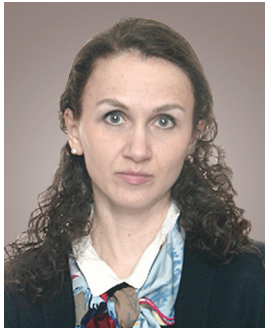


**THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC LAW.  
The Conference Held at the MSAL  
International Law Department  
on 7 april, 2017**



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On April 6–8, 2017 the Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSAL) hosted a major annual event of the legal community in Russia — the Fourth Moscow Legal Forum. This year it was named “Law and Economics: Interdisciplinary Approaches in Science and Education”. For three consecutive days public officials, judges, representatives of law enforcement bodies, scholars and practicing lawyers discussed most pressing issues facing the international and national legal systems.

Within the framework of the IV Moscow Legal Forum the MSAL International Law Department organized a conference on the future

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of international economic law. It brought together state officials and academics from leading universities of Russia, Bulgaria, Vietnam.

The Head of the MSAL International Law Department Professor Kamil A. Bekyashev gave an opening speech. He greeted the guests and expressed confidence that the conference discussions would be fruitful. Professor Bekyashev characterized international economic law as a separate branch of international law, made an overview of the definitions of international economic law that can be found in the Russian and foreign doctrine, outlined its structure, proposed to distinguish it from international commercial law, international investment law, international tax Law, international customs law all of which should be viewed as branches of international law in their own right.

Professor of the MSAL International Law Department Lyudmila P. Anufrieva pointed out numerous problems that become more tense in the economic sphere at the global level such as economic inequality, poverty, migration. She also enumerated modern problems of the science of international economic law: the method of regulating international economic law (the method of coordination), its sources and principles, the role of “soft law”; the system of international finance law, financial standards, the interplay between the notions of a “standard” and a “norm”; international integration unions and the activities of judicial bodies in them, integration law in general and its place in the normative system.

Professor Adel I. Abdullin, Head of the International and European Law Department of the Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University developed Professor Anufrieva’s thesis of an important role the international judicial bodies play in the regional economic integration. Different judicial models reflect the peculiarities of political and economic development of a region. The Court of Justice of the European Union, for instance, is characterized by the symbiotic relations with the national courts. In other regions there exist different courts and tribunals: the Southern African Development Community Tribunal, the Court of Justice of the Andean Community, the Court of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), etc. In Professor Abdullin’s opinion, a Center of International Justice is needed in order to think through the emerging practice of international courts and the role of Russia in these processes.

The Head of the International Law Department of the Lomonosov Moscow State University Alexey S. Ispolinov devoted his presentation to the correlation between *universalism* and *regionalism*. The former presents a Western vision. It views international organizations as global governance institutions, and international courts such as the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Court of Human Rights, serve as a prototype of constitutional courts that make sure domestic norms do not run counter to international legal norms. The latter reflects regional values that are more solid and more flexible than universal ones. It results in a huge increase of regional trade agreements, by now there are about 800 of them. They regulate issues of trade, investment, consumer rights, labor and ecological standards, they also introduce measures to protect intellectual property. Even though regional trade agreements exemplify selective liberalization, at present they have become a rule rather than an exception.

The Head of the International Law Department of the All-Russian Academy of Foreign Trade Vladimir M. Shumilov took an effort to outline the future of international economic law. In his opinion, its role in the international system would be enhanced. Professor Shumilov demonstrated his conviction that international economic law would use both methods of international legal regulation, including supranational regulation, and national legal regulation, including the extraterritorial application of the national legislation. Along with additional international treaties new organizations would be established. Peculiarities typical of such entities as civilizations would become more visible. The collective West would face the development of Russia as a Eurasian civilization, the Arab world as an Islamic civilization, the Latin American and African civilizations, China and India as two countries-civilizations, respectively.

Dmitry V. Nekrasov, the Director of the Department of Customs Legislation and Law Enforcement Practice of the Eurasian Economic Commission, described the novelties of the new Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) Customs Code that would most probably come into force by the end of the year 2017. The EEU Code would incorporate 16 international agreements and take into account international legal obligations imposed by the law of the World Trade Organization. Declaring

goods electronically would be widely practiced, a paper form of declaring would be limited to exceptional cases only. The time limits for the documents verification would decrease to 4 hours instead of a business day, as it was established previously. A number of changes would be addressed to an Authorized Economic Operator.

Boris M. Ashavsky, Leading Specialist of the Institute of the State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences, spoke about the role of *jus cogens* principles in maintaining the international economic order. Anatoly Y. Kapustin, the First Deputy Director of Institute of Legislation and Comparative Jurisprudence under the Government of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Association of International Law, analyzed the existing institutional mechanisms in international economic law and emphasized the need to strengthen Russia's positions in international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade organization. Darya S. Boklan, Associate Professor of the Higher School of Economics, scrutinized in her presentation the relationship between the law of the World Trade Organization (*lex generalis*) and the law of the Eurasian Economic Union (*lex specialis*). The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Russian Federation Eduard L. Kuzmin considered the concept of sovereignty in the context of global economic relations and came to the conclusion that sovereignty has become limited. Andrey M. Nikolaev, Professor of the International Law Department of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia singled out problems and prospects that arise in the process of protecting the right to property in the European Court of Human Rights. Alexander M. Solntsev, Associate Professor of the International Law Department of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, carried out a detailed analysis of the access and benefit-sharing obligations imposed by the 2010 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity.

Tran Thang Long, a visiting professor from Ho Chi Minh City University of Law (Vietnam) considered in his presentation the anti-competitive behaviour of state monopolies with a special emphasis on Vietnam's experience in this field. Professor Gabriela Belova, the Dean of the Faculty of Law and History of the South-West University

“Neofit Rilski” (Bulgaria), discussed the problems connected with the legal status of irregular or undocumented migrants. Her colleague Yosif Kochev, Assistant Professor in the International Law and International Relations Department of the Law and History Faculty of “Neofit Rilski” University (Bulgaria), analyzed the regulation of the personal data protection and some cybersecurity challenges in the process of forming the digital single market in the European Union. Another Bulgarian guest — Gergana Georgieva, Chief Assistant of the International Law and International Relations Department of the Law and History Faculty of “Neofit Rilski” University in Blagoevgrad — examined in her presentation the legal and ethical issues that arise in the new biomedical research and technological development.

After the presentations of the foreign guests Russian scholars and practicing lawyers continued to share their opinions on various pressing issues of international economic law. They were Rustem S. Davletgildeev (Kazan Federal University), Alexey S. Harlanov (Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Natalia E. Tyurina (Kazan Federal University), Damir K. Bekyashev (Moscow State Institute of International Relations), Svetlana V. Glotova and Olga V. Kadyshcheva (Moscow State University), Maria V. Keshner (Kazan Federal University), Ekaterina V. Kiselyova (Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia), Viktor N. Sidorov (Kutafin Moscow State Law University), Daria A. Petrova (Department for Entrepreneurial Development of the Eurasian Economic Commission), Olga S. Boklan (Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation).