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DIEcon

Gruppo di interesse sul diritto internazionale dell'economia
della Società Italiana di Diritto internazionale e dell'Unione Europea (SIDI)

Call for Abstracts

“A Sustainable International Investment Law for Energy? The Role of the EU and the Troublesome Practice and Future of the Energy Charter Treaty”

The international and EU legal and policy frameworks on the promotion and protection of foreign investments have evolved since the beginning of the present century through the revision of previously stipulated international investment agreements and the conclusion of new treaties for various reasons. . One of these reasons has been the policy of support and incentive to the development of renewable energies through investment as a tool for climate neutrality and, thus, sustainable development. The importance of promoting and protecting foreign investment in the energy sector contributed to the conclusion of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) in 1994 among the EU, its Member States, a group of then non-EU Member States from Eastern Europe and various industrialized countries, such as Japan. This treaty has become a matter of controversy over the last fifteen years, as far as the promotion of clean energy and related public interests and values, including the fight against global warming, have been concerned. The ECT has resulted to be definitely ineffective in this regard. Currently, while the ECT is under a comprehensive and ambitious modernization process, various EU Member States have announced their decision to withdraw therefrom, Italy having exited already in 2016.

Starting from **24 January 2023** four webinars will address the topic of the promotion of sustainable foreign investment in the energy sector through international law, notably treaty-based, and EU law. The first webinar (**on 24 January 2023**) will be on the issue of the EU energy policy, focusing in particular on its external aspects (international relationships with third States). The second webinar (**on 31 January 2023**) will be about the application and enforcement of the ECT through investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) under Article 26, including in the intra-EU dimension after the *Komstroy* judgment. The third webinar (**on 7 February 2023**) will focus on the *Rockhopper* arbitration and its implications, as a significant investment case from the Italian perspective. The fourth webinar (**on 21 February 2023**) will be on the on-going ECT modernization process from the particular perspective of the European Union and its Member States.

The four webinars are sponsored by the Interest Group on International Economic Law (DIEcon) of the Italian Society of International and EU Law (SIDI). They are organized by Professor Pia Acconci (University of Teramo, academic coordinator of the Jean Monnet Module on EU Investment Law – EUIL) in collaboration with Professor Maria Rosaria Mauro (University of Molise), and DIEcon.



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The organizers welcome submissions of abstracts proposing a critical and/or innovative perspective on any of the topics of the present call for abstracts. Abstracts counting no more than 200 words, written in English or Italian and including the author's name, affiliation and email address should be submitted to the organizers (emails: paconci@unite.it; mauro@unimol.it; grupposidiecon@gmail.com). A half-page resumé has to be included in the document containing the abstract. Abstracts must be submitted **no later than 6 January 2023, midnight (CET)**.