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## *SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project*

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### **SustainEUorPlanet Seminar in Ravenna**

Monday, 13 October 2025, from 16.30 to 18.45 (CET)

Aula GERSHEVITCH, Palazzo Verdi, Via Giuseppe Pasolini, 23 – Ravenna

# ***The WTO and The New US Tariff Policy***

**Davide Grespan**

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Visiting Researcher at the Department of Legal Studies of the University of Bologna  
within the activities of the Excellent University Departments Project, funded by the  
Italian Ministry of Instruction, University and Research

*Introductory Remarks and Discussant*

**Prof. Elisa Baroncini**

University of Bologna  
SustainEUorPlanet Jean Monnet Chair

The event is organised as part of the activities of the Visiting Researcher at the Department of Legal Studies of the University of Bologna Davide Grespan within the activities of the Excellent University Departments Project, funded by the Italian Ministry of Instruction, University and Research, and of the activities of SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project, co-financed by the European Union.

For information about the seminar, please contact: [alessandra.quarta5@unibo.it](mailto:alessandra.quarta5@unibo.it)

**Abstract:** This seminar will begin by exploring the rationale behind the establishment of GATT and subsequently, the WTO. It will elucidate the key normative elements of the rules-based international trading system, and examine significant developments in international trade since 2000, including China's rise as a global economic power. The session will also address how escalating geopolitical tensions between the US and China have impacted the WTO and its dispute settlement mechanism. The seminar will conclude with an overview of the new US tariff policy, the responses from major US trading partners, and prospects for WTO reform.

**Davide Grespan:** Davide Grespan studied law at the university of Bologna (1995) and Oxford (2001). He succeeded the bar exam in Italy (1998) and worked for a few years in different law firms in Bologna and Rome. In 1999 he worked in Luxembourg in the cabinet of Professor Mengozzi, at the time judge of the Court of First Instance, and also as a free-lance translator for the Court of Justice. In 2001 he joined the European Commission, in DG Competition. Later he moved to DG Trade. From 2008 to 2022 he worked in the Legal Service of the European Commission, and in this role he built an impressive record as litigator before the EU courts, the WTO judicial bodies, and international arbitrators. From September 2022 he is the legal advisor to the Permanent Mission of the EU to the WTO. He published several articles on legal matters and contributed to several works on State aid law and WTO law in English and Italian.

**SustainEUorPlanet:** The Jean Monnet Chair Project, coordinated by Professor [Elisa Baroncini](#), proposes an interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the EU's international policies and legal frameworks directed to economic and social fairness, respect for the environment, access to clean energy and essential goods, while looking for security to overcome geopolitical tensions and asymmetries. SustainEUorPlanet has a twofold purpose. On one side, it offers a set of activities envisaging the promotion of a ruling and academic class of excellence, involving EU, national and international civil servants, politicians, NGOs, local businesses and public administration. On the other side, SustainEUorPlanet shows the leading role of the EU as a global actor in constantly promoting a sustainable agenda for trade, environment, energy and climate policies, highlighting the importance of economic operators' accountability and the relevance that EU citizens can have in shaping and enforcing EU's external tools through participation and transparency. Likewise, the Project focuses on political security policies in world economy. More information available on the Project's [website](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).