

Abstract

The thesis deals with the analysis of the dispute settlement mechanism in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The present legal arrangements governing the relationship between the United Kingdom, as the first former member state, and the European Union entail a number of ambiguities in political and legal discourse. In order to obtain a comprehensive picture and achieve the research objective, the thesis also includes the Withdrawal Agreement and a selected new generation trade agreement, the EU-Korea Agreement, as part of its analysis. To achieve this objective, the thesis sets out to answer two research questions, that is (1) how the institutional provisions of the agreements involved in the system of dispute settlement differ from each other and, where applicable, from the provisions of standard trade agreements concluded by the EU, and (2) how the dispute settlement mechanism foreseen by the individual agreements differ from each other and, where applicable, from other dispute settlement mechanisms in EU trade agreements. By answering the research questions, the author tests the hypothesis of the persistence of EU influences on the dispute settlement system in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the similarity of this system to standard free trade agreements that the European Union concludes with third countries.