



Call for papers

Workshop on International “Sanctions”

Florence (Italy), 9-10 December 2021

Department of Economics (“Dipartimento di Scienze per l’economia e l’impresa”)

University of Florence (“Novoli - Polo Scienze sociali”, Edificio/Building D6, via delle Pandette 9, Firenze)

1) Topic

The workshop relates to a topical matter in the field of international relations, i.e. the resort to the so-called sanctions (economic, commercial, financial, targeted measures and so on), or more exactly unilateral “restrictive

measures” comprising strictly speaking countermeasures as well as retorsions, such as diplomatic, commercial or political unfriendly measures.

This topic is of particular interest and relevance also because unilateral restrictive measures, commonly referred to as "sanctions", by States or regional organisations are in the process of topping those decided by the Security Council of the United Nations. The recent institution, by the European Union, of a sanctioning mechanism of its own adds to the topic's relevance.

The matter is however particularly complex, given the diverse issues that it raises from a legal point of view (including in terms of legal basis or legitimacy), as well as from an economic point of view, concerning both the collateral economic effects and the technical modalities, and last but not least in a political perspective, including such important questions as the concrete impact of sanctions, their effects, the expected results and those that are actually attained.

2) Draft Programme

The workshop adopts a multidisciplinary approach and is divided in three panels. Below each panel are indicated those aspects that are considered as particularly relevant to that panel and that papers are therefore expected to cover. However, this should not be seen as a limitation to any other relevant aspect that might be dealt with by the proposed papers.

The workshop aims at involving especially young scholars, so the call for papers encourages them in particular to submit a paper. Each panel will nevertheless include at least one more experienced scholar who will act as discussant. Some of the discussants, plus possibly one or two special participants/guests, may attend the whole workshop and will contribute to the closing remarks.

The working language will be English.

- I) Panel 1 (Thursday afternoon 9th December): the legal aspects (discussant: Prof. Mirko Sossai, Associate Professor of International Law, RomaTre University)

Terminological and conceptual issues; the legal basis/justification for unilateral restrictive measures, especially when adopted “in the general interest”; legitimacy/legality issues with regard to “counter-sanctions”; the relationship with the Security Council’s (properly speaking) sanctions; the new mechanism set up by the European Union, including its legal-institutional features and relevant aspects relating to its legitimacy under international law (special attention should also be paid to the formal motives/justifications underpinning specific decisions imposing restrictive measures); human rights implications of unilateral restrictive measures in relation to targeted individuals.

- II) Panel 2 (Friday morning 10th December): the economic and financial aspects (discussant: *to be determined*)

Collateral economic effects, especially for the civilian population and key infrastructures and services; the actual economic/financial losses for the targeted State; the cost for the State resorting to restrictive measures and its economic actors (including the problem of “counter-sanctions”); the financial mechanisms that are used to impose restrictive measures; the latter’s impact on companies from third States (including European Union member States); the measures aimed at mitigating adverse effects on companies from third States; whether the restrictive measures actually hit the targeted State or its assets and relevant actors.

III) Panel 3 (Friday afternoon 10th December): the political aspects, including a comprehensive and concluding cost-benefit analysis (discussant: Prof. Francesco Giumelli, Associate Professor of International Relations, University of Groningen, the Netherlands)

Nature and logic of restrictive measures as a foreign policy tool; profile of the States/organisations that most often resort to unilateral restrictive measures and related implications (mostly Western States/organisations?); political tool versus legal tool; actual effects of restrictive measures on the targeted State’s behavior (and whether this is always a pertinent focus); whether restrictive measures actually hit the targeted State; whether the targeted State is invariably the right or the only right target; benefits in relation to costs; the problem of “counter-sanctions”; possible effects on the multilateral system resulting from the increased resort to unilateral restrictive measures; whether

unilateral restrictive measures are more or less effective compared to the Security Council's sanctions/sanctioning regimes.

Closing remarks (*special guests, discussants, organizer*)

3) Submission of Proposals

We welcome proposals that address the scientific areas and the various issues listed in the above Workshop Draft Programme. Scholars, practitioners and officials are invited to submit such proposals (including an outline and a detailed abstract of up to 500 words) by sending an email to antonio.bultrini@unifi.it **by 15th September 2021**. Successful applicants will be notified **by 15th October 2021**.

Proposals should also include the speaker's contact details and CV (including affiliation, relevant experience, and publications). When submitting the proposal, please indicate the panel/topic and relevant aspects of choice.

The selection process will apply criteria of geographical representation, gender balance and diversity of participants.

The workshop format will be hybrid, face-to-face and online, although participation in person is encouraged. Limited funds are available for a partial reimbursement of travel expenses in particular cases (e.g. PhD candidates, nationals from low-income countries, etc.), on a "first come first served" basis.

Willingness to submit a paper should be indicated in the response to this Call for Papers. Speakers whose paper

proposals are selected should be prepared to submit a draft paper (between 5,000 and 10,000 words, including footnotes) **by November 15th, 2021**. All proposals and final papers must be in English.

The final programme of the Workshop will be available and disseminated by the end of October 2021.

Scientific Coordinator / Head of the Research Project:

Antonio Bultrini, Associate professor of international law at the University of Florence

<https://www.unifi.it/p-doc2-o-o-A-3f2b34293a2c2a.html>

For inquiries concerning the workshop please contact the organizer (antonio.bultrini@unifi.it).