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What if all trade was fair trade? The potential of a social clause to achieve the goals of fair trade

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Abstract

This paper focuses on one of the strategies proposed in the name of 'fair trade': the inclusion of social clauses in trade agreements. Although the social clauses could cover any non-economic aspect of trade exchanges, such as environment, they are more commonly used to protect labour rights. Although examined in other disciplines, this

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practices, the social clause should be better understood as an improvement of existing Ethical Trade initiatives.

Keywords: Social clause WTO Ethical Trade Fair Trade

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Notes

1. <http://www.eiro.eurofound.eu.int/2000/12/feature/eu0012286f.html>

2. http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/publ/policy/brussels_traffpaper2002.pdf

<http://www.globalmarch.org/worstformsreport/world/europe-region.html>

http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/brief_e/brief16_e.htm

FINE is an alliance of FLO (Fair Trade Labelling Organisation), IFAT (International Federation of Alternative Trades), NEWS (Network of European World Shops), and EFTA (European Fair Trade Association).

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