

Foreign Investment, International Law and Common Concerns

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1 15 Foreign Investments in the 2 Offshore Energy Industry

3 Investment Protection v. Energy Security 4 v. Protection of the Marine Environment

5 *Seline Trevisanut*

6 15.1 Introduction

7 The offshore energy sector has greatly expanded in the last 20 years. The
8 reasons are manifold. Technological development has allowed exploiting
9 resources located deeper and farther away from the coast. Concerns for the
10 environmental consequences of fossil fuels' exploitation and for their deple-
11 tion have caused an increase in the exploitation of offshore natural gas and
12 the development of offshore renewable energy sources. The offshore energy
13 industry is a major sector of foreign investments. For example, the Sakhalin
14 Island, located on the Russian Pacific coast and very rich in offshore oil
15 and gas, is with Moscow the leading destination for foreign investment in
16 Russia.¹

17 Offshore energy projects touch upon several fields of international law:
18 law of the sea, environmental law, economic international law and interna-
19 tional energy law. They implicate multiple jurisdictions, with the location of
20 the resource, the path of the distribution system, the source of the capital/
21 investment and the final destination of the product. Investments in offshore
22 energy projects do not consist only of the installation or structure, but
23 include also the distribution system. The two are not necessarily located
24 within the jurisdiction of a single coastal state.²

25 Another peculiarity of offshore energy projects is the close connections
26 between them in the event of a major incident. Take the incident of the

1 R.N. Dean and M.P. Barry, 'A Conflict of Interest for Russia: Offshore Oil vs. the Problems of Environmental Regulation', in M.H. Nordquist, J.N. Moore and A.S. Skaridov (eds), *International Energy Policy, the Arctic and the Law of the Sea*, Leiden/Boston: Martinus Nijhoff, 2005, p. 215. See also the UNCTAD, *World Investment Report 2012: Towards a New Generation of Investment Policies*, Geneva, 2012, p. 57. Online. Available: http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DIAE/World%20Investment%20Report/WIR2012_WebFlyer.aspx (accessed 1 October 2012).

2 The distribution system and the consequent transit of energy pose problems which are not discussed here. On the issue, see *inter alia* L. Ehring and Y. Selivanova, 'Energy Transit', in Y. Selivanova (ed.), *Regulation of Energy in International Trade Law, WTO, NAFTA and Energy Charter*, Alphen aan den Rijn: Kluwer Law International, 2011, pp. 49 ff.

1 Deepwater Horizon – a 350 million USD offshore oil-drilling rig, which
 2 operated more than 1,500 m deep in the Gulf of Mexico. Following an
 3 explosion in April 2010, killing 11 crewmembers, the rig sank and an oil spill
 4 affected more than 1,000 km of coastline. It severely damaged the environ-
 5 ment, caused immense costs for the private economy in the region, and
 6 continues to weigh heavily on the public budget.³ The National Commission
 7 on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling pointed out
 8 that this disaster ‘stopped all drilling in the Gulf for a period of time and cost
 9 virtually all oil and gas companies involved in that region a great deal of
 10 money’.⁴ Not only the marine environment, but also the other investments
 11 in the area of a major disaster are at stake and might suffer serious conse-
 12 quences from it.

13 The present chapter wants to identify and discuss the legal challenges
 14 posed by the offshore energy industry in the light of the relevant interna-
 15 tional legal framework, which is fragmented among the different fields of
 16 international law mentioned above, and among different sectors of activities
 17 (e.g., oil and gas industry, renewable energy). It aims to assess the inade-
 18 quacy of such a legal framework in order to deal with the protection of three
 19 common concerns, which are threatened by the existing situation: the
 20 protection of marine environment, energy security, and the protection of
 21 foreign investments in offshore energy projects.

22 The increasing participation of private investors in the offshore energy
 23 sector raises some specific problems. As has been pointed out: ‘Contracts
 24 between energy companies and host governments are unique transactions.
 25 The duration of energy contracts and risk exposure is long-term, capital invest-
 26 ment is intensive, and the project risk (geological, commercial, and political)
 27 is particularly acute’.⁵ This statement is particularly salient concerning
 28 offshore energy production where the investor bears considerable costs
 29 before the beginning of the production: the study for locating and estimating
 30 the resource; the construction of the platform or installation which cannot be
 31 used anywhere else; the construction of pipelines or other distribution
 32 system.⁶ On the other side, the host state often fears that the firm operating

3 See, *inter alia*, R. Abeyratne, ‘The Deepwater Horizon Disaster – Some Liability Issues’, *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*, 2010, vol. 35, p. 125.

4 National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, *Industry’s Role in Supporting Health, Safety, and Environmental Standards: Options and Models for the Offshore Oil and Gas Sector*, Staff Working Paper No. 9, p. 13. Online. Available: <http://www.oilspillcommission.gov> (accessed 1 October 2012). US President Barack Obama established this Commission through the Executive Order 13543 on 21 May 2010.

5 M. Flores, ‘A Practical Approach to Allocating Environmental Liability and Stabilizing Foreign Investment in the Energy Sectors of Developing Countries’, *Colorado Journal of Environmental Law and Policy*, 2001, vol. 12, p. 147.

6 P.B. Stephan, ‘Energy Development and Distribution – What Can the Law Do?’, in Nordquist, Moore, and Skaridov (eds), *op. cit.*, p. 202.

1 the structure will hide or steal part of the production. The private investor
 2 wants to render its investment as valuable as possible and at the same time
 3 protect its assets, the host state wants to have guarantees concerning the
 4 implementation of the investment, which is of fundamental importance for
 5 its economy as well as its energy security.

6 The chief concern for energy security is vulnerability to disruption of
 7 energy supply,⁷ which concerns net energy importers, of energy demand,
 8 which concerns net energy exporters, and of receiving a reasonable return
 9 on investment, which concerns transit countries.⁸ More specifically, the chief
 10 concern for energy security is vulnerability to politically motivated disruption:
 11 ‘Political turmoil, armed conflict, terrorism, piracy, natural disasters,
 12 nationalism and geo-political rivalry threaten to various degrees to interrupt
 13 the everyday trade in oil, natural gas, coal and electricity’.⁹ The existing legal
 14 framework gives little guarantees against such risks, which are usually dealt
 15 with following ‘an investment protection approach’, but not an energy security
 16 approach.

