



Interest Group on the Law of the Sea

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

I. Governance

In September 2020, the ESIL elected one new Coordinating Committee member, for a two-year term for the IG on the Law of the Sea. Maria Gavouneli (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens) stepped down after a long period of distinguished service to the IG (she was elected in 2014); we would like to thank her for her important contribution to the running and success of the IG, and wish her all the best. Luckily, she will remain an active member of our IG. On the other hand, we are happy to announce and welcome Irini Papanicolopulu (University of Milano-Bicocca) as the new co-convenor of this IG, joining Anthi Koskina, Gabriela Oanta and Jessica Schechinger in steering the IG for the next two years.

We continue to update our website and [Twitter](#) account (@esil_lawsea) with interesting IG-related call for papers and external events. We are proud to say that our Twitter presence has increased considerably in the last year - we currently have 729 followers - and our Twitter account seems to have become a forum for law of the sea enthusiasts to share relevant news, publications, etc. Unfortunately, our request for financial support from the ESIL in order to comprehensively reform our IG [website](#) has been unsuccessful so far.

II. Events

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), many ESIL and external events have been postponed/cancelled. Although some of our plans for the period October 2019-September 2020 had to be postponed as well – for example, a webinar series we began discussing with the ESIL Secretariat and ITLOS – these have not been abandoned.

Concerning upcoming events: we are very happy that our IG on the law of the sea panel proposal, entitled 'Law of the Sea Scholarship: Its Nature, Past, Present and Future', was chosen to be included in the 2021 ESIL annual conference programme as Agora 12. The Agora will be held on 11 September 2021 (the draft programme is available [here](#)), and the speakers will be: Irini Papanicolopulu (University of Milano-Bicocca), Miguel García García-Revillo (University of Cordue), and Richard Barnes (University of Lincoln). The Agora will be chaired by André Nollkaemper (University of Amsterdam). We would like to thank the IG member (who wished to remain anonymous) who contacted us and whose great idea was the basis for our submitted proposal!

In addition, it should be mentioned that another law of the sea related Agora is already part of the programme of the 2021 ESIL annual conference, namely Agora 1, entitled 'The order of the oceans and changes in lawmaking'.

III. Plans for the future

We aim to reactivate our plans and activities in the coming months, within the limitations posed by the pandemic. We have a meeting scheduled with the ESIL Secretariat, and look forward to fruitful discussions with our new Coordinating Committee member about our IG's plans for the future.

We have been and still are, as everyone else, adapting to the new situation. We encourage our IG members to contact us with any ideas related to the IG's scope of activities and possible opportunities for co-operation.

12 October 2020

For the ESIL LAWSEA IG

Maria Gavouneli

Anthi Koskina

Gabriela Oanta

Irini Papanicolopulu

Jessica Schechinger