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#### Newsletter editors

[Freya Baetens](#) and [José Caiado](#)

Should you wish to include an item in the next SIEL newsletter, please contact the editors.

The "President's Corner" text is the sole responsibility of the author and does not necessarily reflect the views of the WTO.

### A. SIEL 2014 Bern Conference and Call for Nominations

The draft programme of the SIEL 2014 Conference is out and can be found [here](#). Over 100 paper and poster presentations are expected. Confirmed key note speakers include **Eva Hupkes Michael Trebilcock**, and **David Unterhalter**. Registration is still possible at [Sielnet](#) and the [WTI website](#) has more information about the conference. At the conference, so as to enable participation by as many SIEL members as possible (in person or by proxy), SIEL will also hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Pursuant to Art. 56 of the SIEL Articles of Association, the SIEL Nominating Committee hereby seeks **nominations** to fill a position on the SIEL **Executive Council** and an **Executive Vice President**. Positions will be filled by members voting at the AGM. Please send suggestions for candidates (including self-nominations) to [Meredith Kolsky Lewis](#). We are also proud to announce a new edition of the [SIEL/CUP essay prize](#), which endeavors to recognize and promote preeminent work by junior scholars in IEL.

### B. President's Corner

**As the world's more than 200 States** expand their participation in the processes of global governance, decisions necessary to deal with world-wide problems are becoming increasingly difficult to conclude, both in international organizations and other international fora. Experts have suggested different voting procedures to increase the simplicity and productivity of international co-operation, from weighted voting to "majority-rules", often with detailed voting computation mechanisms. Furthermore, with globalization and the increasing role of emerging economies, international institutions and states have begun emphasizing a simpler way of reaching agreement - moving away from voting mechanisms that raise tensions between the legal equality of states and the need to ensure effective participation. Moreover, while the practice of decision-making by consensus has expanded, it has also proven inefficient in instances where it seems to have provided a kind of veto to an isolated participant or small group. In response, some institutions like ISO (International Standard Organization) have developed a flexible consensus mechanism which allows the chair to set aside minor disagreements. In other fora, states are now exploring a new decision-making approach by which subgroups of states attempt to conclude agreements that would benefit the wider international community, including non-party states, and which non-party states may opt-into at a later date. The Information Technology Agreement (ITA) is one example of a treaty drafted and concluded in this manner. The ITA was first concluded in 1996 by a group of 29 WTO Members, and has since grown to include 70 members representing about 97% of world trade in information technology products; reduced tariffs pursuant to the ITA are applied on a MFN basis and all WTO Members benefit. At the January Davos meeting, 14 WTO members, including the US, the EU, China, and Japan, announced upcoming negotiations on the reduction of tariffs on a list of "green goods" based on a similar list prepared by APEC in 2012. Pursuant to this Davos initiative, once a "critical mass" of participants expresses its willingness to go ahead, the deal will be considered concluded, although only those members (comprising the critical mass) will actually be making concessions in reducing their import tariffs on such lists of green goods. In fact, the concept of "critical mass" served as the formal basis for the decision to conclude the Telecom and Financial Services protocols. This approach is possible because WTO members can always unilaterally reduce their tariffs; therefore, they can also do it collectively. The more complex issue is whether, and if so how, to use this critical mass approach to add non-tariff and regulatory commitments. In fact with these later two Services Protocols, WTO members went further in providing the possibility for members to commit to regulatory improvements on a voluntary

## SIEL GOVERNANCE

### Officers

Gabrielle Marceau (President); Meredith Kolsky Lewis & Colin Picker (Executive Vice-Presidents); Galina Zukova & Federico Ortino (Treasurers); Amelia Porges & Freya Baetens (SIEL Corporate Secretaries)

### Executive Council

Lorand Bartels, Tomer Broude, José Caiado, Michael Ewing-Chow, Holger Hestermeyer, Locknie Hsu, Jurgen Kurtz, Andrew Lang, Nokuhle Madolo, Junji Nakagawa, Shin-yi Peng, Lisa Toohey, Isabelle Van Damme, Tania Voon, Markus Wagner, Heng Wang

basis and without imposing market-access conditions on non-participants. Indeed, some are also arguing that this route may be the best way to integrate the results of the ongoing TISA (Trade In Services Agreement) into the WTO – i.e. in inviting members to unilaterally and voluntarily make market access concessions and modify their schedules to introduce possible regulatory commitments. It remains to be seen whether and how, on a variety of complex and sensitive issues, a "critical mass" of states will come together, and what level of technical and "insider" knowledge will be required to know beforehand which members, if any, are interested in joining in the negotiations on a given issue. It will also be necessary to ensure that signatories to these "critical mass" agreements continue to offer their benefits to all non-participants and do not impose conditions on non-participants. But it is good to note the willingness of the international community to consider and experiment with new ways of making decisions. The innovative approach of the new Pacific Alliance, according to which as soon as parties reach consensus on one specific issue, the participants go ahead with implementing it and then simply go to the next issue for negotiation, is another one of those new creative approaches. **This is a must for global governance.**

## Regional & Network Activities

### A. PEPA

## Calls for Papers

- A. Direito GV Law Review
- B. Granada Trade & Finance Conference

## IEL Activities

- A. SIEL support to ELSAs African Round
- B. Transnational Dispute Management Publication
- C. ESIL Business and HR 3rd Workshop

## Other Activities

- A. IEL Publisher Discounts
- B. New Positions/Titles
- C. 2013 SIEL/CUP Essay Prize
- D. Other

## Regional and network activities

### A. PEPA Conference

The **3rd PEPA Conference** will take place in São Paulo, Brazil, 24 - 25 April 2014. More than 40 young scholars from throughout the world are expected at the law school ([Direito GV](#)) to present their research and receive comments from senior participants. Registration is still possible for those interested in attending the conference as part of the audience. For registration, please check out [PEPAs page at Sielnet](#), or [contact the organizers](#).

