



ESIL Interest Group ‘The EU as a Global Actor’

Pre-conference ESIL Interest Group Workshop

“Regional Legal Craftsmanship: The EU’s Aspirations in (Re)Constructing International Law?”

Freie Universität Berlin, 11 September 2025 (Thursday)

– 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 **11 September 2025 (Thursday)** in the framework of the 2025 ESIL Annual Conference hosted by Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

The focus of the ESIL Annual Conference 2025 is centred on reconstructing international law. Over the last decade, international law has gone through a period of turbulence, challenging long-held convictions and assumed certainties. This year’s ESIL Annual Conference will address the notion of how international law may be “reconstructed” in a holistic manner, addressing its institutional, normative, historical as well as theoretical dimensions.

The IG EUGLOBAL will expound on this topic even further by questioning the EU’s place and role in crafting and (re-)constructing international law. This workshop will zoom in on the legal arsenal that the EU (at times together its Member States) resort to when it comes to building (new) international law, legal regimes, or custom. Thus, we are particularly interested to receive submissions on interrelated questions – including, but not limited to, the following:

- Is it possible to identify a genuine EU approach towards (re-)constructing international law, i.e. can we carve out discernible legal methodologies, techniques, patterns, or practices to which the EU resorts when it takes part in international negotiations and law-creating processes?
- What are the characteristic (legal) instruments that the EU employs in the process of (re-)constructing international law? What is exemplary of its legal-technical inventory? And in what ways are these instruments constitutive of a unique EU approach towards (re-) constructing international law?
- What are the main EU actors that (re-)construct international law? What actors take part in the process of negotiations and law-creation, also beyond the European institutions? How and to what extent does the EU have an impact on the formulation of international law also beyond formal(ized) processes?

- EU's attempts to reconstruct international law seen from the outside: not always a rosy picture? 'European exceptionalism', claims for specialness/uniqueness and other tendencies – what is the take of the rest of the world?

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 **10 April 2025 (Thursday) 24:00h CEST**, 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 by the **end of April 2025** via e-mail.

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 2025 ESIL Annual Conference in Berlin.

All participants 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.

The selected speakers have to send extended abstracts of up to 3000-3500 words, by **31 August 2025 (Sunday)** 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; Tamas MOLNAR; Jed ODERMATT; Raphael OIDTMANN

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Please see the [ESIL website](#) for all relevant information about the conference.

All participants at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register for the Annual Conference. There will be an option to register to attend only 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 Early-Career Scholar Prize, if they meet the [eligibility conditions](#) as stated on the ESIL website. The [ESIL Secretariat](#) must be informed of all selected speakers who wish to be considered for the Prize before 30 April.