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The EU as global Economic actor – Trade, Finance, Environmental and Climate policy

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Fakultät für
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Preface

The role of the European Union as an actor in international political economy has considerably increased in recent decades. The EU negotiates international economic agreements, represents Europe in international fora and organizations and is as a major trading block and currency area an international market power. However, the extent to which the EU is able to implement political and strategic goals and guiding principles in its external relations is still an open question. Whether the EU enjoys external “actorness” is a relevant issue not least against the background of the rise of populist, Euro-critical sentiments, and challenges posed by the financial-, climate-, refugee- or the latest Corona crises.

With the concept of actorness, this textbook takes issue with a debate that has been conducted with varying intensity over the past forty years in European integration research, international relations and international political economy. Thus, the book ties in with various fields of research and sub-disciplines within political science. In addition, the actorness perspective opens up the possibility of comparing the European Union with countries or other regional organizations.

Students of European integration, international politics or international political economy will become familiar with concepts and theoretical approaches suitable to the study of EU actorness. In addition, actorness will be analyzed in three economic policy areas such as trade, finance and environmental/climate policy. Students will learn more about historical developments, the institutional distribution of competences, the external representation of the EU as well as policy-specific negotiation processes.

First of all, I would like to thank Tobias Leeg, Daniel Otto and Vincent Woyames Dreher. All of them are experts in their respective fields of trade, finance and environmental policy. As academic researchers, university lecturers and as practitioners they are familiar with current policy problems related to European actorness.

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