This seminar will analyse how EU trade policy has evolved, particularly over the last decade. We have witnessed a strengthening of the EU’s powers in this field, combined with an active programme of negotiating free-trade agreements and the growth and development of the EU as a global regulatory actor. The drivers and main components of these developments will be examined. The seminar will then turn to the Brexit and Trump challenges to (and opportunities for?) EU trade policy. There is an argument that EU trade policy will be reinforced, and that the EU will become a stronger international economic actor.

Professor Piet Eeckhout is Dean of the UCL Faculty of Laws, Professor of EU Law, and Academic Director of UCL’s European Institute. Before joining UCL in 2012, he was Director of the Centre of European Law at King’s College London (1998-2012). He studied law and European law at the University of Ghent, Belgium, where he also obtained his PhD degree. Before coming to London, he taught at the University of Ghent and the University of Brussels. From 1994-1998 Piet worked in the chambers of Advocate General Jacobs at the European Court of Justice. Piet has been co-editor of the Yearbook of European Law (OUP) and Current Legal Problems (UCL/OUP). He also edits the Oxford EU Law Library (OUP), and in June 2017 he launched the Europe and the World – A Law Review journal with Professor Christina Eckes (Amsterdam) and Dr Anne Thies (Reading). Piet has published widely in the fields of EU and international economic law. Much of his work has focused on EU external relations law, which has drawn him into the field of counterterrorism. As an academic consultant he was deeply involved and influential in the ground-breaking Kadi litigation, between 2005 and 2013.

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