17 Offshore energy projects have moreover a considerable impact on the
 18 marine environment, of whose protection the coastal state is in charge under
 19 international law. The main impacts of offshore oil and gas industry on the
 20 marine environment include tanker spills (daily and incidental), discharge of
 21 drilling muds and cuttings, pipelines (oil spills), and seismic surveys (effects
 22 on marine mammals).¹⁰ Even if the renewable energy sector is a very important
 23 tool for mitigating climate change effects and for ensuring energy supply
 24 by replacing fossil fuels, it has a considerable impact on the marine environment.¹¹
 25 For instance, the construction of barrages and dams can affect other
 26 uses of the coastal area such as navigation and fisheries as well as the natural
 27 habitat of the local species. Furthermore, some renewable energy technologies

7 The possible disruption of energy supply is even more problematic if the always increasing need of energy is taken into consideration. According to the World Energy Outlook 2010, the global demand for primary energy will be, by 2035, 36 per cent higher than in 2008. See IEA, *World Energy Outlook 2010*, Paris, p. 77. Online. Available: <http://www.worldenergy-outlook.org/media/weo2010.pdf> (accessed 1 October 2012). Similar, but slightly diverging, projections have been elaborated by ExxonMobil: ‘Global energy demand will be about 30 percent higher in 2040 compared to 2010’: see ExxonMobil, *2012 The Outlook for Energy: A view to 2040*, p. 1. Online. Available: http://www.exxonmobil.com/Corporate/files/news_pub_eo.pdf (accessed 1 October 2012).

8 G. Coop, ‘Preface’ to ‘The Energy Charter Treaty’s Investor Protection Provisions: Potential to Foster Solutions to Global Warming and Promote Sustainable Development’, in M.-C. Cordonier Segger, M.W. Gehring and A. Newcombe (eds), *Sustainable Development in World Investment Law*, Alphen aan de Rijn: Kluwer Law International, 2011, p. 511.

9 OECD, *Competition, International Investment and Energy Security*, December 2007, p. 2. Online. Available: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/3/19/40699061.pdf> (accessed 1 October 2012).

10 Dean and Barry, op. cit., pp. 221 ff.

11 R. Pelc and R.M. Fujita, ‘Renewable Energy from the Ocean’, *Marine Policy*, 2002, vol. 26, p. 471.

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1 use pollutant elements, such as ammoniac,¹² whose impact on the environ-
2 ment has not yet been completely assessed.

3 In order to gauge how these three common concerns find a balance and
4 consider if one of them should prevail, the following analysis falls into three
5 main sections. Section 15.2 gives a brief and not exhaustive overview of the
6 relevant legal framework. Section 15.3 critically discusses the main chal-
7 lenges posed by the offshore energy industry in light of recent technological
8 and normative developments. Section 15.4 presents some concluding
9 remarks, which suggest ‘an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectorial
10 approach’¹³ to the offshore energy sector in order to find a balance between
11 the protection of foreign investments, the protection of the marine environ-
12 ment and energy security.

13 **15.2 Regulating the Offshore Energy Industry**

14 The offshore energy sector touches upon four main fields of international
15 law: the law of the sea because of its physical location; environmental law
16 because of its impact on the marine environment; investment law because it
17 is an economic sector that highly attracts foreign investments; and, quite
18 self-evidently, energy law. The interplay of these sectors is not necessarily
19 conflicting. To the contrary, common and supportive tools exist in the law of
20 the sea and environmental law (section 15.2.1). In addition, energy law has
21 developed in close connection with investment law (section 15.2.2).

22 **15.2.1 Law of the Sea and International** 23 **Environmental Law**

24 Considered the ‘Constitution for the oceans’,¹⁴ the United Nations Convention
25 on the Law of the Sea (LOSC)¹⁵ is supposed to set out ‘the legal framework
26 within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.’¹⁶ The

12 For example, the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) harnesses the solar energy stored in the ocean’s waters by using the temperature difference between warm surface water and cold deep water to spin a turbine and generator. The warm seawater heats a fluid with a low boiling point, such as ammonia. OTEC impacts the surrounding marine environment by heating the water, which might induce algal growth and changes in the microclimate, and by eventually releasing toxic chemicals. See Pelc and Fujita, *op. cit.*, p. 473; M. Tsamenyi and M. Herriman, ‘Ocean Energy and the Law of the Sea: The Need for a Protocol’, *Ocean Development and International Law*, 1998, vol. 29, p. 9.

13 *Oceans and the Law of the Sea*, UNGA resolution 60/30, 8 March 2006, p. 2.

14 See the remarks by the President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Tommy T.B. Koh, at the final session of the Conference, on 6 and 11 December 1982. Online. Available: http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm (accessed 1 October 2012).

15 Entered into force 16 November 1994.

16 See *Oceans and the Law of the Sea*, UN Doc. A./RES/62/215, 22 December 2008.

1 LOSC does not of course regulate all maritime activities. It divides the
 2 oceans into multi-jurisdictional zones:¹⁷ internal waters and territorial sea,
 3 the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), the continental
 4 shelf, high seas and the area of the deep seabed. It affirms and regulates the
 5 rights and obligations of states in each zone. It creates a legal framework
 6 which is not rooted exclusively in the concept of sovereignty and in its
 7 extension over adjacent maritime areas, but which is also anchored in the
 8 notion of jurisdiction, specifically of functional jurisdiction;¹⁸ that is, the
 9 exercise of jurisdiction in areas where states do not have full sovereignty and
 10 which is functional to the implementation of rights and duties provided by
 11 the LOSC.

12 Offshore energy projects can be located in territorial waters, on the conti-
 13 nental shelf or in the EEZ. In territorial waters, the coastal state fully exer-
 14 cises its sovereignty (Art. 2 LOSC). The continental shelf is the submerged
 15 prolongation of the coastal state's landmass (Art. 76 LOSC), where the coastal
 16 state exercises 'sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting its
 17 natural resources' (Art. 77.1 LOSC, emphasis added). Those rights 'do not
 18 depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclama-
 19 tion' (Art. 77.3 LOSC). In the EEZ, after due proclamation, the coastal state
 20 exercises 'sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting,
 21 conserving and managing the natural resources, *whether living or non-living*,
 22 of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and
 23 with regard to *other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of*
 24 *the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds*'
 25 (Art. 56.1(a) LOSC, emphasis added).¹⁹

26 The meaning of 'sovereign rights' remains unclear,²⁰ except that it is
 27 something less than full sovereignty.²¹ In fact, as far as the EEZ is concerned,
 28 sovereign rights do not exist without an explicit proclamation of the zone.
 29 Moreover, in the EEZ foreign states continue to enjoy the freedoms of the
 30 high seas (Art. 58 LOSC), among which 'the freedom to construct artificial
 31 islands, and other installations permitted under international law, subject to

17 Y. Tanaka, *A Dual Approach to Ocean Governance*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2008, p. 5.

18 M. Gavouneli, *Functional Jurisdiction in the Law of the Sea*, Leiden: Martinus Nijhoff, 2007;
 W. Riphagen, 'Some Reflections on "Functional Sovereignty"', *Netherlands Yearbook of
 International Law*, 1975, vol. 6, pp. 121 ff.

