

A pre-Annual Conference workshop jointly organized by the Interest Group on International Environmental Law and Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law in the context of the 2025 ESIL Annual Conference taking place at Freie Universität Berlin, Department of Law (Germany), 11-13 September 2025, themed “Reconstructing International Law”

Pre-Annual Conference Workshop on

**REEVALUATING THE RULE OF LAW IN AN ERA OF GEOPOLITICAL
TENSIONS: NECESSITY AND PROSPECTS FOR REFORM**

DATES ESIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

11-13 SEPTEMBER 2025

DATE IG ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND RULE OF LAW

PRE-ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

VENUE

BERLIN, GERMANY



INTEREST GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



**INTEREST GROUP ON EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL RULE OF
LAW**

Reevaluating the Rule of Law in an Era of Geopolitical Tensions: Necessity and Prospects for Reform

As part of the broader conference theme on **Reconstructing International Law**, this IG event seeks to explore the evolving role of the **rule of law** in the face of rising geopolitical tensions. Over the past decade, global governance has been increasingly challenged by unilateralism, regional conflicts, economic coercion, and competing legal frameworks, as more recently shown also by the ongoing actions of the US Trump Administration. These developments necessitate a critical reexamination of the rule of law in international relations and international institutions.

With 2025 marking the **80th anniversary of the United Nations**, this moment presents an opportunity to reflect on the resilience and adaptability of international legal norms.

Furthermore, with just five years remaining before the **2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) deadline**, it is imperative to consider how legal frameworks can better support global stability, security, and development.

We welcome papers that address the rule of law in international governance through **institutional, normative, historical, and theoretical** lenses, including but not limited to the following topics:

- **Institutional Challenges and Reforms:** The effectiveness of the **United Nations, WTO, WHO**, and other international organizations in upholding the rule of law in crisis situations.
- **Rule of Law and Global Security:** Evaluating the role of legal mechanisms in addressing **territorial conflicts, sanctions regimes, and economic coercion**.
- **The Rule of Law and Sustainable Development:** How legal reforms can support the **SDGs** without reinforcing historical patterns of inequality and exclusion.
- **Historical Lessons on the Rule of Law:** What past efforts at reconstructing international legal order teach us about its current challenges.
- **Theoretical Perspectives:** Critical approaches to the legitimacy and authority of the rule of law in international governance.

We invite scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from diverse disciplines to contribute to this discussion. Papers that incorporate perspectives from the **Global South, critical legal studies, and Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL)** are especially encouraged.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

9:00 – 9:05 Welcoming Remarks: Paolo Davide Farah (Chair of the ESIL IG on European and International Rule of Law) and Martin Svec (Convener of the ESIL IG on International Environmental Law)

9:05 – 10:00 – Panel 1

Chair:

9:05 – 9:15 Tamar Megiddo and Ronit Levine-Schnur, Enemy Citizenship and Denial of Human Rights

9:15 – 9:25 Viktoriia Hamaiunova, Mediation, Legal Culture, and the Evolutive Interpretation of Article 6 ECHR: Reimagining the Rule of Law in an Era of Legal and Geopolitical Transformation

9:25 – 9:35 Yi Lu, Reconstructing Global Health Governance: China's Legal Innovations in Pandemic Response and the Challenge to Western-Dominated Global Health Law

9:35 – 9:45 – Kenneth Chan and Graham Melling, Confronting the Radical Disorder of the Rules-Based Order: What Role for International Law?

Discussant:

9:45 – 10:00 – Q&A

10:00 – 11:00 – Panel 2

Chair:

10:00 – 10:10 René Urueña & Ignacio Perotti Pincioli, Resisting Hegemony: Latin American Lessons for Strengthening the International Rule of Law in Times of Geopolitical Tensions

10:10 – 10:20 Aida Tamer Chammas, Rule of Law and Global Security

10:20 – 10:30 Radha Ivory, Mindfulness and the International Rule of Law (or an Anxious Professional's Guide to Reconstructing Anticorruption)

10:30 – 10:40 Margaret Wagana, Executive Power and Trade Sanctions: The Rule of Law and the Impact of Trump-Era Policies on AGOA

Discussant:

10:40 – 11:00 – Q&A

11:00 – 12:00 – Panel 3

Chair

11:00 – 11:10 Rhea Hoffmann, The EU Omnibus proposal: simplifying corporate sustainability due diligence at the expense of the rule of law and the European Green Deal

11:10 – 11:20 Taygeti Michalakea, Rule of Law and the Private Sector

11:20 – 11:30 Paolo Davide Farah, Competing Visions for the Global Legal Order: China's Belt and Road and Green BRI vs. the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy

11:30 – 11:40 Mercedes Rosello, Exploring Legal Insecurity In Ghanaian Small-Scale Fisheries

Discussant:

11:40 – 12:00 – Q&A

Concluding Remarks: Paolo Davide Farah (Chair of the ESIL IG on European and International Rule of Law) and Martin Svec (Convener of the ESIL IG on International Environmental Law)