

**EAST ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW & POLICY PROGRAMME
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW
FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

Public Lecture

**The EU as a Leading Actor in
International Trade and Investment**

Stefan Amarasinha

*Head, Trade and Economic Section
European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao*

**Wednesday, 25 April 2012, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Theatre 2, G/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong**

Chair: Professor C.L. Lim

The European Union (EU) with its 27 members and 500 million plus citizens is a leading trading bloc and the world's largest single market with transparent rules and regulations. The EU's 27 members account for 19% of global imports and exports and the EU is actively seeking to improve conditions for trade and investment multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally. Mr. Amarasinha will discuss the EU's external trade policy, as contained in the "Trade, Growth and World Affairs" communication. Against the backdrop of the global financial crisis and changing economic environment Mr. Amarasinha will highlight ongoing trade negotiations involving the EU (including in Asia), as well as recent EU legislative initiatives. Mr. Amarasinha will also elaborate on the greater emphasis on effective enforcement of trade agreements and commitments, as set out in the "Trade, Growth and World Affairs" communication, including by recourse to dispute settlement and trade defence instruments, where warranted, illustrated by recent matters involving China and the United States.

Stefan Amarasinha is currently Head of the Trade and Economic Section of the European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao. From 1999-2010 he served as Administrator in the Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission (Brussels). From 1999-2004/2005 he represented the European Commission in negotiations and meetings at the WTO, OECD, and UNCTAD on Trade and Competition, Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) and was responsible for issues relating to the functioning and transparency of the WTO. He also served as Trade co-Chair of the OECD Joint Group on Trade and Competition. From 2004/2005-2010 he was involved in WTO dispute settlement, in particular disputes relating to subsidies (large civil aircraft) and export restraints (raw materials), and served as legal advisor and negotiator to various EU FTAs. Prior to joining the European Commission, he was in international law practice at Clifford Chance (London: 1998-99), the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Copenhagen: 1996-98) and the Danish Ministry of Interior (Copenhagen: 1993-95).

Mr. Amarasinha holds law degrees from the University of Copenhagen (1993) and Georgetown University (1996) (LL.M with distinction) where he studied as a Fulbright scholar. He has taught and lectured widely on issues relating to international economic law and EU affairs and is a Member of the International Trade Law and the Law of Foreign Investment Committees under the International Law Association (ILA).

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email Flora Leung at fkleung@hku.hk to reserve a place.**