

25.06.2018

gLAWcal
Comment #269

CHINA AND REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

Based on

Lorenzo di Masi “ SPS, Public Health and Environmental Provisions in East Asia RTAs: ASEAN and China”



gLAWcal
Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development



Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

A gLAWcal comment on Lorenzo di Masi "SPS, Public Health and Environmental Provisions in East Asia RTAs: ASEAN and China"" in Paolo Davide Farah and Elena Cima (Eds.) China's Influence on Non-Trade Concerns in International Economic Law

During the past two decades multilateral negotiations under the auspice of the WTO failed to bridge the differences between developed and developing countries. For this reason, Free-Trade agreements (FTAs) and Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) have been the preferred choice for further free-trade. Different from the traditional "static analysis" or "dynamic time path analysis" approach, in the chapter "SPS, Public Health and Environmental Provisions in East Asia RTAs: ASEAN and China" the author analyzed China and ASEAN RTAs proposals.

The author indicated that there are four reasons for China to further its participation in global trade: gaining more favorable market access and improving foreign investment conditions; seeking for stable energy vendors from multiple sources; showing its friendly attitude as a reliable trade partner and; looking for

supporters in the international community for China's market-economy status. Two major features arise from China's RTAs: comprehensiveness and flexibility. Chinese RTAs generally cover all main trade-related issues and each agreement incorporates specially tailored aspects regarding the other contracting parties. For the ASEAN FTAs, the author pointed out that both economic and social considerations are central to the agreement. Throughout the negotiation between China and ASEAN Members the flexibility could be observed by the utilization of "sequential approach" or "a single undertaking approach".

According to the author, ASEAN FTAs compare to the previous FTAs negotiated by China are more liberalized, detailed, practical with implementation procedure in the field of food and health. However, with the environment deterioration emerging in many cities in China, the urgency lead to a transition of China's attitude on environmental protection. It is important to keep in mind that the challenges that China is facing on food security and public health are a direct consequence of thirty years of unbalanced economic development that put economic growth first.

Cite as: gLAWcal Comment #269 “China and Regional Trade Agreements” (2018) based on Lorenzo di Masi “SPS, Public Health and Environmental Provisions in East Asia RTAs: ASEAN and China” in Paolo Davide Farah & Elena Cima (Editors), *China’s Influence on Non-Trade Concerns in International Economic Law*, gLAWcal Book Series, Routledge Publishing (New-York/London), 2016

The gLAWcal comments are insight and short analytical pieces written by the gLAWcal team. The gLAWcal comments are based on, and inspired by, the books and chapters published within one of the [gLAWcal book series](#) published by Routledge Publishing (New York/London).

gLAWcal is an independent non-profit research organization (think tank) that aims at providing a new focus on issues related to economic law, globalization and development, namely the relationship between international economy and trade, with special attention to a number of non-trade-related values and concerns. Through research and policy analysis, gLAWcal sheds a new light on issues such as good governance, human rights, right to water, rights to food, social, economic and cultural rights, labour rights, access to knowledge, public health, social welfare, consumer interests and animal welfare, climate change, energy, environmental protection and sustainable development, product safety, food safety and security.

OUR MISSION

To collaborate with Government, Civil society and business community to balance the excess of globalization with Non Trade Concerns.

OUR GOALS

To influence policymakers, to raise awareness over Non Trade Concerns, to encourage stakeholder participation, and to disseminate gLAWcal’s publication results.



Email: research@glawcal.org.uk
Website: glawcal.org.uk
Facebook: [gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development](#)
Twitter: [@gLAWcal](#)
LinkedIn: [gLAWcal](#)