

## Preface to the Topical Survey

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## PREFACE TO THE TOPICAL SURVEY

In an effort to provide our readers with a concise, informative and accessible synopsis of current events in the field of international trade and investment law, the editors and advisors of the INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW JOURNAL devised this Topical Survey of Selected Recent Developments which makes its debut in this issue and will henceforth appear as a regular feature of the Journal. To the best of our knowledge, the Topical Survey is the first of its kind ever to be published in a student-run American international law review.

The Survey is designed to cover a wide range of topics of interest to practitioners and academicians seeking to keep abreast of significant developments in the rapidly evolving area of international economic law.

The current Survey is composed of some twenty different subject categories. It is the policy of the Journal to survey all or nearly all of these topical areas each time an issue is published. Topics will include discussions of municipal judicial decisions, administrative rulings and regulations, legislative developments, international arbitrations, and bilateral and multilateral treaties. Foreign legal developments will be emphasized.

The Topical Survey is composed chiefly of student contributions, although it is not restricted to student work. We have not abandoned the traditional forms of student writing found in law reviews (e.g., comments and case notes). However, we have experimented with alternatives to these conventional forms. For example, the present Survey includes a compendium of recent decisions of the United States International Trade Commission, an update on current developments in Third World trade law, as well as several expanded digests of American judicial decisions and statutes, termed "highlights."

It is important to mention that the Survey reports only selected developments. No attempt has been made to report and digest every significant development in the field of trade law. Furthermore, we have discovered in the course of preparing this first edition of the Survey that it is often impossible to publish an entry for each of the permanent topical categories in the Survey. Limited resources, a small but active student staff and the well-known exigencies of law school make it impractical to pro-

vide our readers with more than a sampling of the multitude of notable events which take place daily in international trade law.

Finally, a word about the topical format itself. We have divided the whole of international commercial law into five major subject areas, which are in turn broken down into small sub-categories. These categories constitute the permanent topical outline and will appear in each edition of the Survey. As would be expected with any topical outline, overlap among the categories is inevitable. In order to minimize any confusion that might arise as a result of our classificatory scheme, we have supplied cross-references to items appearing in the Survey which are susceptible of multiple classifications.

The editors are sensitive to the fact that any attempt to categorize a subject as vast and fluid as international trade law is, in the final analysis, based on flexible criteria. Accordingly, we welcome the suggestions of our readers as to how the current Survey might be refined or otherwise improved to meet more effectively the needs of our readership.

*L. Marc Zell*

*Notes, Comments and Research Editor*