



Centre for  
Commercial Law  
in Asia



Universiteit  
Leiden



## **Call for Papers**

### **SMU-Leiden Workshop on Green Regionalism**

**21-22 November 2024, Singapore**

Co-organized by the Centre for Commercial Law in Asia of the Singapore Management University (SMU) Yong Pung How School of Law and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Comparative Regional Integration (CompaRe) of the Leiden Law School.

#### **I. Theme**

Since the Brundtland Report defined the concept of sustainable development, climate actions have gained prominence in key sustainability initiatives such as the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Agreement. Both the UN and the WTO recognize the role of the international trade framework in promoting climate governance and a green economy. However, the implementation of the trade-sustainability linkage remains controversial.

In response to the pressing need for economic resilience and environmental protection, various governments and regional blocs, influenced by businesses, NGOs, and courts, have developed innovative trade law approaches to sustainability. These approaches contribute to the emergence of "green regionalism." We define green regionalism as a normative process whereby regional economic frameworks integrate and operationalize environmental sustainability within their regional objectives and instruments, often necessitating a redesign or rebalancing at both regional and national levels. We argue that green regionalism, which has significantly evolved during the third wave of global regionalism, establishes the normative foundation for the new trade-sustainability dynamic.

The workshop aims to explore green regionalism from comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives. Colleagues with backgrounds in law, international relations, or related fields are encouraged to submit proposals on theoretical and normative dimensions. In addition to the EU model, the workshop will examine trade-sustainability initiatives in "lean integration," which refers to less elaborate or legalized forms of regionalism potentially more suitable for developing countries.

#### **II. Submission of Paper Proposals**

The organizing committee welcomes proposals addressing the following questions concerning green regionalism with global implications:

1. What theoretical explanations account for the evolution of green regionalism in the realms of trade, investment, or finance?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of initiatives aimed at combating climate change and promoting renewable energy within the contexts of the AfCFTA, APEC, CPTPP, and RCEP, as well as Green Economy Agreements, recent partnerships, and frameworks established by the US, the EU, ASEAN, and other Asian countries?
3. Are there best practices of lean integration that demonstrate more efficient contributions to green regionalism? How do the green initiatives of highly developed regimes like the EU and the US interact with those of less developed regional organizations?
4. Will green regionalism enhance or complicate multilateral efforts, such as those under the WTO and the UN?
5. What potential impact might digital trade and AI have on green regionalism?
6. How could green regionalism facilitate inclusive trade?

Paper proposals must be submitted to the [form](#) by **1 August 2024**. A proposal of no more than 500 words should include the author's name and full contact information. Please also provide a 1-2 page CV, including a list of recent publications in English.

The organizing committee will select proposals and announce the results in August 2024. Paper presenters are required to submit complete, unpublished papers by **1 November 2024**. Similar to think pieces or essays, a paper should clearly articulate arguments and range from 3,000 to 5,000 words, including a 100-200 word abstract and footnotes. Post-deadline submissions will not be accepted.

### **III. Other Information**

Five to seven papers will be selected for publication in a special section of an international law yearbook. With the support of research grants provided by the EU Jean Monnet Chair programme and the Ministries of Education of Singapore and Taiwan, the organizers will waive the registration fees and provide funding to cover hotel expenses for selected authors. The funding decisions will be made following the submission and review of workshop papers.

The workshop will be held at the SMU Yong Pung How School of Law in Singapore. It will be conducted in person and by invitation only. Selected academics, government officials, and business leaders will be invited to participate in the workshop.

The workshop chairs include **Professor Pasha Hsieh**, Jean Monnet Chair Professor of SMU, and **Professor Armin Cuyvers**, Professor of European Law of Leiden University and Director of CompaRe. Inquiries can be directed to [SMULawResearch@gmail.com](mailto:SMULawResearch@gmail.com).