19 Offshore energy projects could also be located in areas beyond national jurisdiction, i.e. on
 the high seas (Arts 86 ff. LOSC) and in the Area of the deep seabed (Arts 133 ff. LOSC).
 However, the existing technology does not allow yet the realization of projects in those areas
 and, consequently, their legal framework is not analysed in the present chapter.

20 Gavouneli, op. cit., p. 64.

21 Ibid. According to the International Law Commission, these rights include 'all rights neces-
 sary for and connected with the exploitation of the continental shelf [including] jurisdiction
 in connection with the prevention and punishment of violations of the law'; as reported in
 R.R. Churchill and A.V. Lowe, *The Law of the Sea*, 3rd edition, Manchester: Manchester
 University Press, 1999, p. 151.

1 Part VI [on the continental shelf]' (Art. 87.1(d) LOSC). The sovereign rights
 2 of the coastal state are limited *ratione materiae* to the economic exploration
 3 and exploitation of the natural resources of its continental shelf and its EEZ.²²

4 Within their EEZ and continental shelf, coastal states have an 'exclusive
 5 right to construct and to authorize and regulate the construction, operation
 6 and use of: a) artificial islands; b) installations and structures for the purposes
 7 provided for in Art. 56 and other economic activities' (Arts 60.1 and 80).
 8 Over the continental shelf, coastal states have sovereign rights 'for the
 9 purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing' 'the mineral
 10 and other non-living resources of the seabed and subsoil together with living
 11 organisms belonging to sedentary species' (Art. 77 LOSC). Coastal states
 12 also have 'the exclusive right to authorize and regulate drilling on the conti-
 13 nental shelf for all purposes' (Art. 81 LOSC).

14 Coastal states have a duty to protect and preserve the marine environment
 15 in relation to the exploration, development, and production of non-living
 16 resources (Arts 194, 208, 214). They have a duty to ensure that pollution
 17 arising from activities within their jurisdiction and control does not extend
 18 beyond those areas (Art. 194). If there is an imminent risk of damage to the
 19 marine environment, the coastal state has an obligation to notify any other
 20 state, which might be affected by such damage (Art. 198). The LOSC simi-
 21 larly provides for the protection of the marine environment from activities
 22 in the area of the deep seabed (Arts 145, 209, 215, 221 LOSC).

23 Art. 208 of the LOSC regulates the prevention, reduction and control of the
 24 pollution from seabed activities subject to national jurisdiction, for instance
 25 the pollution generated by the offshore extractive industry located in the EEZ
 26 or continental shelf. Coastal states are required to adopt laws, regulations and
 27 measures that 'shall be no less effective than *international rules, standards and*
 28 *recommended practices and procedures*' (Art. 208.3, emphasis added).²³ Moreover,
 29 states, 'acting especially through *competent international organizations or diplo-*
 30 *matic conference*, shall establish global and regional rules, standards and

22 Y. Tanaka, *The International Law of the Sea*, Cambridge: CUP, 2012, p. 126. Tanaka also recalls Art. 2 of the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf: 'The rights referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article [sovereign rights] are exclusive in the sense that if the coastal state does not explore the continental shelf or exploit its natural resources, no one may undertake these activities, or make a claim to the continental shelf, without the express consent of the coastal state'; *ibid.*, p. 127.

23 The LOSC does not define concepts such as 'international rules', 'standards' and 'recommended practices and procedures', which remain vague also in practice. See Churchill and Lowe, *op. cit.*, p. 346; B. Oxman, 'The duty to Respect Generally Accepted International Standards', *New York University Journal of International Law and Politics*, 1991-92, vol. 24, pp. 109 ff.; S. Trevisanut, 'La Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer et le droit de l'environnement : développement intrasystémique et renvoi intersystémique', in H. Ruiz Fabri and L. Gradoni (eds), *La circulation des concepts juridiques : le droit international de l'environnement entre mondialisation et fragmentation*, Paris: Société de législation comparée, 2009, pp. 416 ff.

1 recommended practices and procedures to prevent, reduce and control pollu-
 2 tion of the marine environment referred to in paragraph I' (Art. 208.5, empha-
 3 sis added). This provision builds an important bridge between the LOSC and
 4 other relevant normative sources, which do not necessarily generate from trea-
 5 ties but derive from the work of relevant actors, such as international organiza-
 6 tions, diplomatic conferences, and professional associations which develop
 7 recommendations and best practices in a specific economic sector.

8 Art. 237 of the LOSC consists of a specific compatibility clause between the
 9 convention and obligations deriving from other agreements on the protection
 10 and preservation of the marine environment.²⁴ This provision facilitates the
 11 application of the LOSC in the relevant normative context and of environmen-
 12 tal law instruments in the context of marine environment protection.²⁵ Many
 13 international instruments are relevant for the protection of the marine environ-
 14 ment in the context of offshore activities. Leaving aside the regional mechanisms
 15 of cooperation,²⁶ it is worth noticing that there are no specific instruments regu-
 16 lating the pollution generated by the offshore industry. There are instruments
 17 tackling a particular source of pollution and its consequences, e.g. the 1972
 18 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of
 19 Waste and Other Matter and the 1996 Protocol thereto,²⁷ the 1969 Convention
 20 on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage²⁸ and the 1971 Convention on the
 21 Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution
 22 Damage.²⁹ There are then instruments which regulate wider questions relevant
 23 for the protection of the environment and which provide for specific obligations
 24 concerning the protection of the marine environment. For instance, the 1991
 25 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
 26 (Espoo Convention)³⁰ and the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and

24 Art. 237 LOSC: '1. The provisions of this Part are without prejudice to the specific obliga-
 tions assumed by States under special conventions and agreements concluded previously
 which relate to the protection and preservation of the marine environment and to agree-
 ments which may be concluded in furtherance of the general principles set forth in this
 Convention. 2. Specific obligations assumed by States under special conventions, with
 respect to the protection and preservation of the marine environment, should be carried out
 in a manner consistent with the general principles and objectives of this Convention.'

25 Trevisanut, *op. cit.*, pp. 414 ff.

26 See above, note 5; see also the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public
 Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters of the
 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, entered into force 30 October 2001.
 Online. Available: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/> (accessed 1 December 2012).

