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Social Labelling Legislation

At the Global Crossroads of Trade and Labour

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***Social Labelling Legislation – At the Global
Crossroads of Trade and Labour,***

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245 pages.

Government-sponsored social labels constitute an interesting attempt to break the deadlock grown within the international organizations involved in particular WTO and ILO in order to effectively deal with minimum social standards through trade-related measures.

Human rights, social rights, WTO rules, corporate social responsibility, globalization, extraterritoriality and international dispute settlement are some keywords to describe the important content of this book.

What is the impact of social labels? Can a country be accused of unilateralism when implementing international labour norms through its trading schemes? How restrictive can such a trade measure be without denaturing labour standards? Can and should countries discriminate between goods premised upon invisible characteristics involved in the production process?

While using the example of the recently issued Belgian Law on Socially Responsible Production and its voluntary social labelling scheme, the author unravels the trade-labour nexus, chases away some jurisprudential fog that surrounds it, highlights the importance of problems of international forum choice in addressing it and, finally, suggests a way forward through a variety of inter-institutional arrangements and reforms.

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