



# Law Schools Global League



## Online Academic Conference

*Organized by*

Law Schools Global League, in association with

National Research University Higher School of Economics

17 July 2020

## **The 3R Initiative: Re-thinking, Re-packaging and Rescuing World Trade Law**

### CALL FOR PAPERS

### ONLINE CONFERENCE

It is time to rethink, repackage and rescue an international trade regime at the multilateral level. Protectionist and arbitrary actions by leading powers are undermining the regulation of multilateral, regional and bilateral trade. The dramatic growth of protectionist measures has resulted in a global trade crisis. Between mid-October 2017 to mid-January 2020, trade restrictive measures in G20 economies have doubled compared to the previous review period. We are also witnessing instances of trade wars between developed and emerging economies. To make it worse, the COVID-19 pandemic has strained and overstretched the health systems worldwide, including in the world's most advanced economies. It has upended the global economy, and with it the international trade, creating enormous shocks to supply and demand. WTO economists predict that COVID-19 may cause larger damages to global trade than those that resulted from the 2008 global financial crisis, that is, a fall in world trade by 13-32 per cent in 2020. The economic contagion has grown as fast as the pandemic itself. Will the international trade rules survive in the post-COVID-19 era? In addition, world trade is facing many other challenges such as the lack of decision-making at the WTO and the consequential lack of progress in multilateral negotiations. The WTO Appellate Body crisis has posed a new challenge for all stakeholders to rescue not merely the dispute settlement mechanism but also the entire multilateral trading system. These challenges underline the need to **rethink, repackage and rescue** international trade laws and regulations.

This online conference is aimed at addressing these challenges and developments by focusing on the 3R Initiative: Rethinking, Repackaging and Rescuing International Trade Law.

The **keynote speaker** is **Professor Peter Van den Bossche**, Director of Studies of the World Trade Institute and Professor of International Economic Law, University of Bern, Switzerland; Former WTO Appellate Body Member.



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## Areas of interest

The conference will address both national and international legal aspects of disruptions and changes influencing multilateral, bilateral and regional trading system. You are encouraged to submit paper or panel proposals on topics that relate to repackaging, rescuing or rethinking world trade law. Some examples of such topics are as follows:

- Trade conflicts between trading nations
- Crisis of the WTO decision making
- WTO Appellate Body blockage
- Failure of multilateral trade negotiations
- Trade plus issues such as food safety, environmental protection, gender equality and others
- Balance between trade and national security
- Emergence of new preferential regional and bilateral agreements
- Conflict of interests between developing and developed countries
- COVID-19 and trade disruptions
- Collaboration between international organizations in the time of global crisis

**Date:** The conference will take place online via Zoom on 17 July 2020.

**Structure of the conference:** The conference will be divided into three sessions, each chaired by a discussant with participation of three to four speakers with 15 minutes available for each presentation.

**Applications:** Applications can be submitted via e-mail to the following email address: dboklan@hse.ru **by 19 June 2020**. Please include the following information:

- The author's name and affiliation;
- No more than a 300 word abstract [Word file or PDF]
- The author's CV, including a list of relevant publications, if applicable;
- The author's contact details, including e-mail address and phone number;

Co-authored papers are also welcome. Applicants will be informed of the selection committee's decision no later than **25 June 2020**. Selected papers (draft memos outlining the key arguments, hypothesis and paper's structure) should be sent no later than **12 July 2020 GMT**.

**Certificate:** All participants will receive a certificate of participation.

The IT arrangements will be confirmed in due course.