ALMA MATER STUDIORUM UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA | DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL STUDIES

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale

International Workshop of the UNIBO Research Project

UNIBO-MAECI Project

WTO Plurilateral Initiatives, Global Challenges and the New World Economic Order

Il sistema multilaterale degli scambi come piattaforma per affrontare le sfide globali: gli Accordi e le Iniziative plurilaterali dell'OMC quali strumenti di governance del nuovo ordine economico mondiale

Co-financed by the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

Bologna, Tuesday 5 May 2026

Sala Feste, Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni 22, h. 9-19 and online

10:00 – 10:30 Welcome Greetings

Federico Casolari *(Full Professor of EU Law, Head of the Department of Legal Studies, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna)*

Maria Teresa Bastiani *(Senior Trade Officer, Head of Section 1 – Trade negotiations, Unit 9, DG Europe and International Trade Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation)*

Elisa Baroncini *(Full Professor of International Law, Coordinator of the UNIBO-MAECI Project, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna)*

10:30 -11:30 – First Session: The WTO Reform Process and the Plurilateral Tools

Part I 10:30 – 11:30

Chair: Elisa Baroncini *(Full Professor of International Law, Coordinator of the UNIBO-MAECI Project, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna)*

A Mapping Exercise of Trade Negotiations Against the Framework of WTO Law, Giovanna Adinolfi *(Full Professor of International Law, University of Milano)*

***Reassessing the MPIA: Legal Nature, Institutional Developments, and Its Role in the Multilateral* Trading System**, Davide Grespan *(Legal Advisor to the Permanent Mission of the European Union to the World Trade Organization)*

WTO Subsidy Rules in an Era of Industrial Policy: Implications for the Multilateral Trading System, Elettra Bargellini *(Max Weber Fellow in EU and International Trade Law, European University Institute)*

Reforming the WTO Subsidy Rules for Clean Energy Transition: Is the Plurilateral the Way Out? FANG Meng Mandy *(Assistant Professor, City University, Hong Kong)*

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Part II 11:30 – 12:30

Chair: Ilaria Espa *(Associate Professor of International Economic Law, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Senior Research Fellow, World Trade Institute)*

Going Plurilateral or Preferential? The WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) in the Modern Global Economy, Anna Panarella *(Post-doc Researcher in International Economic Law, Università della Svizzera Italiana)*

Beyond Protection and Liberalisation: New Trends in International Investment Facilitation Law, Niccolò Lanzoni *(Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in International Law, University of Bologna)*

Interim Arrangements for the E-Commerce Agreement, Carlo M. Cantore *(International Trade Lawyer, Adjunct Professor of International Trade Law at the University of Neuchâtel)*

Services Domestic Regulation, Jan Bohanes *(Senior Counsel, Advisory Centre on World Trade Organization Law)*

Lunch Break 12:45 – 14:00

14:00 – 15:45 – Second Session: The WTO Informal Groups and Dialogues

Chair: Carlo Cantore (*Attorney-at-law, Adjunct Professor of International Trade Law, University of Neuchâtel)*

Climate Clubs, CBAMs and Trade Law: From Confrontation to Cooperation? Ilaria Espa *(Associate Professor of International Economic Law, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Senior Research Fellow, World Trade Institute)*

Saving Multilateralism through Informality? The WTO Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform Initiative in an Era of Fragmentation, Federico Siscaro *(Trainee Manager for the Italian National School of Administration/PhD Candidate in EU Law, University of Bologna)*

(In)formalising Health and Trade Law: the Trade and Health Initiative and the role of the European Union, Susanna Villani *(Researcher in Tenure Track on EU Law, University of Bologna)*

The Informal Group of Small, Vulnerable Economies (SVEs): Past Achievements, Present Challenges and Future Ambitions, Giulia Bortino *(PhD Candidate, University of Bologna)*

Trade-and-Labour Regulation and WTO Law, or 'Never the twain shall meet'? Lorenza Mola *(Full Professor of International Law, University of Turin)*, Claudia Paglia (*University of Turin*)

The WTO Gender Agenda: Analyzing Informal Debates and Plurilateral Reform, Maryam Qasim (*PhD Candidate, University of Turin)*

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15:45 – 17:30 – Third Session: Out-of-WTO Plurilaterals and Clusters of Bilateral Agreements and Arrangements

Chair: Davide Grespan *(Legal Advisor to the Permanent Mission of the European Union to the World Trade Organization)*

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) as a "Gold Standard": The Interest of the EU and China and the Broader Implications for World Trade Governance, Luca Rubini (*Associate Professor of International Law, University of Milano)*

The Legal Dimension of the EU Digital Partnerships: Unicorns or Chameleons?, Federico Ferri *(Senior Assistant in EU Law, University of Bologna)*

Environmental protection, the fight against climate change and the prevention of disasters in and outside PTAs, Carlo de Stefano (*Associate Professor of International Law, Roma Tre University)*

The US Tariff Policy after the Liberation Day and the Subsequent US Trade Deals. Looking for a New Equilibrium Navigating between WTO Compatibility and Respect of the US Congress Prerogatives, Elisa Baroncini *(Full Professor of International Law and Coordinator of the UNIBO-MAECI Project, University of Bologna)*

Going Beyond the Chinese Monopoly: The EU Raw Materials Diplomacy and the US Critical Minerals Strategy, Elisa Baroncini *(Full Professor of International Law and Coordinator of the UNIBO-MAECI Project, University of Bologna)*

Q&A

17:30 - 18:00 – Conclusions

Giorgio Sacerdoti (*Emeritus Professor, Bocconi University; Former Member of the WTO Appellate Body*)

Link Teams

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