Service Provision and Migration

EU and WTO Service Trade Liberalization and Their Impact on Dutch and UK Immigration Rules

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By

Simon Tans



BRILL NIJHOFF

LEIDEN | BOSTON

The research presented in this publication was made possible by a grant of the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO).

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Tans, Simon J., author.

Title: Service provision and migration: Eu and wto service trade liberalization and their impact on Dutch and uk immigration rules / by Simon J. Tans.

Description: Leiden; Boston: Brill/Nijhoff, 2017. | Series: Immigration and asylum law and policy in Europe; v. 41 | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017012441 (print) | LCCN 2017012701 (ebook) | ISBN 9789004336803 (E-book) | ISBN 9789004336797 (hardback : alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: General Agreement on Trade in Services (1994 April 15) |
Freedom of movement--European Union countries. | Labor mobility--European Union countries. | Trade regulation--European Union countries. | Free trade--European Union countries. | World Trade Organization. | Service industries--Government policy--Netherlands. | Service industries--Government policy--Great Britain. | Netherlands--Emigration and immigration--Government policy. | Great Britain--Emigration and immigration--Government policy.

Classification: LCC KJE5170 (ebook) | LCC KJE5170 .T36 2017 (print) | DDC 344.2401/12791--dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2017012441

Typeface for the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic scripts: "Brill". See and download: brill.com/brill-typeface.

ISBN 978-90-04-33679-7 (hardback) ISBN 978-90-04-33680-3 (e-book)

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This book is printed on acid-free paper and produced in a sustainable manner.

Printed by Printforce, the Netherlands

Service Provision and Migration

Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy in Europe

Edited by

Elspeth Guild Valsamis Mitsilegas

VOLUME 41

The titles published in this series are listed at brill.com/ialp

Acknowledgements

The idea to research the implementation of service trade mobility into national migration law is not my idea; it belongs to my PhD supervisors, professor Elspeth Guild and doctor Paul Minderhoud. I am very grateful that I had the chance to develop this idea, as it has proven to be a highly interesting, important and actual topic which will likely allow me to pursue this line of research for a long time. Additionally, extensive research of wto- and Eu service trade liberalization, as well as Dutch- and uk migration law proved to be challenging indeed. Getting to grips with these legal orders was not possible without my supervisors knowledge, support and patience. Their role in the process of writing this book is therefore hard to overestimate.

Furthermore, I wish to express my gratitude to professor Jürgen Bast, professor Johan van de Gronden and professor Henri de Waele. Their feedback improved various arguments as well as the clarity of the conclusions drawn in this book. The same holds true for professor Kees Groenendijk, whose imput on EU- and Dutch migration law proved key to the structure of the national chapters, as well as in relation to the understanding of the EU Directives on legal migration. Acknowledgement is also due to the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). Its grant made the original PhD research possible, without which this commercial edition would not exist.

Two departments of the Radboud University have played a central role in the process of writing my dissertation: The Centre for Migration Law, and the Department of International and European Law. The Centre for Migration Law provided an excellent research environment which has greatly contributed to this work. My colleagues at the Department of International and European Law deserve similar praise. Not only did they contribute to the completion of my dissertation, but also to my development as a lecturer. I am happy to work at a department and university where the quality of lecturing is considered very important.

This research has greatly benefited from my time working for the Services Programme and the Dispute Settlement Programme at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development in Geneva. In specific, praise is due to Sheila Sabune for her guidance and for providing the opportunity to participate in various meetings and trainings related to the World Trade Organization. I also had the opportunity to conduct research as a visiting scholar at

the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. I would like to express my gratitude to both professor Joost Pauwelyn and professor Vincent Chetail for that opportunity, and for their influence on publications which are now part of this book.

