

International Trade Disputes and EU Liability

The European Union has become the respondent of several international trade disputes. This book examines the right to compensation for damage resulting from retaliatory measures imposed under the system of the World Trade Organization in disputes triggered by the EU. Anne Thies evaluates the implications of the EU's membership in the WTO for its domestic system of rights and judicial protection. Emphasising the necessity of maintaining EU standards of protection independently of the external dimension of EU action, the book offers suggestions on how the current gap of protection could be filled while upholding the scope for manoeuvre of the EU institutions on the international plane. In addition, it places the issue in its broader context of the relationship between international law and EU law on the one hand, and the discretion of the EU as a global actor and standards of individual rights protection under EU law on the other.

Anne Thies has been a lecturer in European and international law at the University of Reading since 2007. Her research focuses on the interrelationship between international law, EU external relations law and EU constitutional law.



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International Trade Disputes and EU Liability Anne Thies



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Series editors' preface

Trade disputes are often bitter, long-lasting, contorted and sagas from which few emerge with credit. The European Union has over the years been embroiled in a number of such sagas, prompting the distinguished German jurist and former Judge at the Court of Justice to ask whether Europe would slip on bananas. That dispute has now mercifully finally been resolved, officially ending in November 2012 after more than 20 years. At the level of States, trade disputes can be difficult enough, but for individuals affected by them they can spell disaster, both financially and otherwise. The rights of those affected are often trodden upon and quickly forgotten, and it can be notoriously difficult to obtain adequate remedies. The sense of injustice is manifest, and it might be expected that in a European Union governed by the rule of law there should be adequate remedies available to victims of international trade disputes. But the inadequacy of judicial remedies at EU level is distinctly unimpressive.

Anne Thies's timely book is an extremely important contribution to the debate on remedies in EU law, as well as to the literature on trade disputes. She makes an extremely convincing argument that successful compensation actions on the basis of a breach of WTO law do not require EU acts to be declared wholly or partially void. She argues further that liability should not be denied in principle only because the financial burden could be so large as to restrict the political institutions in their political discretion provided under the WTO system.

This book is a call to the judiciary to reassess its case-law: it is a good example of detailed and systematic analysis leading to a very clear

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¹ U. Everling, 'Will Europe Slip on Bananas?' (1996) 33 CMLRev. 401.



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indication of the inadequacy of the case-law. But it goes further than dealing merely with inadequacy: it makes clear and well-argued suggestions for improvement.

For these reasons we very much welcome Anne Thies's book in the *Cambridge Studies in European Law and Policy* series.

Laurence Gormley Jo Shaw



Preface

This book entails a study of rights and remedies under the European legal order of natural and legal persons hit by the consequences of international trade disputes triggered by the European Union (EU). It analyses the legal situation established by the European treaties and the case law of the EU courts regarding the right to compensation of those who have allegedly suffered damage because of retaliatory measures imposed lawfully by other World Trade Organization (WTO) members. The book evaluates the implications of the EU's membership of the WTO for the EU's domestic system of rights and judicial protection. In the course of its enquiry, it demonstrates that the current approach of the European courts has left 'retaliation victims' without any judicial protection. Emphasising the necessity under EU law to maintain standards of rights and judicial protection independently of the external dimension of EU action, the book addresses the role and implications of EU fundamental rights and general principles for compensation actions. It makes suggestions on how the current protection gap could be filled while upholding the international scope for manoeuvre of the political institutions, and places the issue in its broader context of the relationship between international and EU law on the one hand, and the discretion of the EU as a global actor and standards of individual rights protection under EU law on the other hand.

This book is based on my doctoral thesis, which I submitted to the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in spring 2009, and the writing of which had been supported with a gratefully received two-year scholarship from the Hanns-Seidel Foundation. I would like to express my warmest thanks to my supervisor and mentor, Bruno Simma, who has supported me over many years with his valuable advice. Looking back at the significant period of time during which I travelled with my research project and

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XIV PREFACE

combined it with other commitments, I would like to thank colleagues, family and friends for their support, encouragement and patience at different stages of this project. Many thanks to Deborah Z. Cass, who encouraged me to start, and Susan Marks, who encouraged me to end my doctoral studies. I am also grateful for the advice I received from Gisela Elsner, Michael Hahn, Julia Legleitner, Werner Meng and Torsten Stein during the early stages of my research undertaken in Saarbrücken. My particular thanks go to Thomas Cottier and Piet Eeckhout, whose continuous advice and feedback were crucial for the progress of my work. I would like to thank Marco Bronckers and Pieter-Jan Kuijper for engaging with my ideas at conferences and in writing, which was not only enjoyable but also - so I hope - beneficial for the development of my arguments. I would like to thank my second examiner, Horst Krenzler, and Rudolf Streinz, who helped to make the final stages of my doctoral studies in Munich go so smoothly, my colleagues at the University of Reading - in particular Alison Bisset, Chris Hilson, Stuart Lakin, Patricia Leopold and Ronan McCrea - and at the European University Institute in particular Marise Cremona and Miguel Maduro - for their support during the final stages of this project. I dedicate this book to my parents, Helga and Erich Thies, whose continuous support, love and faith in me made the undertaking and completion of this project possible.

Anne Thies, July 2012



List of abbreviations

AB Appellate Body AG Advocate General

AJIL American Journal of International Law

AöR Archiv des öffentlichen Rechts

Brook. J. Int'l L. Brooklyn Journal of International Law

Cal. W. Int'l L.J. California Western International Law Journal

CFI Court of First Instance

CML Rev Common Market Law Review
DSB Dispute Settlement Body

DSU Dispute Settlement Understanding

EC European Community ECJ European Court of Justice

ECL Rev European Constitutional Law Review

EC Treaty Treaty Establishing the European Community

EJIL European Journal of International Law

ELJ European Law Journal
EL Rev European Law Review
EU Treaty Treaty on European Union

EuR Europarecht

EuZW Europäische Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftsrecht EWS Europäisches Wirtschafts- und Steuerrecht

FS Festschrift

Geo. J. Int'l L Georgetown Journal of International Law
GYIL German Yearbook of International Law
HILJ Harvard International Law Journal
ICJ International Court of Justice

Int. T.L.R. International Trade Law and Regulation JIEL Journal of International Economic Law

ΧV



XVI LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

JPLRes Japanese Law Resources
JuS Juristische Schulung
JWT Journal of World Trade

JZ Juristenzeitung

LIEI Legal Issues of European Integration

LQR The Law Quarterly Review

MJ Maastricht Journal of European and

Comparative Law

MJIL Michigan Journal of International Law

Max Planck UNYB Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law

OJ Official Journal

Rabels Zeitschrift für ausländisches und

internationales Privatrecht

RGDIP Revue Générale de Droit International Public

RIW Recht der Internationalen Wirtschaft

RMC Revue du Marché Commun

RMUE Revue du Marché Unique Européen RTDE Revue trimestrielle de droit européen

TEU Treaty on European Union

TFEU Treaty on the Functioning of the European

Union

TILJ Texas International Law Journal

U.S.C United States Code

USTR United States Trade Representative

WTO World Trade Organization YEL Yearbook of European Law

ZEuS Zeitschrift für Europarechtliche Studien



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