

Statement of Aims

The World Trade Review (WTR) has been established at the initiative of the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in close cooperation with Cambridge University Press. The WTR is an independent, multi-disciplinary journal that aims to deepen understanding of issues facing the international trading system through critical analysis and constructive debate.

The journal welcomes manuscripts written from economic, legal and inter-disciplinary perspectives on issues of relevance to the multilateral trading system. A rigorous peer review process assures that material accepted for publication meets high standards in terms of theoretical and methodological rigour. Papers written in a manner that makes them accessible to the wider public and to government officials engaged in policy discourse and decision-making are particularly welcome. To further stimulate debate, the journal encourages the submission of short articles or notes commenting on published papers. These pieces are also subject to peer review in order to ensure their quality.

The policy of the journal is determined by the Editor and the members of the Editorial Board, in conjunction with Cambridge University Press. The content of each issue is determined by the Editor, subject to broad oversight by the Board.

Opinions and other material contained in the WTR are not attributable to Members of the WTO, to the WTO Secretariat, to members of the Editorial Board or to the Editor, nor should they be taken as reflecting the views of any of the aforementioned groups or individuals.

Submission of articles

The World Trade Review invites authors to submit original manuscripts on all aspects of issues related to the multilateral trading system. Short articles or notes commenting on previously published articles are also welcome. It is assumed that the submission of a manuscript to the WTR signals that it has not been, and will not be, submitted elsewhere at the same time. Papers scheduled for future publication in book form will be considered, *provided* they would appear first in the WTR.

Full guidelines for contributors regarding the length, organization and reference format of submissions are available on the journal's homepage at the Cambridge University Press website <cambridge.org/wtr>.

Letters to the Editor

The World Trade Review welcomes letters containing substantive comments on published material. Letters should be submitted via the website above. Letters selected for publication are subject to editing.

Books for review

Books for review in the journal should be mailed to:
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The Content of Preferential Trade Agreements

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Abstract: Preferential trade agreements are an important feature of the trade system. Several questions, ranging from the rationale for preferential arrangements to their impact on members, non-members and the broader multilateral trade system, are at the forefront of academic and policy circles in trade policy. This paper presents a new database that offers a detailed assessment of the content of preferential arrangements, examining the economic and legal enforceability of provisions regulating a large set of policy areas. The database provides information on 279 agreements signed by 189 countries between 1958 and 2015. The analysis of the data confirms one of the key insights in the literature: preferential trade agreements are becoming deeper over time. A growing number of these treaties regulate an extended set of policies, frequently with legally enforceable provisions, in areas under the current World Trade Organization mandate and in areas outside the current World Trade Organization mandate, especially competition policy, investment movements of capital, and intellectual property rights protection. Accordingly, for the changing scope of preferential trade agreements is essential to gain a more complete and accurate understanding of where the global trading system is going and how its governance can be improved.

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