

DIGITAL TRADE AND E-COMMERCE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONALISM

Rolf H. Weber^{*}

ABSTRACT

The legal framework of the WTO does not meet the regulatory need of the digital trade business anymore. The “compensation” by regional and bilateral preferential trade agreements in the Asian-Pacific area having gained importance and covering a larger scope during the last decade is a valuable contribution to the legal stability in the region but does not fully replace the merits of a global framework.

KEYWORDS: *GATT and GATS Suitability, Information Technology Agreement, Preferential Trade Agreement, Trade in Services Agreement, Work Programme on E-Commerce*

^{*} Professor, University of Zurich (AIELN Member). Email: rolf.weber@rwi.uzh.ch. Article based on a presentation held at the fifth conference of the Asian International Economic Law Network (AIELN) on the 20th of July 2015. The author would like to thank MLaw Rika Koch for her very valuable support in the preparation of this article.