



## UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

### Public play upon private standards

*How European and international economic law enter into voluntary regimes for sustainability*

Partiti, E.D.

#### Publication date

2017

#### Document Version

Other version

#### License

Other

[Link to publication](#)

#### Citation for published version (APA):

Partiti, E. D. (2017). *Public play upon private standards: How European and international economic law enter into voluntary regimes for sustainability*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

#### General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

#### Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

## Acknowledgments

Unexpected setbacks aside, the average candidate begins his PhD relatively aware of the intricacy of writing a dissertation. Today I found out that such awareness does not immediately extend to its acknowledgement section. To thank all the individuals which one way or another provided support throughout this path is extraordinarily complex, but I realised it only at the moment I began writing. Ironically, the writer's block at the last stage of this journey uncomfortably brings to mind some way too familiar feelings from its beginning, when I settled in Amsterdam after a brief detour to Maastricht, full of naivety and with just slightly more hair than today. Almost five years (and countless litres of coffee of questionable quality) later, the time has come for the daunting task to wrap up in a few pages some of the most exciting years of my life.

This dissertation would have certainly not been possible had it not been for an unexpected job offer which my supervisors Pieter Jan Kuijper, Annette Schrauwen and Jim Mathis made me in early 2012. My responsibility during these years has been not to make them regret their choice. All of them, equally, provided an unbelievable amount of support, understanding and protection. They also demonstrated a remarkable ability to keep a straight face during our supervision meetings as, for example, when six-months from the submission date I was contemplating the application of an otherwise unspecified 'efficiency framework' which would have revolutionised my thesis and, inevitably, the whole discipline of international law. There is no amount of words that can sum up my gratitude for talking me out from that idea, as well as several others. Pieter Jan, your boundless knowledge was a safe harbour where to find refuge in times of doubt - and there have been a few. Annette, you have been an unrelenting source of kindness and comfort. Your door was always open and you have been available every day of these five years. Jim, you had a joke for me on every occasion, or at least some old GATT cases to go through. I will be missing your punchy remarks, and I am certain that the Faculty will miss you as well after your retirement. I would like to thank the members of the reading committee, Marco Bronckers, René Lefeber, Rein Wesseling, Denise Prévost and Ingo Venzke, for taking part in my defence, for their valuable comments, and for having found the time to read through the long manuscript - which already looked rather intimidating before the layout editing.

As *The Wire* taught me, a man is only as good as the institution to which he belongs. The Faculty of Law at the UvA provided a lively and stimulating intellectual environment that often made me forget that a book was not going to be written by itself. Teaching and other activities provided much-needed relief from the pains of writing a doctoral dissertation. Serving in the Board of *Legal Issues of Economic Integration* altogether with my supervisors, Kati Cseres, René Smits and Tom Eijsbout, has taught me a great deal about the day-to-day operation of a legal journal and the value of always employing a critical approach. Tom earned a special mention for his still impressive skills as a

copywriter, of which I have benefited greatly. Without him the title of this thesis would be much longer and even more obscure to my parents.

Eljalill and Vigjilencia, my best memories at the UvA are with my office mates in room E0.10. We met as PhD students, we parted ways as doctors and, most important, friends. There are many people in the Department and in the Faculty with whom, throughout the years, I shared thoughts, lots of happy moments, a few occasional sad ones, and many more drinks and coffee breaks than my supervisors could ever suspect. These people are, in no special order and with the risk of forgetting someone, Aart, Anne, Nick, Giovanni, Maarten, Chris, Or, Nienke, Isabelle, Natasa, Emma, Fons, Yedan, Maria, Markos, Sara, Heather, Katrine, Vladislav, Vincent, Tatevik, Joao Pedro, Bérénice, Betty, Willem, and Angela. Tim deserves to stand out for having kindly agreed to translate my summary into Dutch. This book also benefitted from discussion with Kati Cseres, Laurens Ankersmits, Phillip Paiement, Victoria Daskalova, Arkady Kudryavtsev. For each chapter that ends, there is a new one which begins. I would like to thank everyone at the T.M.C. Asser Instituut for making me feel at home from the first day, in particular Janne Nijman and Antoine Duval.

I have the privilege of defending my PhD supported by two people whom I have known the longest, my best friend and my sister. While my sister is objectively stuck with me, Matteo, the fact that you are still around after almost 32 years has made me question your judgement on more than one occasion. Francesca, you have been a source of inspiration much more than you know or have I ever told you. Your strength and ambition taught me that nothing is impossible. Many friends in Amsterdam contributed to making my time so pleasant that, like many expats, I eventually decided to stay 'for a little longer': Fabio, Giulia and Nikos, Bram and Kanita, Kim, Dimitris, Marta and Fede, Maria Laura. A special word of thank goes to the party posse - the mighty Kenan, the mightier Francesca and Derek, the mightiest Rajat - always willing to stay up until late. Lev, Tamara, Blanca, Sebastian from my LLM found the time to drop by in Amsterdam over these years and reminisce the good times. The Italians, whom distance can never make me forget: Strippi and Claude, and Monica and Andrea with their expanding families, Roby, Mitch, and all the despicable individuals at Bacco Caffé and Turn Over.

Sanne, in you I found a talented academic, a skilled career consultant, a perfect travel companion, and most importantly an amazing partner in crime. I really doubt I would have been able to put this book together had not been for your loving support and implacable motivation through difficult times in the last year. I have made you roll your eyes more than anyone else, and you can be certain that I will be keep on doing that for a long time.

Mamma e papà, vi lascio per ultimi perché questo è il posto per le persone più importanti. Tutto quello che faccio lo faccio per rendervi orgogliosi e spero, almeno ogni tanto, di riuscirci. Siete voi che avete reso possibile questo giorno in una miriade di modi diversi e attraverso il vostro esempio di correttezza, integrità e onestà.