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**ONLINE COURSE ON  
LEGAL INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION  
11 OCTOBER - 12 DECEMBER, 2010**

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**PROSPECTUS**

**Objectives of the course**

This International Economic Law (IEL) course has been designed from an interdisciplinary and policy-oriented perspective. It aims to provide knowledge of the basic elements of international economic law (in particular in trade and trade-related areas) in the form of a “must-have toolbox” for professionals contributing to the attainment of their countries' policy objectives.

The six modules of the course will cover:

- Legal aspects of international economic relations and regional integration
- Institutional framework
- International regime on goods and services exchanges, investment, movement of workers and macroeconomic and monetary cooperation
- Multilateral trading system: WTO law
- European integration
- Innovative thinking within the legal framework of international economic relations and regional integration

The detailed programme may be found in Annex 1.

**Target audience**

The course is addressed to professionals from developing and transition countries with a university degree or equivalent, and at least three years of experience in regional integration or international economic relations. As the course will be delivered in English, good reading and writing skills in this language are also required.

Two groups of participants are particularly targeted:

- Mid- and high-level officials in public administrations involved in international economic policymaking, in particular the negotiation or implementation of international economic agreements;
- University lecturers whose teaching and/or research activities deal with international economic law and policy.

**Timetable**

The course will start on 11 October and end on 12 December 2010, and is structured as follows:

- First week (11-24 October): Presentation of the course and the use of the online platform

- Next seven weeks (18 October-5 December): Study of the six units of the course (one per week plus one additional week for catching up)
- Last week (6-12 December): Final grading, catching up on the last units, re-sits

### **Modalities of course delivery**

The course will be delivered using the CEDDET Foundation Internet platform. As it is based on peer learning, its objectives will be achieved through the interaction of participants with the tutor and each other. In order to facilitate personalized interactions, classes are limited to 30 participants.

To satisfactorily complete each module's comprehensive reading, practical activities and exams, participants should plan to dedicate 12-15 hours per week to the course. Tutors will continually evaluate the commitment of each participant and the quality of their participation in terms of their performance during online activities (forums, messages, etc.) and on the quality and clarity of the assignments submitted.

The course will be directed by Prof. Ramon Torrent from the University of Barcelona. Hernán Soltz, Xavier Fernández-Pons, Federico Lavopa and Soledad Torrecuadrada make up the rest of the teaching team (see Annex 2 for profiles of the course director and teaching team). A Teaching Technical Coordinator (TAC) from the CEDDET Foundation will provide assistance with issues relating to monitoring of the course and technical support.

More detailed information about IT requirements for the course, course methodology, quality control and support to participants is available at <http://www.ceddet.org>.

### **Tuition**

Full tuition for the course is EUR 1600.

Tuition fees will be waived for successful applicants recommended by the UNCTAD Virtual Institute (Vi) and the WTO Chairs Programme, thanks to grants funded by the CEDDET Foundation, the Vi, the International Chair WTO/Regional Integration of the University of Barcelona, the WTO Chair of the IEI/University of Chile and the Government of Spain.

### **Course certificate**

The International Chair WTO/Regional Integration of the University of Barcelona, UNCTAD Virtual Institute, and CEDDET Foundation will issue a diploma of achievement to all those who meet the objectives of the course and pass the relevant assessments. The course director will decide, based on each tutor's evaluation of participation in the proposed activities, whether the participant meets the requirements for awarding the diploma.

### **Application information and deadlines**

Applications (including CV information and name of supervisor) must be submitted via <http://www.ceddet.org/survey> no later than 19 September, 2010. Applicants seeking a recommendation from the Virtual Institute must notify the Vi at [susana.olivares@unctad.org](mailto:susana.olivares@unctad.org).

The Selection Committee will be established and chaired by the International Chair WTO/Regional Integration of the University of Barcelona.

Selected candidates will be notified by the CEDDET Foundation by **24 September 2010**.

## **Annex 1: Programme of the course**

### **UNIT 1: THE LAW AND THE ECONOMY: THE LEGAL TOOLBOX FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

**Tutors:** Ramon Torrent and Federico Lavopa

- Chapter 1: The Law and the Economy: An innovative perspective on the legal framework of economic activity
- Chapter 2: International Economic Law (I): Three categories of rules: rules of market access, rules of treatment, and rules of uniform law
- Chapter 3: International Economic Law (I): Two techniques for the enactment of international economic law and two methods to define the scope of the obligations
- Chapter 4: International Economic Law (I): Its effects

### **UNIT 2: THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

**Tutors:** Ramon Torrent and Federico Lavopa

- Chapter 1: An overview of the Institutional Framework of International Economic Relations: Some lessons to be learnt from history and the 2007/2008 crisis
- Chapter 2: An analytical framework of Regional Integration: Instruments and Dimensions of Regional Integration
- Chapter 3: Multilateralism and Preferential Agreements: Rethinking the relationships

### **UNIT 3: THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR TRADE IN GOODS, SERVICES AND INVESTMENT - GENERAL ASPECTS.**

**Tutors:** Ramón Torrent, Hernán Soltz

- Chapter 1: The regulation of international trade in goods from an European-Community-as-a-customs-union perspective
- Chapter 2: The international legal framework for exchanges of services
- Chapter 3: The international legal framework for investment

Notes: The chapter introduces some basic notions of the European Community's substantive law to illustrate the use of the general analytical perspective presented in the course (the "toolbox"). The European integration process is developed in detail in Unit 5.