27 Respectively entered into force 30 August 1975 and 24 March 2006.

28 Entered into force 19 June 1975, being replaced by 1992 Protocol, entered into force
 30 May 1996.

29 Entered into force 16 October 1978, superseded by 1992 Protocol, entered into force
 30 May 1996.

30 Entered into force 10 September 1997.

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1 Development³¹ contain an obligation of environmental impact assessment,
 2 which applies to the offshore sector. The United Nations Framework Convention
 3 on Climate Change (UNFCCC)³² and the 1992 Convention on Biological
 4 Diversity (CBD)³³ apply in areas submitted to the jurisdiction of the coastal state,
 5 i.e. its continental shelf and EEZ, and integrate principles such as the precaution-
 6 ary principle and the sustainable development in the context at stake.³⁴

7 **15.2.2 International Investment and Energy Law**

8 Foreign investments in the offshore energy sector are submitted to interna-
 9 tional investment law just like any other foreign investment. The relevant
 10 bilateral investment treaties (BITs) are thus applicable (when natural
 11 resources are not expressly excluded from their scope of application),³⁵ as
 12 well as multilateral investment treaties and investments chapters in free trade
 13 agreements, which are discussed in detail in other chapters of the present
 14 volume.³⁶ However, because of the specificities of the energy sector high-
 15 lighted in the Introduction, in particular the longevity of the investment, the
 16 important costs investors bear before getting any profit, the strategic impor-
 17 tance of the energy sector for states, and the consequent need for stability in
 18 the relationship between the investors and the host states,³⁷ some instruments
 19 contain dedicated chapters, such as the North American Free Trade
 20 Agreement (NAFTA),³⁸ and there also exists a dedicated instrument, i.e. the
 21 Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).³⁹

- 31 UNGA, *Report on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Annex I, doc. A/CONF.151/26 (vol. I), 12 August 1992.
- 32 Entered into force on 21 March 1994. The role of climate change instruments in encouraging the development of the sector of the offshore renewable energy sector is analysed below, see *infra* section 15.2.2.
- 33 Entered into force 29 December 1993.
- 34 In general, on the relationship between multilateral environmental treaties (MEAs) and the investment sector, see in this volume the chapter by F. Romanin Jacur.
- 35 For instance, investments in natural resources are excluded from protection under the BITs concluded by Russia; see S. Nappert and F. Ortino, 'International Resolution of Energy Trade and Investment Disputes', in Selivanova (ed.), op. cit., p. 318.
- 36 See, in particular, in this volume the chapter by M. Potestà.
- 37 Y. Selivanova, 'The Energy Charter and the International Energy Governance', in Selivanova (ed.), op. cit., p. 381.
- 38 Entered into force 1 January 1994; see Chapter 11 on investment and Chapter 6 NAFTA on the exploration, production and distribution of energy goods. For a comment, see R. Rios Herrán and P. Poretti, 'Energy Trade and Investment under the North American Free Trade Agreement', in Selivanova (ed.), op. cit., pp. 335 ff. Some other regional integration processes deal directly with trade and investment in energy: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR); Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).
- 39 Entered into force 16 April 1998. The ECT regulates investments but also the trade and transit of energy. The present contribution is focusing only on the ECT provisions dealing

1 Under Chapter 6 of NAFTA, ‘energy and basic petrochemical goods refer
 2 to those goods classified under the Harmonized System’ (Art. 602.2), which
 3 also includes electricity. However, Chapter 6 of NAFTA does not cover
 4 energy-related goods, such as equipment used in the different segments of
 5 the energy industry, from exploration and drilling machineries, to refining
 6 and electrical equipment, to wind and solar energy equipment, such as
 7 turbines and solar-voltaic panels.⁴⁰ Conversely, the scope of investment
 8 protection under the ECT is wider in view of the definitions of ‘economic
 9 activity in the energy sector’ and ‘investments’ (Art. 1 paras 5–6 ECT). In
 10 fact, the former means ‘an economic activity concerning the exploration,
 11 extraction, refining, production, storage, land transport, transmission, distri-
 12 bution, trade, marketing, or sale of energy materials and products’,⁴¹ and
 13 also the ‘construction and operation of power generation facilities, including
 14 those powered by wind and other renewable energy sources’.⁴²
 15 Art 18.1 of the ECT recognizes ‘state sovereignty and sovereign rights
 16 over energy resources’. The ECT also clearly states that it ‘shall in no way
 17 prejudice the rules in Contracting Parties governing the system of property
 18 ownership of energy resources’ (Art. 18.2). This affirmation originates from
 19 the doctrine of the permanent sovereignty over natural resources.⁴³ It does
 20 not add anything to what has already been secured under international law⁴⁴
 21 with, in particular, UN General Assembly’s resolutions 1803, 3201 and
 22 3281,⁴⁵ and the above mentioned LOSC provisions. The meaning of the
 23 expression ‘energy resources’ is however not specified. This might be prob-
 24 lematic in order to apply the ECT to renewable energy technologies, which
 25 use natural elements, such as water, wind and sun, as energy resources.

with the protection of foreign investments (Part III on Investment Promotion and Protection) and of the environment (Art. 19).

40 Those goods can eventually fall under the definition of investment contained in Art. 1139 NAFTA. See Rios Herrán and Poretti, *op. cit.*, pp. 350 ff.

41 See Annex EM, Energy Materials and Products (in accordance with Art. 1(4)), which lists energy materials and products: nuclear energy (e.g., uranium, other radioactive chemical element, heavy water), coal, natural gas, petroleum, petroleum products and electrical energy.

42 Final Act of the European Energy Charter Conference, para. IV.2(ii). Online. Available: http://www.encharter.org/fileadmin/user_upload/document/EN.pdf#page=55 (accessed 12 December 2012).

43 For a general discussion on the topic, see R. Barnes, *Property Rights and Natural Resources*, Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2009; N. Schijver, *Sovereignty over Natural Resources: Balancing Rights and Duties*, Cambridge: CUP, 2007.

44 See P.D. Cameron, *International Energy Investment Law, The pursuit of Stability*, Oxford: OUP, 2010, p. 30.

45 Respectively, Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources, UNGA resolution 1803 (XVII), 14 December 1962; UN Declaration on the Establishment of a New Economic Order, UNGA resolution 3201 (S-6), 1 May 1974; Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, UNGA resolution 3281 (XXIX), 12 December 1974.