Nijmegen 9 January 2017

List of Abbreviations

AA Dutch Aliens Act (Vw 2000)

ACP African Caribbean and Pacific countries

AD Dutch Aliens Decree (Vb 2000)

AEA Aliens Employment Act

Annex MNP Annex on Movement of Natural Persons Supplying Services Under the

General Agreement on Trade in Services

ASEAN Association of South-East Asian Nations

BV Business Visitors

CFI Court of First Instance
CoS Certificate of Sponsorship
CPC Central Product Classification

CRD Citizens Rights Directive (Dir. 2004/38)

CSS Contractual Service Suppliers
CTS Council for Trade in Services

DEAEA Decree Effectuating Aliens Employment Act

DSB Dispute Settlement Body
DSS Dispute Settlement System

Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement

of Disputes

ECHR European Convention for the protection of Human Rights and

fundamental freedoms

ECSC European Coal and Steel Community

EEA European Economic Area

Treaty establishing the European Economic Community

ECJ European Court of Justice

EFTA European Free Trade Association

ESD Electronic Service Delivery

EU European Union

FDI Foreign Direct Investment
FTA Free Trade Agreement

GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GATS General Agreement on Trade in Services

GDP Gross Domestic Product

ICT Intra-Corporate Transferee / Intra-Company Transferee

ILO International Labour Organization
IMF International Monetary Fund
IND Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst

ITO International Trade Organization

LDCs Least Developing Countries

MFN Most-Favoured-Nation

MVV machtiging tot voorlopig verblijf

OECD Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

OEEC Organization for European Economic Cooperation

OTC Organization for Trade Cooperation

PBS UK Points-Based System

PPA Protocol of Provisional Application of the GATT 1947

PSC Point of Single Contact

PWD Posted Workers Directive (Dir. 96/71)

QTL qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and

licensing requirements

REAEA Regulation Effectuating Aliens Employment Act

RoA Regulations on Aliens

RTA Regional Trade Agreement

SEA Single European Act

S&D Special and Differential treatment SD Services Directive (Dir. 2006/123)

SPS WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

TBT WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

TEC Treaty establishing the Economic Community

TEU Treaty on European Union

TFEU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

TiSA Trade in Services Agreement

TRIPS Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

UK United Kingdom

UKBA United Kingdom Border Agency

UN United Nations

UNCLOS United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Us United States

UWV Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemersverzekeringen

VCLT Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

WPDR Working Party on Domestic Regulation

WPGR Working Party on GATS Rules

WPPS Working Party on Professional Services

World Bank International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

WTO World Trade Organization

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Introduction

1.1 The Consequences of Service Trade Liberalization – Problem Setting

The aim of this research is to examine the tension between service trade liberalization, the inclusion of movement rights for natural persons to provide services, and the implementation of such obligations into national law. The research centres on service trade liberalization resulting from the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the European Union (EU) and two Member States of both legal orders, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (UK). Service trade liberalization as provided by the WTO, in specific the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and the EU includes the right of natural persons to cross borders to provide their economic activity in the host state, in this study referred to as service mobility. The obligations derived from these international legal orders therefore have an impact on the policy area of immigration, influencing the national conditions that determine entry and residence. In addition, the manner in which individuals participate to the economy has changed drastically. While in the 1980s work was primarily understood as a relationship between an employer and an employee, this model has become the exception in many EU Member States. In modern societies, self-employment and service provision are common forms of economic activities. In essence, legal orders are struggling to demarcate employment from self-employment, a problem that becomes particularly evident in relation to hiring-out and the posting of workers. Tensions over security of employment become expressed as part of a discourse regarding disguised employment and the lack of transparency in economic conditions. This tension is exacerbated as workers tend to be nationals of a particular state, whereas mobility related to cross-border service provision primarily concerns nationals from another state. Consequently, international liberalization of trade in service impacts, or in any case is perceived to impact, on domestic labour market policies. Service trade liberalization therefore has entered the domains of immigration policies and domestic labour market policies. An important function of a sovereign state is the task to determine which foreign citizens may enter its territory.

B Hepple, Social and Labour Rights in a Global Context: International and Comparative Law Perspectives (Cambridge University Press Cambridge 2002).

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The wider function of immigration law is additionally concerned with the issues that move beyond transit and tourism. 'Immigration control systems' determine access of foreigners to the labour market and the welfare state.2 These policy areas belong to the core of a state's interests, as they are directly related to the question who belong to one of its constituent elements, its population.3 Migration law and policy in general is a field of law that is strongly used to find solutions for politically formulated problems. In a sense, the situation in the UK in 2016 provides the culmination of the strained relationship between politics and migration, leading to the UK referendum to leave the EU. Though many reasons may be referred to, it is without question that the perception of uncontrolled migration flows featured centrally. The sensitivity regarding these topics has moreover increased since the emergence of the importance of trade in services in the 1980s, in particular during the first decade of the new millennium.4 Consequently, societal developments, which determine political aims, have a heavy influence on migration law. Immigrants are perceived as profiting from welfare systems and competing for employment with nationals. The media and politicians more often have a negative than a positive influence on this image. 5 The image itself is certainly debatable; 6 it is also much

² C Roos The EU and Immigration Policies. Cracks in the Walls of Fortress Europe? (Palgrave Macmillan, London 2013), p. 1.