## Calls for Papers

### A. Direito GV Law Review

Direito GV Law Review, Brazil's leading law journal, has recently published a call for papers during 2014 in connection with the 70th Anniversary of the Bretton Woods Conference. The academic community is invited to submit work that reflects, from an interdisciplinary angle, on the international economic system, the regulatory arrangements necessary for making it stable, and the difficulties in achieving this balance. The complete call for papers can be found [here](#).

### B. Granada Trade & Finance Conference

The University of Granada will host the International Conference called "The Reform of International Economic Governance", 9-10 October 2014, and invites submissions both in trade and finance. Discussions will be preceded by key lectures including Rosa M. Lastra (Queen Mary University of London), Charles Goodhart (London School of Economics), Kern Alexander (University of Zurich), Dan Sarooshi (Oxford University), Andrew Lang (London School of Economics), and Friedl Weiss (University of Vienna). After the key lectures, authors will briefly present accepted papers. A debate will follow these presentations, moderated by the organizers. Paper proposals must be submitted by 1 June 2014. More information can be found [here](#).

### C. ESIL Business and HR 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop

Call for papers to the European Society of International Law (ESIL) Interest Group on Business and Human Rights 3rd Research Workshop at the 10th ESIL Anniversary Conference, to be held in Vienna, Austria, on 3 September 2014. Following the overarching theme of the Research Forum, "International Law and ...: Boundaries of International Law and Bridges to Other Fields and Disciplines", the group invites papers addressing the interplay between international law and other fields of law or other disciplines from the perspective of business and human rights. The deadline for proposals is 31 May 2014. More information can be found [here](#).

## IEL Activities

### A. SIEL support to ELSAs African Round

The European Law Students' Association (ELSA) is currently holding the 12th edition of the ELSA Moot Competition on WTO law. Regional Rounds took place in February and March 2014. The first ever African Regional Round for the WTO ELSA Moot competition took place in Johannesburg, Wits University, Mandela Institute. **SIEL is proud to be one of the sponsors of the African Round.** ELSAs Final Round will take place in Geneva on 13-18 May 2014. You can find information about the competition [here](#). For questions, please, contact [ELSA](#).

### B. Transnational Dispute Management Publication

New release: TDM 1 (2014) - Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement: In Search of a Roadmap. Edited by Jean E. Kalicki (Arnold & Porter LLP and Georgetown University Law Center) and Anna Joubin-Bret (Cabinet Joubin-Bret) this TDM special issue on the "Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement: In Search of a Roadmap" has close to 70 papers making it the largest TDM Special Issue to date. Interest in this topic, and the breadth of proposals offered by our contributors, demonstrate both the importance of holding this dialogue and the creativity of astute users and observers of the present system. This Special Issue is particularly timely in light of the European Union's public consultation on investor-state dispute settlement and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership just begun by EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht. SIEL members are eligible for a 15% discount on the subscription rates. More information about the project can be found [here](#).

## Other activities

### A. IEL Publisher Discounts

Since its inception, the SIEL has negotiated SIEL member discounts with a wide variety of publishers, all of whom have been very supportive of the SIEL. More information on discounts available from individual publishers can be found [here](#).

### B. New Positions/Titles

[Arthur E. Appleton](#) has recently been named as an Adjunct Professor at John's Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

If you have any upcoming changes, whether temporary or permanent, that you would like us to list, please email either [José](#) or [Freya](#) with the details.

### C. 2013 SIEL/CUP Essay Prize

The deadline for the 2014 SIEL/CUP Annual Essay Prize is 30 September 2014. The competition is open to students and young professionals. The essay must not have been previously published. The prize consists of £200, as well as £300 of CUP book vouchers and a three year subscription to the World Trade Review (WTR). The winning essay will be submitted to the WTR for publication. Any queries should be addressed by email to [Lorand Bartels](#). Other details can be found [here](#).



CAMBRIDGE JOURNALS

Cambridge University Press is proud to sponsor

**The Annual SIEL Essay Prize in International Economic Law**

The prize consists of £200 plus £300 worth of books from Cambridge University Press and a 3 year print subscription to the *World Trade Review*. The winning essay will be considered for publication in the *World Trade Review*.

Closing date for submissions: 30 September 2014

The prize is open to all early career researchers, including students. For full terms and conditions, visit: [www.sielnet.org/essayprize](http://www.sielnet.org/essayprize)

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### D. Other

SIEL seeks to **publicize IEL events** including conferences, calls for papers, IEL competitions, IEL programmes etc. Please send us such information for posting. To view a list of past SIEL posts, please visit the [SIEL website](#). As members of a member-run organization, please consider getting in touch with Meredith Lewis and Colin Picker, SIEL Executive Vice-Presidents, with specific ideas for SIEL projects and services. We are committed to expanding SIEL activities and services wherever appropriate - whether individual or in partnership with other IEL organizations around the world. Indeed, at the moment we are in the process of developing new projects and services and once they are finalized we will let you know.

Thanks for your support and interest.

**Freya Baetens & José Caiado**  
Executive Council Members  
SIEL Newsletter Editors