1 The exercise of sovereignty over energy resources entails duties.⁴⁶ The
 2 ECT Preamble recognizes ‘the necessity for the most efficient exploration,
 3 production, conversion, storage, transport, distribution and use of energy’,
 4 recalls the UNFCCC and ‘other international environmental agreements’
 5 with energy-related aspects’, and recognizes ‘the increasingly urgent need
 6 for measures to protect the environment, including the decommissioning of
 7 energy installations and waste disposal, and for internationally-agreed objec-
 8 tives and criteria for these purposes.’ Concerning environmental issues, on
 9 the one hand, Art. 19 provides that ‘each contracting party strive to mini-
 10 mize, in an economic efficient manner, harmful environmental impacts
 11 resulting from all operations within the energy cycle in its area’. The
 12 Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects
 13 (PEEREA), on the other hand, obliges the contracting parties to formulate
 14 policies for improving energy efficiency and reducing adverse negative envi-
 15 ronmental impact of energy production or use.⁴⁷

16 Pursuant to Art. 27.2 of the ECT, the remedy of inter-state arbitration is not
 17 available for disputes arising from the interpretation of ECT provisions concern-
 18 ing environmental issues, i.e. Art. 19, unless the parties decide otherwise.
 19 The eventual damaged investor can anyway resort to investor–state arbitra-
 20 tion, according to Art. 26 of the ECT.⁴⁸ This remedy is particularly impor-
 21 tant in the energy sector where most investments are made on the basis of
 22 individual contracts between the investor and the state. Under the ECT, a
 23 breach of an individual investment contract by the host country becomes a
 24 violation of the treaty itself (Art. 10(1)).⁴⁹ This is particularly important in
 25 relation to the protection of investors in ‘clean energy projects’, which are
 26 largely based on local support scheme or governmental incentives.⁵⁰ In the
 27 light of the considerable governmental presence and the long-term nature of
 28 energy projects, stabilization clauses play a major role in energy contracts.⁵¹

46 Schrijver, *op. cit.*, p. 168. Concerning the duties of states in relation to expropriation, see in this volume the chapter by P. Vargiu.

47 Schrijver, *op. cit.*, p. 388.

48 For an extensive analysis of the practice in the field of investor–state arbitration, see in this volume the chapter by S.W. Schill.

49 Australia, Hungary and Norway have opted out from the application of this provision in compliance with Arts 26 and 27 ECT; see Selivanova, *op. cit.*, p. 386.

50 E. Sussman, ‘The Energy Charter Treaty’s Investor Protection Provisions: Potential to Foster Solutions to Global Warming and Promote Sustainable Development’, *Oil, Gas and Energy Law*, 2008, vol. 6, pp. 9 ff. Multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, and other institutions, such as the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, increasingly condition the funding of energy projects on the satisfaction of various environmental criteria. They then increase the ‘public presence’ in energy investments. See Dean and Barry, *op. cit.*, pp. 231 ff. See also, in this volume the chapters by L. Boisson de Chazournes and S. De Maria.

51 On stabilization clauses in general, see *inter alia* L. Cotula, ‘Stabilization Clauses and the Evolution of Environmental Standards in Foreign Investment Contracts’, *Yearbook of*

1 In particular, energy contracts contain ‘hybrid-stabilization clauses’, which
 2 are ‘a combination of freezing clauses with adaptation mechanisms’.⁵² In the
 3 event that the host government imposes new and unforeseeable environ-
 4 mental regulations, the hybrid-stabilization clause would allow the investor
 5 to receive an additional amount of the produced resource to compensate for
 6 any economic loss incurred as the result of the changed environmental liability.
 7 The clause can be considered a ‘re-negotiation clause’ that obliges each party
 8 to negotiate in good faith to restore the agreement’s original equilibrium.⁵³
 9 Only after such a re-negotiation, would the parties be allowed to resort to
 10 arbitration.

11 **15.3 The Challenges Posed by the Offshore Energy** 12 **Industry**

13 Problems of compatibility between legal obligations in the offshore energy
 14 sector raise issues which are not different from those in the energy sector
 15 in general and in other investment sectors.⁵⁴ The offshore energy sector
 16 however poses today two specific challenges. First, conflicts of norms and of
 17 enforcement powers may rise when dealing with an investment located in a
 18 disputed maritime area or concerning disputed resources (section 15.3.1).
 19 Second, the renewable energy sector is expanding, but the legal framework
 20 within which such a development takes place is far from clear (section 15.3.2).

21 **15.3.1 Offshore Energy Investments Located in Disputed** 22 **Maritime Areas or Concerning Disputed Resources**

23 Many international disputes arise from conflicts over resources. In some
 24 cases, the dispute focuses on the lack of delimitation between the maritime
 25 zones of adjacent states;⁵⁵ in others, the disagreement mainly concerns the

International Environmental Law, 2006, vol. 17, pp. 111–38; R. Dolzer and C. Schreuer, *Principles of International Investment Law*, Oxford: OUP, 2008, pp. 75 ff.; W. Peter, ‘Stabilization clauses in state contracts’, *Revue de droit des affaires internationales*, 1998, vol. 1998, pp. 875–91.

52 Flores, op. cit., p. 161.

53 Ibid.

54 See M. Hirsch, ‘Interactions Between Investment and Non-Investment Obligations’, in P. Muchlinski, F. Ortino and C. Schreuer (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of International Investment Law*, Oxford: OUP, 2008, p. 156. In this volume, see in particular the chapters by G. Bigi, S. Brugnatelli, C. Pitea and A. Tanzi.

55 Among the many cases and agreements in the field of maritime delimitation, see *Land and Maritime Boundary Between Cameroon and Nigeria, Cameroon v. Nigeria*, ICJ, Judgment, 10 October 2002, specifically paras 303 ff; Convention sur la délimitation de la mer territoriale et de la zone contiguë dans le golfe de Gascogne (golfe de Biscaye) et sur la délimitation des plateaux continentaux des deux Etats dans le golfe de Gascogne (golfe de Biscaye), entered into force 5 May 1975.

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1 exploitation of a resource, which straddles the settled maritime boundary;⁵⁶
 2 and sometimes, the dispute is about both, the delimitation and the straddling
 3 resources.⁵⁷

4 The legal status of the zone in which the investment takes place has of
 5 course fundamental importance in determining the applicable legal frame-
 6 work. If the zone and the resource in question are not disputed, the coastal
 7 state will exercise its sovereign rights (and duties), as analysed above.⁵⁸ If the
 8 area or resource are disputed and the parties have not reached any final
 9 agreement about the delimitation or about the exploitation of the resources,
 10 it might be complicated for the investor to understand which state can
 11 lawfully grant the useful licences, and which domestic law and which BITs
 12 regulate the investment.

13 Two situations must be distinguished. First, two adjacent or opposite states
 14 have overlapping claims on a maritime area and have not yet settled the
 15 delimitation dispute. Second, two adjacent or opposite states have agreed on
 16 the delimitation of their respective maritime zones but not on the use of the
 17 resources, which straddle their border.