³ For a description of population being one of the constituting elements of a state as a person of international law, see: M Craven 'Statehood, self-determination, and recognition' in MD Evans *International Law* (Oxford University Press, Oxford 2014), pp. 218–219.

⁴ Services was considered as an option for multilateral trade during this decade, leading to the creation of the GATS. In parallel, at the end of the 1980s the Single European Act initiated the start of the process towards completion of the EU internal market, culminating in the attempt to horizontally liberalize service provision through the Services Directive.

⁵ Roos 2013, pp. 1–2; C Dustmann and I Preston Racial and Economic Factors in Attitudes to Immigration (2000) 190 IZA Institute for the Study of Labor Discussion Paper, p. 1 and 3–4, available online: <www.iza.org> (last visited 1 December 2016); MJ Trebilcock, R Howse and A Eliason The Regulation of International Trade (Routledge London 2013), pp. 783–784; J Hainmueller and MJ Hiscox 'Educated Preferences: Explaining Attitudes Toward Immigration in Europe' (2007) 61 International Organization, p. 400.

⁶ As clearly stated in D Bräuniger 'Debate on Free Movement. Does the EU Need New Rules on Social Security Co-ordination?' (2015) Deutsche Bank Research Briefing European Integration. In the literature, of which only a fraction is listed here, there is clear disagreement: Hainmueller and Hiscox 2007 pp. 400–402; AM Mayda 'Who is Against Immigration? A Cross-Country Investigation of Individual Attitudes toward Immigrants' (2006) 88:3 The Review of Economics and Statistics, pp. 510–511 and 526; Trebilcock, Howse and Eliason 2013, p. 784; GJ Borjas 'The Labor Demand Curve is Downwards Sloping: Re-examining the Impact of Migration on the Labour Market' (2003) 118:4 The Quarterly Journal of Economics, pp. 1335–1374; Dustmann and Preston 2000, pp. 2–3, 6 and 32–33; N Gaston and D Nelson

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less relevant in relation to service mobility, which is temporary in nature. In particular in relation to third-country nationals, the influence of such images on the implementation of obligations relating to service trade liberalization is very clear. However, this perception is not limited to third-country nationals. In relation to EU nationals, in particular those whose home states have joined the EU since 2004, similar sentiments influence politics, and even the legislator of the EU Members States that were included in this study. Dutch and United Kingdom migration law and policy have a tendency to adopt international commitments relating to service mobility within the general framework applying to labour migration. This may be logical from a national perspective for a policy area considered sensitive in the political arena, however, international obligations have an interesting role to play as they restrict the possibilities to unilaterally tighten existing rules.⁷ As such, they form a minimum level of guarantees against these changes. There is a clear tension between the interest to liberalize trade in services and the related necessity to address service mobility on the one hand, and the impact service mobility has on immigration and labour market policies. The investigated states demonstrate a strong reluctance to accept binding international commitments in these fields. The adoption of service trade liberalization and the consequential rights of service mobility becomes irreconcilable with the incentive to retain sovereignty over immigration and labour market access, as demonstrated by the EU Member States investigated in this research. The question then is, why do these states involve themselves with trade liberalization involving service mobility.

Providing services is the primary economic activity within the EU. It accounts for the majority of employment opportunities and it is the main driving factor for economic growth. European economies are essentially service-based economies. The core of the European integration project is the creation of an internal market; in relation to services, service providers should be able to provide their services under the same competitive circumstances anywhere within the EU. To ensure competitive equality, or a level playing field, freedom

^{&#}x27;Immigration and Labour-Market Outcomes in the United States: A Political-Economy Puzzle' (2000) 16:3 Oxford Review of Economic Policy, p. 108; T Hayter Open Borders: The Case Against Immigration Control (Pluto Press, London 2000) p. 158; RM Friedberg and J Hunt 'The Impact of Immigration on Host Country Wages, Employment and Growth' (1995) 9:2 Journal of Economic Perspectives, p. 42; GJ Borjas, RB Freeman and L Katz 'How Much do Immigration and Trade affect Labor Market Outcomes' (1997) 1 Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, pp. 62–63; Dustmann and Preston 2000, pp. 2–3.

