

Acknowledgements

This book is based on my doctoral dissertation, which I wrote during my time as a PhD researcher at Leuven University. I am indebted to my doctoral supervisors, Professors Jan Wouters and Geert van Calster, and the other members of my doctoral jury, Professors Geert De Baere, James Mathis and Petros Mavroidis for their helpful comments and remarks on the dissertation. My research was generously funded by the Government of Flanders in the context of its Policy Research Centres. I want to thank Axel Marx and my colleagues at the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies for their support. This especially goes for Dylan Geraets, for thoroughly influencing my thinking – the Van den Bossche in hand – and Marieke Koekkoek, for bringing plus to counter minus. Thank you, too, to Eleanor-Jane Martin for editing the dissertation.

Upon leaving Leuven University, I was lucky enough to intern in the Legal Affairs Division of the WTO. I want to thank doctors Graham Cook and Rodd Izadnia for the influential and inspiring legal discussions. I then joined Sidley Austin LLP's International Trade team, where I get to do great work in an exceptionally collegial environment. I particularly want to thank Arnoud Willems and Sven De Knop for getting me on board. Needless to say, the views expressed in this book do not represent the views of Sidley Austin LLP or its clients.

I also want to thank my publishers, Ben Booth and Iram Satti at Edward Elgar.

Tot slot, mama & Johan, papa & Bea, dank je voor alle steun en liefde. Mama, zonder jou was de doctoraatsthesis noch dit boek er ooit gekomen. Ik schrijf hoe ik schrijf dankzij jou, elke dag weer. Anne, dank je voor het houvast doorheen het eeuwige zoeken, en voor alle invloed en inspiratie. Stijn, ruim de helft van dit boek is geschreven in jouw, toen onze, Bronstraat, merci. En tot slot, Sid, dank je om me een gelukkigere, rustigere mens te maken; dat heb ik hard nodig. Dank je voor al je liefde, begrip en geduld, en je onvoorwaardelijke steun. *Todo está bien (futur).*

Brussels (where else!), autumn 2015
Bregt Natens