18 In the first situation, pursuant to Arts 74.3 and 83.3 of the LOSC, parties
 19 have the obligation to seek to enter into ‘provisional arrangements of practi-
 20 cal nature’ and, pending the adoption of the final agreement, parties have
 21 also the obligation ‘not to jeopardize or hamper the reaching of the
 22 agreement’.⁵⁹ The 2007 *Guyana v. Suriname* case focused specifically on the
 23 interpretation and application of these two obligations.⁶⁰ In the case at stake,
 24 Guyana and Suriname had not reached any provisional arrangement and
 25 they both patrolled, issued fishing licences and granted concessions for oil
 26 and gas exploration and exploitation in the area of overlapping claims.⁶¹
 27 Until, one day, Suriname used its navy to oblige an oil rig and drill ship

56 See, *inter alia*, 1979 Joint Zone Agreement between Malaysia and Thailand; 1995 Joint Declaration on Co-operation over Offshore Activities in the South West Atlantic between the United Kingdom and Argentina, whose application was officially suspended in March 2007; 2001 Memorandum of Understanding between Australia and the UN Transitional Administration of East Timor. It is worth noticing that in the two latter cases, the dispute concerned the exercise of sovereignty on the disputed zone, as a consequence of the disputed sovereignty on land and of the application of the well-established principle ‘the land dominates the sea’ (*North Sea Continental Shelf*, *Germany v. Denmark*, *Germany v. Netherlands*, ICJ, Judgment, 20 February 1968, para. 96).

57 *North Sea Continental Shelf* cases, *op. cit.*

58 See *supra* section 15.2.1.

59 For a detailed analysis of Arts 74.3 and 83.3 LOSC, see E. Milano and I. Papanicolopulu, ‘State Responsibility in Disputed Areas on Land and Sea’, *Zeitschrift für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht*, 2011, vol. 71, pp. 611–18.

60 *Guyana v. Suriname*, PCA, Award 17 September 2007, para. 460. Online. Available: http://www.pca-cpa.org/showpage.asp?pag_id=1147 (accessed 1 December 2012).

61 *Ibid.*, paras 137 ff., *spec.* para. 149.

1 (whose presence was authorized by Guyana) to leave the contested area.⁶²
 2 Economic activities in the area had then to be suspended, pending the adop-
 3 tion of a final decision, with subsequent losses for the investors.⁶³

4 The arbitral tribunal found that, pending the adoption of a final agree-
 5 ment, the interested states can unilaterally perform activities in the disputed
 6 areas, but those activities should not have a ‘permanent physical impact on
 7 the marine environment’,⁶⁴ if they do, such as the exploratory drilling
 8 authorized by Guyana, they are not allowed because they violate the obliga-
 9 tion not to jeopardize or hamper the reaching of the agreement.

10 Besides setting limits to the unilateralism, the arbitral tribunal also stressed
 11 that ‘[provisional arrangements of a practical nature] promote the realization
 12 of one of the objectives of the Convention [i.e., LOSC], the equitable and
 13 efficient utilization of the resources of the seas and oceans’.⁶⁵ States parties
 14 to the dispute do not have an obligation to reach an agreement, but they
 15 have an obligation to seek it, i.e. to engage in negotiations in good faith.
 16 Those provisional arrangements of practical nature are mainly seen as
 17 means for regulating economic activities in the contested areas and they can
 18 also consist of mutually agreed abstention from undertaking any activity.⁶⁶
 19 State practice shows that these provisional arrangements can consist of
 20 formal agreements but also of not-formalized *modus vivendi*.⁶⁷

21 The provisional arrangements can in particular take the form of joint
 22 development agreements, which are also the main available option in order
 23 to settle the above-mentioned second situation, i.e. in order to manage and
 24 exploit resources straddling settled borders. A joint development agreement
 25 has been defined as ‘the cooperation between states with regard to explora-
 26 tion for and exploitation of certain deposits, fields or accumulations of non-
 27 living resources which either extend across a boundary or lie in an area of
 28 overlapping claims’.⁶⁸ International courts and tribunals have particularly
 29 encouraged joint exploitation of resources that straddle maritime boundaries.⁶⁹

62 For a comment on the use of force by Suriname in the case at stake, see Milano and Papanicolopulu, *op. cit.*, pp. 621–6.

63 *Guyana v. Suriname*, *op. cit.*, para. 152.

64 *Ibid.*, paras 470 and 481. For a comment, see Y. van Logchen, ‘The Scope for Unilateralism in Disputed Maritime Areas’, paper presented at the LOSI Conference on ‘The Limits of Maritime Jurisdiction’, Wollongong, 28 November – 2 December 2011 (file with the author).

65 *Ibid.*, para. 460.

66 See Milano and Papanicolopulu, *op. cit.*, pp. 614–15.

67 *Ibid.*, p. 615, where the authors recall for instance that ‘[a]n informal *modus vivendi*, based on equidistance, is in place between Italy and Malta for some years’ (note 84).

68 R. Lagoni, ‘Report on Joint Development of Non-Living Resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone’, Report of the International Committee on the Exclusive Economic Zone, International Law Association, *Report of the Sixty-Third Conference (Warsaw)*, 1988, pp. 511–12.

69 See, *inter alia*, *Aegean Sea Continental Shelf* case, *Greece v. Turkey*, ICJ, Request for the Indication of Interim Measures of Protection, Order of 11 September 1976, para. 30.

1 Joint exploitation is a useful tool in order to attract investors as it guarantees
 2 a (provisional) stability in the area.⁷⁰ In the case of oil and gas reservoirs,
 3 where the extractable resource can be fugacious (i.e., has the capacity to
 4 migrate), the practice of unitization has emerged as a government-sanctioned
 5 industry practice. Lang Weaver and Asmus defined unitization as ‘the joint,
 6 coordinated operation of a petroleum reservoir by all the owners of rights in
 7 the separate tracts overlying the reservoir.’⁷¹ The preservation of the ‘unity of
 8 deposits’ was already an imperative in the *North Sea Continental Shelf* cases.⁷²

9 The existence of a joint development agreement is however not an abso-
 10 lute guarantee of stability. If a final agreement over the delimitation of the
 11 maritime area, and thus about the exercise of sovereign rights, is not
 12 reached, there is always a risk of tensions and consequent disruption in the
 13 economic activities performed in the concerned area. See, for instance, what
 14 happened in the Falklands/Malvinas. In this 30 years’ long sovereignty
 15 dispute, there was a (brief) moment, from 1995 to 2000, where the parties
 16 decided upon the joint development in an agreed area, which is very rich in
 17 oil and natural gas.⁷³ The agreement was suspended after only a few
 18 years⁷⁴ but the exploration activities continued. This provoked a strong reac-
 19 tion from the Argentine government in February 2010.⁷⁵ Notwithstanding,
 20 several companies obtained exploration licences in 2011 from the Falklands
 21 administration,⁷⁶ which included the following disclaimer: ‘There may be

70 T.A. Mensah, ‘Joint Development Zones as an Alternatives Dispute Settlement Approach in Maritime Boundary Delimitation’, in R. Lagoni and D. Vignes (eds), *Maritime Delimitation*, Leiden: Martinus Nijhoff, 2006, p. 149.

