

## The World Trade Organization

A Legal and Institutional Analysis

JAN WOUTERS and BART DE MEESTER

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The World Trade Organization, set up in 1995, has become a centrepiece of global economic governance in a fragmented international legal and institutional system. The WTO oversees an extensive body of international trade rules. But it has also become a widely contested organization, as its trade rules affect a great variety of rules and policies on environmental protection, public health, technical standards, cultural diversity, financial stability and professional qualifications. Whether it likes it or not, the WTO is put at the centre of global economic governance and no internationally oriented legal practitioner, government official, academic or student can afford to neglect this swiftly developing body of law. This book introduces the institutional and substantive legal aspects of the WTO. It thereby addresses both the vertical interactions of WTO law with domestic legal systems and the horizontal interactions between WTO rules and other areas of international regulation.

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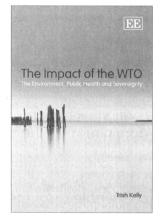
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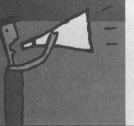


the actual environmental and health disputes adjudicated at the WTO to try to answer this question. Her answers are well-researched, objective and unlikely to fully satisfy either side in this sometimes raucous argument: Kelly concludes that, so far, the WTO has not sacrificed sovereignty, the environment and public health; but looking forward, the poorest countries need more assistance to have greater access to the dispute settlement mechanisms. She also shows that strong political action at the national level is necessary to protect public health and the environment. Though controversial, this book will provide the gold standard of careful analysis on these issues for the foreseeable future.'

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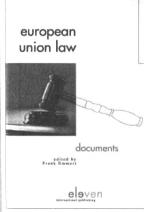
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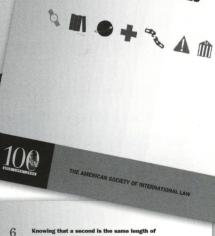
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