KLUWER LAW INTERNATIONAL

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# EU DUMPING DETERMINATIONS AND WTO LAW

By Henrik Andersen



## KLUWER LAW INTERNATIONAL

# **EU Dumping Determinations and WTO Law**

Ву

## Henrik Andersen



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# **EU Dumping Determinations and WTO Law**

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## Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching XLIII

The most submissive thing in the world can ride roughshod over the most unyielding in the world – that which is without substance entering that which has no gaps.

That is why I know the benefit of taking no action.

The teaching that uses no words, the benefit of taking no action, these are beyond the understanding of all but a very few in the world.

[Translated by D. C. Lau]

# **Preface**

This book concerns one of the major challenges in the field of globalization: Anti-dumping. More specifically, the book looks into whether EU dumping determinations of products from Asian countries are in conformity with WTO law. The reason for looking into this question is my major interest in globalization and its challenges in the field of international trade and public international law. Different cultures with different legal backgrounds and understandings of law have to interact with one another. On one hand, globalization is the opening of markets between states to the better good of the world consumer and world producers, but on the other hand, the opening of markets might also oust national producers because of cheaper products in the global market, or it might be a reason for strong political powers to exploit weaker states.

Anti-dumping is just one set of several rules dealing with the impacts of globalization. On the international level, WTO anti-dumping law ensures a mechanism for importing countries to impose duties on foreign products with dumped prices, i.e., the export price is lower than the domestic price of the like product in the exporting country. Such a mechanism should *ceteris paribus* lead to a reduction in the import of the dumped products, and the anti-dumping rules may then be seen as an obstacle to trade between states. However, such rules may be justified in the light of undesired outcomes by predatory pricing, where the exporter lowers the export prices in order to eliminate the competitors in the importing country and thereafter raises the prices.

The application of the anti-dumping instrument by WTO Members is often controversial because of the protectionist character of anti-dumping, in which inefficient industries are protected from foreign competition. The legal framework within the WTO has some loopholes that leave wide discretion to the investigating authorities to determine that a product is dumped, thereby emphasising the protectionist nature of anti-dumping. The use of anti-dumping becomes even more

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controversial when WTO Members use the anti-dumping tool beyond the legal scope of WTO law. The questions raised in this book concern the EU dumping determinations and their conformity with WTO law. The EU has a magnificent impact on global politics and the global trade, and the EU should take a leading position in turning the global wheels by ensuring the conformity with the legal standards under public international law. In so doing, the EU can secure that EU importers and foreign exporters can rely on the international set of anti-dumping law and the legal certainty of law. Furthermore, anti-dumping deserves much more attention in legal research than it has so far been given. This book is just a modest contribution to the research in the anti-dumping field.

This book is a revised version of my PhD thesis. The book would not have been possible without the inspiration, support, comments, etc. from several people and organizations to whom I owe my deepest regards.

I want to thank Copenhagen Business School for offering me the opportunity to undertake a PhD project, and City University of Hong Kong for supporting my research stay in Hong Kong in 2006. Furthermore, I want to thank Otto Mønsteds Fond and Konsul Axel Nielsens Mindelegat for financial support.

I want to thank in particular my supervisors for inspiration and interesting discussions. From Copenhagen Business School, I would like to thank Professor, dr.jur. Jens Fejø, Associate Professor, PhD, Lynn Roseberry and Professor, PhD, Verner Worm; and from City University of Hong Kong, Professor Gu Minkang. I also want to thank the members of the PhD Assessment Committee for providing me with some very useful and interesting comments about my work upon which I may continue my journey into the universe of research; Professor, PhD, Ulla Neergaard from Copenhagen Business School, Professor, PhD, Pär Halström from Umeå University, and Associate Professor, PhD, Pernille Wegener Jessen from Aarhus School of Business, Aarhus University. I also owe my deepest thanks to my colleagues at Copenhagen Business School, in particular Associate Professor, PhD, Kim Østergaard for convincing me to do a PhD, and Associate Professor, PhD, Christina Tvarnø and Head of Department, Professor, PhD, Steen Treumer for interesting discussions. Furthermore, I want to thank Lecturer Sharma Charu from City University of Hong Kong.

Also, I want to thank Administrative Officer Marie Pade Andersen and Translation Service Manager Susanne Askham for linguistic and grammatical editing.

