

MAKING TRADE POLICY GREAT AGAIN: WHAT POLICYMAKERS SHOULD LEARN FROM TRUMP'S ELECTION

*Fernando Dias Simões**

ABSTRACT

Donald Trump's election as President of the United States (hereinafter "U.S.") of America offers a cautionary tale about how trade policy depends on the continuous support of citizens and politicians. Trade liberalisation advocates should ask themselves whether traditional policies are so detached from the reality of citizens' quotidian concerns that they can be easily instrumentalised for electoral gain. There is a disconnect between international trade policies and domestic concerns, with many citizens seeing themselves as the losers of the international trade game. Pro-trade politicians and policymakers should acknowledge that trade policy benefits countries as a whole but makes some citizens richer and others poorer. Revitalising consensus on trade policy among political circles and the community at large requires looking back, underlining the good things that trade liberalisation has achieved; but also looking forward, devising new ways of making trade policies more inclusive and equitable for everyone.

* Fernando Dias Simões is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau, member of the Asia WTO Research Network, Senior Research Fellow at the University Institute of European Studies—IUSE (Italy) and Senior Research Associate at gLAWcal—Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development (United Kingdom). The author can be reached at: fernandodsimo@umac.mo.

KEYWORDS: *trade policy, Donald Trump, globalisation, protectionism, populism, economic inequality, inclusive trade, adjustment policies*