71 As quoted in A. Chircop, ‘Managing Adjacency: Some Legal Aspects of the Relationship Between the Extended Continental Shelf and the International Seabed Area’, *Ocean Development and International Law*, 2011, vol. 42, p. 312. See also C. Robson, ‘Transboundary Petroleum Reservoirs: Legal Issues and Solutions’, in G.H. Blake, W. Hildeslaey, M. Pratt, R. Ridley and C. Schofield (eds), *The Peaceful Management of Transboundary Resources*, Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1995, p. 6; D. Roughton, ‘Rights (and Wrongs) of Capture: International Law and the Implications of the Guyana/Suriname Arbitration’, *Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Law*, 2008, vol. 26, pp. 389–98.

72 *North Sea Continental Shelf, Germany v. Denmark, Germany v. Netherlands*, ICJ, Judgment, 20 February 1968, para. 99.

73 See *supra* note 56. The 1995 Declaration created a Joint Commission, which promoted and coordinated the activities in the area delimited by the agreement. The work of the Commission was suspended in 2000. For a comment, see R.R. Churchill, ‘Falkland Islands – Maritime Jurisdiction and Co-operative Arrangements with Argentina’, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, 1997, vol. 46, pp. 463 ff.

74 The application of the 1995 Declaration was officially terminated when in March 2007 the British government received a note from the Argentine government. Online. Available: <http://www.mercosurabc.com/ar> (accessed 2 December 2012).

75 See ‘Argentina steps up Falklands row’, in *BBC News*, 17 February 2010. Online. Available: <http://news.bbc.co.uk> (accessed 2 December 2012).

76 M. Waibel, ‘Oil Exploration around the Falklands (Malvinas)’, 13 August 2012. Online. Available: <http://www.ejiltalk.org/oil-exploration-around-the-falklands-malvinas> (accessed 12 December 2012).

1 other unforeseen matters such as disputes over borders. Investors will be
 2 aware that the Falkland Islands were, in 1982, the subject of hostilities
 3 between the United Kingdom and Argentina'.⁷⁷

4 Pursuant to Art. 70 of the International Centre for Settlement of
 5 Investment Disputes (ICSID) Convention, the Convention 'shall apply to
 6 all territories for whose international relations a Contracting State is respon-
 7 sible, except those which are excluded by such State by written notice'.
 8 Accordingly, the ICSID Convention applies to the Falklands/Malvinas as
 9 far as the United Kingdom (UK) is concerned. So, investments there carried
 10 out fall under the protection of the UK BITs. But they presumably fall also
 11 under the protection of BITs concluded by Argentina which, in case of arbi-
 12 tral proceedings, would not miss a chance to assert its sovereignty claims.
 13 This overlap of treaties undermines the legal certainty and the protection of
 14 the investors.

15 **15.3.2 New Challenges Posed by the Marine Renewable** 16 **Energy Sector**

17 In 2010 in Cancun, at the UNFCCC conference of the parties, developing
 18 countries agreed to undertake 'national appropriate mitigation actions' in
 19 order to achieve 'a deviation in emissions relative to "business as usual"
 20 emissions in 2020'.⁷⁸ In the last 20 years, many incentives have been
 21 adopted for the development and use of those technologies at the national
 22 and regional level in order to make them cost competitive with fossil fuels
 23 energy.⁷⁹ In 2008, for instance, the leaders of the European Union agreed
 24 upon the objective of a 20 per cent reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions
 25 by 2020,⁸⁰ to be achieved, *inter alia*, by promoting the renewable energy
 26 industry, including offshore wind power.⁸¹ Up to 12 per cent of renewable
 27 generation in 2020 is expected to come from offshore installations, notably
 28 in the Northern Seas.⁸² To this end, many incentives, grants and investment

77 Ibid.

78 *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixteenth session, held in Cancun from 29 November to 10 December 2010, Addendum, Part Two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session, FCCC/2010/Add.1, para. 48.*

79 T.J. Griset, 'Harnessing the Ocean's Power: Opportunities in Renewable Ocean Energy Resources', *Ocean and Coastal Law Journal*, 2011, vol. 16, p. 395.

80 Communication from the Commission of 13 November 2008 – Energy efficiency: delivering the 20% target, COM (2008) 772 final.

81 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 10 November 2010 – Energy 2020 A Strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy, COM (2010) 639 final.

82 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of

1 opportunities in offshore renewable energy sources projects are now avail-
2 able in Europe.⁸³

3 Encouraged furthermore by financial mechanisms provided by environ-
4 mental treaties⁸⁴ and by several international financial institutions,⁸⁵ renewable
5 energy technologies have recently become commercially valuable and are
6 attracting the attention not only of policy makers and international bureau-
7 cracies, but also of private investors.⁸⁶ The increasing importance of this
8 sector has convinced the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative
9 Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (Consultative Process) to focus on
10 'marine renewable energies' in its thirteenth session.⁸⁷ Many of the chal-
11 lenges highlighted in the Consultative Process' report on marine renewable
12 energy are relevant for the offshore energy sector in general: the environ-
13 mental challenges (duration of the energy projects and of their impact on the
14 marine environment); economic and institutional challenges (private–public
15 partnerships; the creation of a favourable private investment environment);
16 social challenges (impacts on local communities).⁸⁸

17 Assessing the environmental impact of the development and operation
18 of offshore renewable energy installations is one of the major unresolved
19 issues. In particular, for the time being, there is little experience with
20 commercial-scale ocean energy projects and, hence, little scientific data on
21 the nature and scale of environmental impacts.⁸⁹ The potential harmful

17 November 2010 – Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond – A Blueprint for
an integrated European energy network, COM (2010) 677 final.

- 83 See P. Salvatore, E. Ercolu, A.S. Julien and M. Kristine, *ORECCA Report, Investment and Grant Opportunities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects in Europe*, 13 September 2011. Online. Available: http://www.orecca.eu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=3f2f5122-906a-4b82-9fa2-c626aba62399&groupId=10129 (accessed 12 December 2012).
- 84 The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is an independently operating financial organization, which serves as a financial mechanism for many conventions, such as the CBD and UNFCCC. It has promoted and supported many projects in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular in the field of renewable energy; see GEF, 'Investing in Renewable Energy, the GEF Experience', 2012. Online. Available: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/gef_renewenergy_oct2012_r16.pdf (accessed 12 December 2012). See also in this volume the chapter by F. Romanin Jacur.
- 85 See European Investment Bank (EIB), Activity Report 2011, p. 21: 'Lending for power generation in the EU reached EUR 4.6bn in 2011, with 80% supporting renewable energies while 16% helped to finance gas generation and 1% coal or oil power generation'. See in this volume the chapter by S. De Maria.
- 86 Ocean energy was believed to offer great promise during the 1960s and 1970s, but only in the past decade have ocean energy projects moved beyond the pilot project stage to full-scale commercialization. See Pelc and Fujita, *op. cit.*
- 87 United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (Consultative Process), *Marine Renewable Energies*, thirteenth meeting, May–June 2012, unedited reporting material. Online. Available: http://www.un.org/depts/los/reference_files/new_developments_and_recent_adds.htm (accessed 1 October 2012).
- 88 *Ibid.*, paras 82–93.
- 89 Leary, *op. cit.*, p. 113.