I want to thank my family and friends for their support and understanding through the often challenging times: My parents, Søren and Annie Andersen; my sister Dorte Andersen; and the rest of my family: Bent Rohde Nielsen, Pia Bergstrøm Frederiksen, Oskar Rohde Bergstrøm, Anton Rohde Bergstrøm, Helene Hilligsøe, Anne Hilligsøe, Mads Hilligsøe, Morten Hilligsøe and Jørgen Rasmussen. To my Danish friends: Rene Thastum Jespersen, Peter Lille Frøen Rasmussen, Anne-Mette Hansen, Jesper Eier Engberg, Peter G. Uru and Pia Johannessen, Christian and Lone Lund Jørgensen, Martin Beo and Janni Dam Wied, Peder Bissen and Marie Lindeløv, Mette and Jerome Venet, Charlotte and Allan Gravsen, Anne-Sofie Aggerbeck-Lauritzen, Helene and Anders Fertin, and Andreas Petersen. To my Hong Kong friends: Leony Quion, Lesley Chui Suk Yin, Annie Chan, Donnie Dong, and Kelvin Wangchao. Also,

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I certainly want to thank Kluwer Law International for supporting the idea of publishing the PhD as a book. In particular, I want to thank the editors: Lou Rolla and Professor Ross Buckley for their suggestions on how to improve my work.

The present book would have not been completed without inspiration from many different writers on WTO and EU anti-dumping law. The writings and discussions by Edwin Vermulst in *The 10 Major Problems With the Anti-dumping Instrument in the European Community*, by Harold Wenig in *The European Community's Anti-dumping System: Salient Features*, by Pierre Didier in *The WTO Anti-dumping Code and EC Practice* and by Yuhan Liu in *Anti-dumping Measures and China* have all been great inspirations to me in writing this book. The first three articles are printed in *Journal of World Trade*, and the last-mentioned article is printed in *Journal of Financial Crime*.

The first book I ever read about WTO/GATT was The GATT/WTO Dispute Settlement System – International Law, International Organizations and Dispute Settlement from 1997 by Ernst-Ulrich Petersmann – an excellent work. It inspired me to look into the field of WTO. Most books about general WTO law include a chapter or section about anti-dumping law. I highly recommend looking into The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization, by Peter Van den Bossche, from 2005. The book distinguishes itself by its wide coverage of complicated WTO law. Another interesting book is Modern GATT Law – A Treatise on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, from 2005, by Raj Bhala. The author builds his writing on WTO law around the provisions in GATT 1994. Another great contribution to the discussion is WTO Law - from a European perspective, from 2006, edited by Birgitte Egelund Sørensen, Michael Steinicke, and Karsten Engsig Sørensen, which compares similarities and differences between the WTO and the EU systems. The chapter on anti-dumping, written by Pernille Wegener Jessen, includes a section on EU law on anti-dumping circumvention. Guiguo Wang has written about WTO – with China as the central subject – in The Law of the WTO – China and the Future of Free Trade, from 2005. The second edition of The World Trade Organization - Law, Practice, and Policy, from 2006, by Mitsuo Matsushita, Thomas J. Schoenbaum and Petros C. Mavroidis, is also excellent. The authors provide a very interesting discussion regarding the sources of WTO law. Furthermore, throughout the book, the authors make a number of suggestions to improve WTO law.

For those interested in the background of WTO law, the extensive three-volume work by Terence P. Stewart (ed.); The GATT Uruguay Round -A Negotiating History, from 1993, is recommended. The section on anti-dumping

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is written by Terence P. Stewart, Susan G. Markel, and Michael T. Kerwin. I also encourage those interested to look into *The World Trading System*, from 1989, by John H. Jackson, who writes about the policy background of GATT law – and the tension between a rule-oriented system and national discretion.

With respect to writings about WTO anti-dumping law, I would suggest looking into *The WTO Anti-dumping Agreement*, from 2005, by Edwin Vermulst. The author makes critical remarks on the application of anti-dumping law by both WTO Members and the DSB. Edwin Vermulst has also – together with Folkert Graafsma – written *WTO Anti-dumping, Subsidies and Safeguards*, from 2005, where an overview of anti-dumping disputes before panels and Appellate Body is provided. For a more detailed book on WTO anti-dumping law, *A Handbook Anti-dumping Investigations*, from 2003, by Judith Czako, Johan Human and Jorge Miranda, can be suggested.

For those interested in EU anti-dumping law, Ivo Van Bael and Jean-Francois Bellis have written Anti-dumping and Other Trade Protection Laws of the EC, of which the fourth edition is from 2004. The book gives an excellent overview of – and critical approach to – anti-dumping law in EU. Furthermore, the authors provide an overview of the anti-dumping cases in EU from initiation of investigation to termination – and further development – of cases from 1995 to 2004.

For a comparative study of the evolution of WTO/GATT and EU anti-dumping law, Wenxi Li's doctoral thesis Anti-dumping Law of WTO/GATT and EC – Gradual Evolution of Anti-dumping Law in Global Economic Integration, from 2001 is a must-read. The author makes suggestions on how to improve the existing anti-dumping laws towards more credibility.

About the trade relation between EU and China, I highly recommend EC Trade Law Following China's Accession to the WTO, by Jan Hoogmartens, from 2004, which includes some interesting discussions about the non-market economy approach in anti-dumping matters.

If the reader of this book wants to contact me for clarifications about my work or with suggestions for improvement, he or she should not hesitate to do so at: henriklaw@yahoo.com.

Henrik Andersen

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