

## National security safeguards, trade wars and WTO dispute settlement in crisis.

Friday, 14 December 2018

15.00-17.50

Silva Casa Auditorium, World Trade Institute, University of Bern  
Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

[More Info](#) 

*For MILE and TRAIL+ students, this seminar is worth 1.5 ECTS.*

### Seminar Description

The rules-based international trading system is facing a life-threatening crisis which risks destroying the civilizational achievement of the generation that established the WTO and its obligatory dispute settlement system after the end of the Cold War. At risk is the rule of law in WTO law, its status and reputation within international law, and its relevance for the future. The seminar will summarise how this situation came about, and how it might be overcome – or not. Other current trade policy challenges, concerning China, national security measures, both real and claimed, and others, will provide context and introduction.

### Biography of the Speaker

Lothar Ehring is Senior Expert in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade, where he currently serves in the Legal Unit, after returning from a secondment to the European Commission's Support Group for Ukraine (2014-2016). Before that, he served as the Assistant to the Deputy Director-General responsible for multilateral trade, legal affairs, trade defence instruments and bilateral trade relations with North America, Europe and its neighbours and Central Asia. 2003-2009, Lothar Ehring already served in the Unit that is responsible for Legal Aspects of Trade Policy. Prior to his appointment to the European Commission, Lothar Ehring briefly worked as Legal Affairs Officer in the Legal Affairs Division and the Appellate Body Secretariat of the World Trade Organization in Geneva on dispute settlement cases. He graduated in law from the University of Passau in Germany, holds the German qualification for the judicial office and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University.

Participation is free of charge.