⁷ GG Lodder Vreemdelingenrecht in Vogelvlucht. Over Toelating en Verblijf van Vreemdelingen in Nederland (Sdu Uitgevers, The Hague 2011), p. 15; EJA Franssen Wet Arbeid Vreemdelingen (Kluwer, Deventer 2013), pp. 10–11; G Clayton, C Sawyer, H Toner, G Firth and H Wray Textbook on Immigration and Asylum Law (Oxford University Press, Oxford 2014), p. 31.

4 CHAPTER 1

of movement of service receivers is important as well. In parallel, service receivers benefit from the internal market as they have more choice and intra EU-competition should lead to higher quality of services or lower prices. The internal market results in an obligation directed at the Member States. Hindrances to a level playing field, over which Member States exercise influence, should be removed. In the 1990s the liberalization of service trade entered the domain of the WTO. The GATS aims to achieve a similar opening up of service provision at a multilateral level. Consequently, the EU and its Member States participate to intra-state liberalization of service trade both at a regional and the multilateral level. Many services cannot be traded across borders without some form of movement of natural persons. Modern communication technologies provide the possibility to trade in services in a cross-border sense, yet various services still require proximity between supplier and producer. Any international framework dealing with trade in services will have to incorporate ways to accommodate movement of either supplier or consumer across borders.8 The GATS and EU law therefore include service mobility, the right to travel to, and reside on, the territory of other states party to that international framework. This background demonstrates the inherent tension between service trade liberalization and the reluctance to accept loss of sovereignty over the indicated policy areas which has led to the central question of this research: how do states implement obligations to liberalize service mobility undertaken in a beyond state sovereignty context and how does this influence a state's interest to maintain control over its immigration and labour market policies?

1.2 The Background of Service Mobility

This study addresses the interaction between two international, and two national legal orders. The topics addressed are trade in services, immigration law and access to the labour market regimes. The interaction between these topics and legal frameworks is highly complex and involves trade related, as well as (international) political and social concepts. However, the core of this investigation is based on a legal comparison between the international obligations and the national implementation of these obligations. Before commencing an in-depth analysis of each of these legal orders, this chapter will provide an overview of various relevant topics which set the stage for the research conducted.

⁸ J Bast 'Annex on Movement of Natural Persons Supplying Services Under the Agreement' in R Wolfrum, PT Stoll and C Feinäugle (eds) Max Planck Commentaries on World Trade Law, WTO - Trade in Services (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Leiden 2008), pp. 574-575.

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1.2.1 The Importance of Services Trade

It is hard to overestimate the importance of trade in services from an economic perspective. Since the 1950s modern economies have changed fundamentally from industry based to service-based economies. This is not to say that services had a small role to play before, yet services were only recognized as a distinct economic category around that time. Services were described as the tertiary sector, agriculture and industry being the first two, which simply covered everything the first two did not.9 The idea of trade in relation to services on an international level was only picked up by trade economists around the 1980s.¹⁰ Before that time, services were mostly considered non-tradable. ¹¹ In the years since then trade in services has achieved a significant amount of trade flows. In 2002 services was calculated to account for 72 percent of the Global Domestic Product (GDP) in developed countries and 49 percent in developing countries.¹² In 2005 the services sector accounted for 2.4 trillion of the total 12.5 trillion in world exports, turning services exports into the fastest growing sector of trade exports.¹³ In 2005 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in services had surpassed FDI in manufacturing.¹⁴ Moreover, gains from services liberalization are expected to provide higher gains than liberalization in goods. Protection levels are currently higher regarding trade in services which suggests higher potential for gains. 15 An estimation made in the 1980s on gains from eliminating global restrictions on labour mobility indicates results in a doubling of worldwide annual GNP, and even less optimistic assumptions

⁹ V Hatzopoulos Regulating Services in the European Union (Oxford University Press, Oxford 2012), pp. 3-4.

Note that this applies to *trade* economists; services had certainly not escaped the interest of economists in general, JN Bhagwati 'Splintering and Disembodiment of Services and Developing Nations' (1984) 7 *The World Economy*, p. 133.

