

Preface and acknowledgments

This volume stems from a joint research conducted within the *Jean Monnet LAwTTIP Network – Legal Ambiguities withstanding TTIP* (<https://www.lawttip.eu/>) by a network of three European Universities: the University of Bologna, King’s College London and the University of Rennes 1. The project, supported by the European Commission, was intended initially to promote a large-scale legal reflection on both the ongoing negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP) and its possible implications for the EU legal order. However, due to the suspension of the TTIP negotiations between the EU and the USA, the topic of the research has been slightly reoriented and extended to the analysis of the new generation of free trade agreements (FTAs) that the EU is currently negotiating and concluding with many other countries in the world. The meaning of ‘ambiguity’, after all, is not just inexactness but mainly ‘the quality of being open to more than one interpretation’. Indeed beyond TTIP, the EU action within the sphere of global trade cooperation raises so many important political and legal questions, both substantive and constitutional, that deserve further analysis and discussions and possibly answers as to make the EU trade policy both effective and legitimate. The institutional ambiguities emerging from EU FTAs are addressed in this book.

The book is the first entry in the LAwTTIP series, a series of three books based on the contributions made to three international scientific events organized within the LAwTTIP Jean Monnet Network. The editors of this book and the other LAwTTIP coordinators are greatly indebted to Edward Elgar Publishing and in particular Ben Booth and Amber Watts for their enthusiastic support for this editorial project. The editors would also like to thank Dr Nicolas Pigeon for his precious help throughout the editing process.

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