The topics of movement of workers and macroeconomic and monetary cooperation will be dealt with in other units of the course.

### **UNIT 4: THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM: WTO LAW**

**Tutors:** Ramón Torrent, Xavier Fernández-Pons, Federico Lavopa

- Chapter 1: The GATT: Main principles, "code of conduct" and exceptions. An introduction to the other agreements of Annex 1A to the WTO Agreement
- Chapter 2: The GATS and the TRIPS
- Chapter 3: The physiology and pathology of the WTO system: An introduction to some paradigmatic WTO dispute settlement cases

Note: This Unit builds on Chapter 1 of Unit 2, which presented an overview of the role of the multilateral system. Readings and other materials of the Unit will include texts of the GATT and the GATS which have been summarized and re-organized by theme. They will be complemented by comments of the main provisions of GATT and GATS

## **UNIT 5: EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: A CRITICAL EXAMINATION**

**Tutors:** Ramón Torrent, Soledad Torrecuadrada

- Chapter 1: The origin and main characteristics of the European integration process: From the origins to the beginning of the 80s. General vision.
- Chapter 2: The legal foundations of European Integration and the nature of European Community law.
- Chapter 3: The institutional system of the European Community. The Commission – Council interplay as the basis of the institutional system of European integration
- Chapter 4: The years 1985-1993: The European integration process at the crossroads
- Chapter 5: The evolution of the European integration process in the 1990s and 2000s: Integration for the sake of integration in a changing world?

Note: Since a general overview of European Community substantive law has already been presented in Unit 3 (to illustrate the usage of the toolbox), this Unit will focus on a) an interdisciplinary discussion of the Integration Process; b) a study of the main characteristics of its institutional and legal systems

## **UNIT 6: GOING “BEYOND TRADE”: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES IN THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

**Tutors:** Ramon Torrent. Federico Lavopa

- Chapter 1: A new look to GATS - i.e. provisions on services
- Chapter 2: The use of the legal toolbox concerning salaried workers
- Chapter 3: New ideas on provisions on investment, including on Corporate Social Responsibility

## Annex 2: Course director and teaching team

### Ramon Torrent

Former Director of International Economic Relations at the Legal Service of the EU Council. Currently, he is a Professor of Political Economy and International Economic Law at the School of Law of the University of Barcelona (UB), where he exercises the following activities:

- Director of the International Chair WTO/Regional Integration
- Member of the Advisory Board of the WTO Chairs Programme (2009)
- Coordinator of the participation of the University of Barcelona in the UNCTAD Virtual Institute
- Director of the Master in International Economic Law and Policy ([www.ielpo.org](http://www.ielpo.org))
- Co-director of the Maestría en Relaciones y Negociaciones Internacionales, a double diploma (Argentinean and Spanish) Master's programme taught jointly by the UB, the Universidad de San Andrés, and FLACSO (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales) Argentina
- Director of the online course "Instrumentos jurídicos de las Relaciones Económicas Internacionales y la Integración Regional" (Fundación CEDDET and Global Development Learning Network/World Bank)
- Coordinator of PROMHEDEU – LAC, a project of higher education cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean

### Soledad Torrecuadrada

- M.A. in International Relations (1992), Instituto Universitario de Investigación Ortega y Gasset (Madrid), UCM; PhD in Law (1996) Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain); Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations Diploma
- Professor of Public International Law and European Law (since 2000) and Coordinator of the M.A. in International Relations (2002-2005). at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

### Xavier Fernández-Pons

- LI B (Spain) and Ph. D. in Public International Law at the University of Bologna (Italy); Diploma of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations of The Hague Academy of International Law (Session 1997, devoted to the WTO).
- Professor of Public International Law at the University of Barcelona (since 2001); Visiting Professor at the Universities of Nicaragua (UNAN), Puerto Rico (UPR) and at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in Buenos Aires (Argentina).

### Federico Lavopa

- BA in Political Science and Law, University of Buenos Aires (Argentina); MSc in Global Politics, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK)
- Former Junior Legal Officer of the WTO's Legal Affairs Division; former consultant to the WTO's Economic Research and Statistics Division
- Legal Advisor to the Foreign Trade Policy Division, National Ministry of Production of Argentina;
- Graduate Assistant Professor of "Public International Law" and "Law of Regional Integration", School of Law, University of Buenos Aires; Researcher, International Chair WTO-Regional Integration (University of Barcelona, Spain)

### Hernán Soltz

- BA in Economics (Facultad de Ciencias Económicas; Universidad de Buenos Aires, (UBA)
- Member (Vocal) of the Executive Board (Directorio) of the National Commission for Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism of Argentina
- Professor of International Economics (UBA, Buenos Aires, Argentina) and Associate Researcher in the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales/Argentina.