



British Institute of  
International and  
Comparative Law

# The 2019 BIICL WTO Conference

Friday, 31 May 2019

British Institute of International and Comparative Law  
Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5JP

Sponsored by:

**VAN BAEL & BELLIS**

## Programme

08.45 – 09.15	Conference registration
09.15 – 09.30	Welcome address
9.30 – 10.00	Keynote address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professor Gabrielle Marceau, University of Geneva (Chair)</li><li>• Thomas Cottier, Emeritus Professor at University of Bern</li></ul>
10.00- 11.15	<p><b>Panel 1 – Current challenges to multilateralism: protectionism within the WTO</b></p> <p>This panel will examine undergoing issues faced by WTO's multilateralism and rule-based system. The speakers will address the use of safeguards and national security exceptions as well as recent State practices in apparent contravention of WTO rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Isabelle Van Damme, Counsel at Van Bael &amp; Bellis (Chair)</li><li>• Lothar Ehring, Directorate General for Trade at EU Commission</li><li>• Giorgio Sacerdoti, Emeritus Professor at Bocconi University and former Chairman of the WTO Appellate Body</li><li>• Julia Ya Qin, Wayne State University</li></ul>

11.15 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 12.45	<p><b>Panel 2 - Regional and bilateral trade agreements: new avenues for trade</b></p> <p>This panel will analyse recent regional and bilateral trade agreements as well as possible future developments. Speakers will focus on NAFTA, the African Continental Free Trade Area, and the Belt and Road Initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Donaldson, UK Department for International Trade Legal Advisors (Chair)</li> <li>• Yuka Kobayashi, SOAS University of London</li> <li>• Olufemi Amao, University of Sussex</li> <li>• Christophe Bondy, Cooley LLP</li> </ul>
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 15.00	<p><b>Panel 3 – Intersection between Trade, Human Rights and Development</b></p> <p>This panel will review the intersection between trade, human rights, and development. Some of the topics explored will be trade and human rights, trade and women's economic participation, and social rights and labour standards in EU trade agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julinda Beqiraj, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, BIICL (Chair)</li> <li>• Robert Howse, NYU Law</li> <li>• Kholofelo Kugler, Advisory Centre on WTO Law</li> <li>• James Flett, Deputy to the Director, Trade Policy and WTO Team, European Commission</li> </ul>
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee break
15.15 – 16.30	<p><b>Panel 4 – Institutional reform of WTO</b></p> <p>This panel will reflect on WTO's institutional reform. The speakers will analyse the Appellate Body deadlock situation, the issue of consensus, and the options available to resolve such institutional challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federico Ortino, King's College London and Clifford Chance (Chair)</li> <li>• Maria Panezi, CIGI</li> <li>• Deepak Raju, Sidley Austin LLP</li> <li>• Aegyoun Jung, Chief Legal Advisor to the Director-General of WTO</li> </ul>

<b>16.30 – 17.45</b>	<b>Final discussion: International trade in the era of Brexit</b>  This roundtable will close the Conference addressing the international trade implications arising from Brexit, and the challenges that Brexit poses to international economic law. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Markus Gehring, University of Cambridge (Chair)</li><li>• Lorand Bartels, University of Cambridge and Linklaters</li><li>• Fiona Smith, University of Leeds</li><li>• Andrew Lang, University of Edinburgh</li></ul>
<b>17.45 – 18.30</b>	<b>Drinks reception</b>