



Private Governance and Public Authority

At a time of significant concern about the sustainability of the global economy, businesses are eager to display responsible corporate practices. While rulemaking for these practices was once the prerogative of states, businesses and civil society actors are increasingly engaged in creating private rulemaking instruments, such as eco-labeling and certification schemes, to govern corporate behavior. When does a public authority intervene in such private governance and reassert the primacy of public policy? Renckens develops a new theory of public-private regulatory interactions and argues that when and how a public authority intervenes in private governance depends on the economic benefits to domestic producers that such intervention generates and the degree of fragmentation of private governance schemes. Drawing on European Union policymaking on organic agriculture, biofuels, fisheries, and fair trade, he exposes the political-economic conflicts between private and public rule makers and the strategic nature of regulating sustainability in a global economy.

STEFAN RENCKENS is Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department of the University of Toronto. His research examines the political economy of transnational private sustainability governance and public-private governance interactions. He holds a Ph.D. in Global Environmental Politics from Yale University. His Ph.D. dissertation received the American Political Science Association's best dissertation award in Science, Technology, and Environmental Politics (2015). He also holds master's degrees in political science, economic policy, and conflict and peace studies. He has received research grants from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the U.S. National Science Foundation, and the Research Foundation Flanders.

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Regulating Sustainability in
a Global Economy

STEFAN RENCKENS
University of Toronto



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Abbreviations

2BSvs	Biomass Biofuels Sustainability voluntary scheme
4C	Common Code for the Coffee Community
ACP	Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific
AIPCE-CEP	European Fish Processors Association – European Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish
ASC	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
BAP	Best Aquaculture Practices
C.A.F.E.	Coffee and Farmer Equity Practices
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CME	coordinated market economy
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
COGECA	General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union
COM	Common Organization of the Market
COPA	Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations
CSR	corporate social responsibility
DG	Directorate-General of the European Commission
EBB	European Biodiesel Board
ECF	European Coffee Federation
EEB	European Environmental Bureau
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EFTA	European Fair Trade Association

List of Abbreviations

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ETFP	Ethical Trade Fact-finding Process
GLOBALG.A.P.	Global Good Agricultural Practices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLO	Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International / Fairtrade International
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FTAO	Fair Trade Advocacy Office
GAA	Global Aquaculture Alliance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GBEP	Global Bioenergy Partnership
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
GSSI	Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative
IFAT	International Federation of Alternative Trade/International Fair Trade Association
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILUC	indirect land-use change
IOAS	International Organic Accreditation Service
IRFM	Iceland Responsible Fisheries Management scheme
ISCC	International Sustainability and Carbon Certification
ISEAL	International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISPO	Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil System
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LME	liberal market economy
LowCVP	Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NEWS!	Network of European World Shops

NGO	nongovernmental organization
npr-PPM	non-product-related process or production method
NTA 8080	Netherlands Technical Agreement 8080
OECD	Organization for Economic Co- operation and Development
RBSA	Abengoa RED Bioenergy Sustainability Assurance
RED	Renewable Energy Directive
RFA	Renewable Fuels Agency
RSB	Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels / Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
RTFO	Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation
RTRS	Round Table on Responsible Soy
SAN	Sustainable Agriculture Network
SQC	Scottish Quality Farm Assured Combinable Crops
STAP	Sustainable Trade Action Plan
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
UAA	utilizable agricultural area
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WFTO	World Fair Trade Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature