

# Editorial

Part I of Volume 2 of the European Yearbook of International Economic Law (EYIEL) has as a new feature of EYIEL two special focuses. Whereas the first special focus concentrates on the relationship between the “sovereign” state and the global economy, the second deals with the interaction of climate change and international economic law. Taking into account the variety of topics in international economic law and thus its demands for concentration, the next issues of EYIEL will further pursue this “focus-approach”. Therefore, Volume 3 (2012) will place emphasis on the focus “Ten Years of China’s WTO Membership” and “Global Energy Markets and international economic law”.

We are glad, Karl M. Meessen, a distinguished scholar in international law, agreed to contribute in EYIEL 2 with a distinguished essay dealing with “Governmental Decision-Making in the Global Economy”. Other topics in conjunction with the relationship between the “sovereign” state and the global economy cover complex questions on the regulation of Sovereign Wealth Funds and the role of global financial institutions. Along with some contributions in EYIEL 1, we have hopefully succeeded in providing a detailed analysis of some important questions concerning the global economic crisis which has mutated into a crisis of the European Economic and Monetary Union during the last months.

The problem of climate change represents an increasingly relevant topic in the context of international economic law. In recent years a discussion on “greening” the WTO treaties aroused, deeply influencing practice and research in that field. In these days, this discussion is not solely confined to WTO law but covers all fields of international economic law. The outcome of the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen demonstrated how difficult it still is to achieve any progress in this area. Against this background, EYIEL 2 deals with various topics in this field, e.g. relating to the problem of carbon capture and storage, biofuels under WTO law, climate labelling and WTO, environmental services and GATS and, finally, the European Union competences in the field of international environmental law.

Part II (Regional Integration), as usual, is devoted to selected questions of regional economic integration. In view of the European Union, the competences in the field of regional trade agreements are once again at the centre of important debates. Other contributions are concerned with current developments in Middle East and Africa (MENA), the future options of regional economic integration in North and South America, and the latest tendencies in Asia (especially ASEAN).

Finally, Part III (International Economic Institutions) contains an exhaustive analysis of the reform of the G 8 (now G 20) and a recent landmark decision by the Appellate Body of the WTO, in addition to an outlook on the future of the Doha Development Agenda of the WTO.

Once again, we are indebted to a great number of people, first and foremost to our contributors. The collaboration with Springer and especially with Dr. Brigitte Reschke, was – again – very positive and fruitful. We have to extend our thanks to the members of the EYIEL Advisory Board, too. Lastly, we would like to thank our academic and student assistants at the Universities of Hamburg and Passau for their invaluable support in handling the manuscripts and proofs in a very professional manner.

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