1 impact on the marine environment is not only the result of using pollutant
 2 chemicals and materials, but also of constructing structures. Actually, the
 3 construction of barrages and dams can affect habitats for wildlife. It can affect
 4 the other economic uses of the coastal area, such as fishing and navigation.

5 The creation of a favourable investment environment for renewable
 6 energy largely benefits from the participation of international institutions
 7 which guarantee financial assistance to the governments and private actors
 8 interested in the specific sector. However, as mentioned above, the major
 9 role played by the public sector in funding such investments can put
 10 the private counterparty in a weak position, i.e. to be dependent on public
 11 subsidies. Moreover, in the absence of a clear legal framework, both at the
 12 international and domestic levels, the multiplicity of actors participating in
 13 the funding and/or financial assistance poses additional difficulties to the
 14 private investor.

15 Concerning the social challenges, it must be noted that public participa-
 16 tion is an integral part of environmental impact assessment procedures.⁹⁰
 17 Particularly relevant in this respect is the Aarhus Convention on Access to
 18 Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice
 19 in Environmental Matters.⁹¹ Notwithstanding the recognition at the interna-
 20 tional level of the individual right to participate, public participation in
 21 marine renewable energy projects remains problematic due to the lack of
 22 scientific data on the marine environment and the impact of those technolo-
 23 gies on it.⁹² Moreover, these new technologies are still fairly unfamiliar. The
 24 lack of knowledge and awareness undermines the effectiveness of the public
 25 participation.

26 **15.4 Concluding Remarks: Towards ‘An Integrated, 27 Interdisciplinary and Intersectoral Approach’**

28 Global problems, such as climate change and energy security, have
 29 highlighted the limits of the legal framework applicable to the offshore
 30 energy industry. The zonal fragmentation of the oceans can be an obstacle

90 In general on environmental impact assessment, see *inter alia* N. Craik, *The International Law of Environmental Impact Assessment, Process, Substance and Integration*, Cambridge: CUP, 2008; E. Olufemi, ‘Environmental Impact Assessment’, in M. Fitzmaurice, D.M. Ong and P. Merkouris (eds), *Research Handbook on International Environmental Law*, Cheltenham: Elgar, 2010, pp. 227 ff.; S. Tromans, *Environmental Impact Assessment*, 2nd ed., London: Butterworths, 2012.

91 See *supra* note 29.

92 M. Portman, ‘Involving the Public in the Impact Assessment of Offshore Renewable Energy Facilities’, *Marine Policy*, 2009, vol. 33, p. 334. See also K. Jonhson, S. Kerr and J. Side, ‘Marine Renewables and Coastal Communities – Experiences from the Offshore Oil Industry in the 1970s and their Relevance to Renewables in the 2010s’, *Marine Policy*, 2013, vol. 38, pp. 491 ff.

1 to the implementation of concerted actions. Old holistic ideas, e.g.,
 2 Scelle's 'domaine public international'⁹³ and Bastid's 'espace d'intérêt
 3 international',⁹⁴ have re-emerged and there is a general movement, of
 4 scholars and practitioners alike, towards 'an integrated, interdisciplinary
 5 and intersectoral approach'.⁹⁵
 6 This approach does not consist of mere mechanisms of cooperation, as in
 7 the joint development of common offshore hydrocarbon deposits. It suggests
 8 the creation of institutions and/or mechanisms capable of implementing an
 9 optimal and sustainable exploitation of non-living resources,⁹⁶ which
 10 follows, for instance, the example set by the regime of international water-
 11 course.⁹⁷ The idea of promoting the conservation of non-living natural
 12 resources is particularly referenced in the energy security debate as a tool for
 13 promoting efficiency.⁹⁸ Such an approach might also contribute to creating
 14 a favourable environment for investments by guaranteeing stability in price
 15 and supply of energy.⁹⁹

93 G. Scelle, *Manuel élémentaire de droit international public*, Paris: Domat-Montchrestien, 1943, p. 276; see also G. Scelle, 'Plateau continental et droit international', *Revue générale de droit international public*, 1955, vol. 63, p. 52. Scelle constructed his theory of 'domaine public international', which encompassed all oceans, including the areas submitted to coastal states' jurisdiction, on the basis of de Lapradelle's theory of servitude; see A.G. de Lapradelle, 'Le droit de l'État sur la mer territoriale', *Revue générale de droit international public*, 1898, vol 5, pp. 264–84, 309–47; A.G. de Lapradelle, *Le droit de l'Etat sur la mer territoriale*, Paris: Pedone, 1898, p. 24 where the author stated: '[l']Etat riverain, qui n'est pas propriétaire, ni souverain de la mer territoriale, a seulement le droit d'imposer au souverain de la mer, la société des Etats, des restrictions basées sur les nécessités de sa protection personnelle'. Ruzié (D. Ruzié, *Droit international public*, 7th ed., Paris: Dalloz, 1987, p. 82) and Nguyen Quoc Dinh (Nguyen Quoc Dinh, *Droit international public*, 1st edition, Paris: L.G.D.J., 1975, p. 525) developed the concept of 'domaine public international'. These authors however recognized that territorial waters were submitted to the territorial jurisdiction of the coastal state; see Y. Tanaka, *A Dual Approach to Ocean Governance*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2008, p. 12.

94 P. Bastid, *Cours de droit international public*, Paris: Université de Paris, 1976–77, p. 1221.

95 *Oceans and the Law of the Sea*, UNGA resolution 60/30, 8 March 2006, p. 2.

96 'Non-renewable resources which are consumed as they are used shall be exploited with restraint, taking into account their abundance, the rational possibilities of converting them for consumption, and the compatibility of their exploitation with the functioning of natural systems'; *World Charter of Nature*, UNGA res. 37/7, 28 October 1982, para. 10(d).

97 See A. Tanzi and M. Arcari, *The United Nations Convention on the Law of International Watercourses: A Framework for Sharing*, The Hague: Kluwer International Law, 2011, p. 115.

98 D.M. Ong, 'Towards an international law for the conservation of offshore hydrocarbon resources within the continental shelf?', in D. Freestone, R. Barnes and D.M. Ong (eds), *The Law of the Sea, Progress and Prospect*, Oxford: OUP, 2009, pp. 105–6.

99 OECD, *Competition, International Investment and Energy Security*, December 2007, p. 2. Online. Available: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/3/19/40699061.pdf> (accessed 1 October 2012).