



ESIL Interest Group ‘The EU as a Global Actor’

Pre-conference ESIL Interest Group Event

“The global reach of the EU’s attempts to regulate Artificial Intelligence (AI): what role for fairness?”

University of Aix Marseille (France), 31 August 2023 [hybrid event]

-- CALL FOR PAPERS --

The European Society of International Law (ESIL) Interest Group ‘The EU as a Global Actor’ (IG EUGLOBAL) organises a side event on **31 August 2023 (Thursday)** in the framework of the [2023 ESIL Annual Conference](#) hosted by the University of Aix Marseille (general theme of the conference: “*Is International Law Fair?*”).

The theme of the upcoming ESIL Annual Conference revolves around fairness in international law. As fairness is not a unidimensional concept, it raises multiple questions as to the values inherent in international law. At the very basics lay these: Should international law be fair? Can it even be?

The IG EUGLOBAL will pick up this topic by specifically focusing on the European Union’s (EU) normative action aiming at regulating the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), its global reach and how these standard-setting activities impact upon fairness when AI-technologies are taken up. As a broader context, the ever-increasing reliance on AI in an expanding variety of fields in our societies has been triggering new regulatory initiatives to ensure that AI-driven technologies are developed and used in ways that are compliant with basic values and human rights, including fairness. They also include standard-setting activities on supranational and international levels, where “different stakeholders are seeking to tackle the issues surrounding the development of AI through the establishment of new AI governance models” ([Valcke and Hendrickx 2023](#)). The EU’s global impact regarding the regulation of AI, setting globally unique standards on the matter, is in particular on the rise. So too are questions of fairness in these endeavours, especially in light of the recent EU [legislative proposal for an AI Act](#) as well as the EU’s involvement in the ongoing negotiations for a future [Council of Europe \(CoE\) \(framework\) convention](#) on the development, design, and application of AI based on the CoE standards for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

The IG EUGLOBAL acting as the organising committee for this side event therefore welcomes proposals for papers addressing mainly (but not limited to) the following themes:

- The EU’s contribution to the CoE negotiations for a (framework) convention on the development, design, and application of AI based on the CoE standards for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law — is there a room for promoting and/or upholding fairness?
- EU legislative agendas around globally relevant standard-setting by the EU’s AI Act and within the Council of Europe Committee on Artificial Intelligence: complementary or competitive processes seeking global regulatory leadership — with fairness lost midway?

- The EU's normative engagement with AI-related activities of the United Nations (e.g. elaborating the Global Digital Compact) and other intergovernmental organizations such as UNESCO (when drafting the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI) – driven by considerations of fairness?
- EU efforts in global standard-setting on data protection (the GDPR and beyond) and the draft AI Act compared: lessons learnt from the GDPR to inform globally engaged EU law-making on AI – fairness safeguarded?
- Emerging global AI governance caught between the “Brussels effect” (i.e. the EU's ability as the world's largest regional integration entity to inspire global legal standards which later find adoption beyond the EU remit) and the EU being a “regulatory superpower” on AI: is fairness factored in at all levels?
- Regulating AI: yet another area of Eurocentric international law-making, akin to the development of public international law in its classic era?
- The Court of Justice of the EU and its emerging case law on digital technologies, algorithms, and fundamental rights: a blueprint for other international adjudicators?

The IG EUGLOBAL invites submissions of abstracts, written in English or French, of no more than **600 words**. Applications should be submitted to euglobalactor@gmail.com by **30 April 2023 (Sunday) 24:00h CET**, with a short curriculum vitae containing the author's name, institutional affiliation, contact information, and whether the applicant is an ESIL member. Selected speakers will be notified on **10 May 2023** via e-mail.

In case of a hybrid event (with a face-to-face component), kindly note that the IG is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Please see the [ESIL website](#) for information about [travel grants](#) and [carers' grants](#) offered to ESIL members, which are available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding.

Please see the [ESIL website](#) for all relevant information about the 2023 ESIL Annual Conference in Aix-en-Provence.

Kindly note also that the Interest Group workshop is open to ESIL members, but all participants at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register for the Annual Conference. There will be an option to register just to attend the IG workshops; however, all participants are warmly invited to attend the entire event.

Selected speakers should indicate their interest in being considered for the ESIL Young Scholar Prize, if they meet the [eligibility conditions](#) as stated on the ESIL website.

The selected speakers have to send extended abstracts of up to 3000-3500 words, by **10 August 2023 (Thursday)** at the latest. These will be circulated amongst the panellists prior to the workshop. The IG EUGLOBAL convenors are keen to explore suitable ways to publish the papers after the workshop.

The IG EUGLOBAL Coordinating Committee:

Melanie FINK; Christine KADDOUS; Tamas MOLNAR; Jed ODERMATT; Raphael OIDTMANN

The Interest Group ‘The EU as a Global Actor’ (EUGLOBAL) is one of the interest groups of the [European Society of International Law \(ESIL\)](#). The IG EUGLOBAL seeks to engage with ESIL members with an interest in issues such as the interrelationship between European and international law, and the role and responsibilities of regional actors in the international (legal) order. By doing so, the group hopes to build a shared knowledge base among ESIL members interested in the role of the EU as a global normative actor.