Us based multinationals convinced the Us government of the importance of services trade, Trebilcock, Howse and Eliason 2013, pp. 472–473; A Sapir 'The General Agreement on Trade in Services: From 1994 to the Year 2000' (1999) 33 *Journal of World Trade*, p. 52; WJ Drake and K Nicolaïdis 'Ideas, Interests and Institutionalization: "Trade in Services" and the Uruguay Round' (1992) 46 *International Organization*, p. 41.

¹² UNCTAD Trade in Services and its Development Implications Secretariat Note 20 December 2002 TD/B/COM.1/55.

D Fernandes 'Twins, Siblings or Friends: The Conceptual Case of Goods and Services, Where Do We Stand and Where Could We be Headed to?' in K Alexander and M Andenas (eds) *The World Trade Organization and Trade in Services* (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Leiden 2008), p. 105.

¹⁴ OECD International Investment Perspectives 2005 (OECD, Paris 2005), p. 60.

P Delimatsis 'Don't Gamble with GATS – The Interaction between Articles VI, XVI, XVII and XVIII GATS in the Light of the US – Gambling Case' (2006) 40 Journal of World Trade, pp. 1059–1060.

6 CHAPTER 1

are still higher than gains from further trade liberalization relating to goods. ¹⁶ More recently, studies suggest that liberalization in services in general could contribute to over \$300 billion growth in world GDP. ¹⁷ Winters states that if developed countries would allow entry of migrants equal to three per cent of the current work population, this would lead to a growth of \$150 billion in global GDP. ¹⁸ Lifting restrictions would also lead to a much more equitable distribution of wealth. ¹⁹ Another important aspect of services, is the significant part they play in the economy. ²⁰ Furthermore liberalization relating to intermediate services leads to positive effects for downstream manufacturing industries. ²¹ It should be emphasized that services play an important role in human societies and human development as well. Affordable and universal access to education, water, health and electricity are crucial factors for equal development in societies. ²²

- 19 Trebilcock, Howse and Eliason 2013, pp. 781–782; Hamilton and Whalley 1984, pp. 73–74.
- 20 See for an account on the significance of services in lower and higher developed economies, Fernandes 2008, pp. 107–108.
- Examples of service sectors in which spillover effects can be significant are transport, banking and insurances, IT services, advertising and wholesale and retail trading. See for an interesting account on the effect barriers to trade in services have on manufacturing, R Langhammer 'Services Trade Liberalization as a Handmaiden of Competitiveness in Manufacturing: an Industrialized or Developing Country Issue?' (2007) 41 Journal of World Trade. See also Fernandes 2008, pp. 108–109.
- Fernandes 2008, p. 109. These service sectors play a major role in the fierce debate between critics and proponents of liberalization in general and the GATS in specific. Examples of the many publications relating to this debate are: J Woodroffe GATS: a Disservice to the Poor (World Development Movement, London 2002), pp. 34–35; S Sinclair and J Grieshaber-Otto Facing the Facts: A Guide to the GATS Debate (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Ottawa 2002); M Barlow 'The Last Frontier: GATS' (2001) Review of

¹⁶ C Hamilton and J Whalley 'Efficiency and Distributional Implications of Global Restrictions on Labour Mobility: Calculations and Policy Implications' (1984) 14(1-2) Journal of Development Economics, pp. 61-75; The Economist 'The Longest Journey' 2 November 2002, p. 3 available online: www.economist.com> (last visited 1 December 2016).

A Winters, J Whalley, Z Wang and R Grynberg 'Liberalising Temporary Movement of Natural Persons: An Agenda for the Development Round' (2003) 26 *The World Economy*, p. 1140; The Economist 'The Longest Journey' 2 November 2002, p. 3 available online: <www.economist.com> (last visited 1 December 2016).

A Winters, 'The Economic Implications of Liberalizing Mode 4 Trade', in A Mattoo and A Carzaniga (eds) *Moving People to Deliver Services* (World Bank, Washington DC 2003), p. 59 and 73; see also B Hoekman and A Mattoo *Liberalizing Trade in Services: Lessons from Regional and wto Negotiations* (2012) Research Paper Global Trade and Financial Architecture Project, p. 28, available online: http://globalgovernanceprogramme.eui.eu (last visited 1 December 2016).