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**OF TIES AND STRINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS
AT THE SEMI-PERIPHERY OF CENTRAL EUROPE**

**Darina Macková
School of Law, University of Kent, UK**

The present global economic system puts most of the countries into a web of complex relations, assigning them hierarchically specific economic and power status. Countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, while being part of the EU as a global „core“, play an economically peripheral role within the Union itself. Except of corresponding pressures, this semi-peripheral position provides for a unique resistance potential – stemming from proximity and importance to the (EU) „core“, comparable know-how (including legal expertise) and (albeit diminishing and often fragmented) „collective memory“ of the state-socialist past (as direct experience of the fact „it can be otherwise“, challenging *post-1990* realities designed according to neoliberal doctrine).

As demonstrated by *Achmea case* (C-284/16 of the European Court of Justice) protecting the *principle of sincere cooperation* at least within the EU common market from pervasive and distortive ISDS mechanism, putting the rules and practices of IEL under the scrutiny of (Slovak and German) Constitutional and European Public Law, distinguishing between actual economic ties and manipulative (money-extortion) strings, defending the local and regional against the (predatory) global(ised), the tangible wealth-creation against speculative rent-seeking, public interest against corporate greed for (effortless) profits or – in broader terms – the human-and values-based economy against mechanisms of self-serving enrichment and limitless (foreign) resource drilling, several practical and doctrinal conclusions on role and nature of current IEL can be drawn.