This publication presents selected papers of the 3rd Conference of the Post Graduate and Early Professionals and Academics Network of the Society of International Economic Law (PEPA Network), which took place at Direito GV in São Paulo (Brazil), 24 - 25 April 2014.

The PEPA Network was created in 2011 to foster collaboration and mentoring opportunities for emerging academics and professionals in International Economic Law (IEL). Its annual conference offers junior academics and professionals a forum where they can present and discuss their research in a supportive and welcoming environment. To date, the conferences took place at the University of Hamburg and the University of Göttingen in Germany, at Direito GV São Paulo in Brazil and the 2015 edition is scheduled to take place in Milan, Italy. These conferences have directly reached over 300 junior and senior participants from more than 40 countries of all regions of the world.

The conference environment is supportive and welcoming, but getting accepted is tough. PEPA’s academic commission works hand in hand with SIEL and local organizers to ensure the quality of the papers — all submissions undergo a double blind review process and only the best papers are invited to join the conference. Papers are then presented at the conference and commented upon by two senior commentators and other conference participants. This process ensures that each presenter receives individualized feedback from senior and junior peers, as part of a process to improve each research. Those conference papers that are deemed to have reached a high quality and that contribute to the production of knowledge in their field are then invited to be published, either in the form of an edited book, as in Hamburg, or in a renowned journal, as in Göttingen and now São Paulo. For many participants, this might be the first opportunity to present their work outside their own program, and also to have a paper published.

Conference participants also have the chance to take part in publishing workshops, where they learn inside tips from experienced and renowned publishers, and have the chance to broaden their professional network with other young scholars or senior academics, lawyers and governmental officials.
In São Paulo, the conference gathered near 100 participants from more than 28 countries, who presented and discussed papers within several IEL topics, ranging from WTO to investment and monetary law, and also their relation with social and human rights and environment. Also, due to the generous contribution from our sponsors, we have been able to financially support several participants from developing countries, and to invite leading senior IEL academics from different Latin American countries, the United States, Asia and Europe.

This publication successfully concludes the work so many people have devoted to the 3rd PEPA Conference. In thanking Direito GV, SIEL, and all the participants of the 3rd PEPA we hope they all feel represented.

São Paulo, 10 de Setembro de 2014.

Michelle Ratton, José Caiado and Adriane Sanctis