporters in developing countries in complying with preferential rules of origin, a key component of GSP? How do regulatory measures which influence access to markets impact on the nexus between investment, trade, tax and sustainable development? Which instruments exist to detect where and when violations in relation to social and environmental protection occur, and how can they help to address sustainability concerns in international trade? What is the track record of instruments that have been developed over the last couple of years, such as the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010, the EU Directive 2014/95/EU on disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups, and the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015? What has been the effect of the 2014 Mauritius Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration?