

Evaluation of the Comprehensiveness and Efficiency of the Legal System of the World Trade Organization in Energy Trade Management with an Emphasis on Oil and Gas

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “However, despite oil and gas being essential commodities, they have never been seriously addressed within the most influential international trade organization...” is too broad. Consider citing WTO texts or data to support this strong claim.

While historical context is useful, the paragraph reciting the seven GATT rounds is disproportionately long. Consider condensing this historical overview and focusing more on how these rounds relate to energy trade.

The list from A to L of service types covered under GATS, while accurate, is too exhaustive for the article’s focus on oil and gas. Revise to include only directly relevant services (e.g., transport, financial, environmental).

The paragraph beginning “Intellectual property rights pertain to intellectual and creative innovations...” introduces a level of detail unnecessary for energy trade unless a link to energy technologies or oil/gas IP is explicitly made.

The authors mention “price dumping” without any example from the energy sector. Given oil markets are often accused of dumping, an example from OPEC or Russia would improve contextual understanding.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The authors state, “Fundamental deficiencies in the existing legal framework...” without referencing specific legal provisions. It would strengthen the argument to cite exact articles or compare with regional energy trade agreements like the Energy Charter Treaty.

The discussion of Article 10 (transparency) in GATT is important. However, the practical relevance of transparency in energy trade (e.g., subsidies or pricing data) is not discussed. Add examples of opacity in energy trade and its consequences.

The text asserts that GATT guarantees predictability via tariff ceilings. Consider discussing whether energy-producing states honor these commitments, or provide examples of violations.

The explanation of MFN and national treatment is strong. However, the sentence “The primary exceptions to this rule include...” should include examples (e.g., how oil-exporting countries treat neighboring versus distant WTO members).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.