



ESIL Interest Group on International Health Law Annual Report 2024-2025

The international health law agenda has been very busy over the past year with the adoption in June 2024 of the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) and in May 2025 of the new WHO agreement on pandemics. These developments, along with others fueling academic discussions, kept the co-conveners of the IG very busy over the year. With the pandemic agreement not expected to enter into force until its annex on pathogen access and benefit sharing is adopted, and with central issues linked with the capacities of international global health organisations to intervene and play their roles, global health issues will continue to be at the very center of academic discussions, research and education.

Regarding research and academic discussion, the ESIL Interest Group on International Health Law (IGIHL) has been actively involved in the organisation of two important events. The first one took place on April 24, 2025 within the framework of the 3rd HELT ([Health, Law and Technology](#)) Symposium in Brussels. In line with the HELT Symposium's main theme, ESIL-IG on International Health Law co-organised a panel focusing on legal preparedness as a fundamental precondition and necessary requirement for an effective and successful operationalization of the One Health approach at international, European and national levels. The second event took place within the framework of the ESIL Annual Conference on “Reconstructing International Law”, which was hosted in Berlin (Germany) by the Department of Law of the Freie Universität from September 11, 2025 to September 13, 2025.

On September 10, the IGIHL Conveners hosted a pre-conference workshop entitled *Global Health Law under Pressure: Facing Acute and Chronic Challenges*, which was organized under a hybrid format in order to allow the participation of some speakers. After a call for papers was disseminated, the Coordinating Committee received fourteen high quality submissions from both early career scholars and university professors, and seven were selected for presentation at the workshop. The presentations were divided into three panels (*Equity and Fairness in Global Health Security; Achieving Equity: Global and Regional Mechanisms; Equity and Fairness: Lessons from Other Regimes*), chaired by the Members of the Committee who were attending the conference in person (Ashwinee Kumar, Dr Pedro A. Villarreal, Prof. Stéphanie Dagron and Prof. Gian-Luca Burci). Prof. Gian Luca Burci gave an opening speech on the most recent developments in International Health Law. The event was largely attended and the discussion at the end of each session was intense and stimulating.

Regarding education in the field of International health law, the IG supported and co-sponsored the second edition of the Jean Monnet Summer School “*The European Union and Global Health*”, organised by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence “New Visions of the European Union’s Role in Global Health” (EU4GH) (co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus + Programme) and hosted at the School of Law of the University of Salerno (Italy) from 3 to 6 June 2025. The Summer School was coordinated by Prof. Stefania Negri, co-founder and co-convener of the IGIHL since 2016, director of the Jean Monnet Centre EU4GH and newly-elected President of the European Association of Health Law (EAHL). Other partners of the IGIHL were the EAHL, the [Jean Monnet Module “One Health: Global and EU Perspectives”](#) (1HEALTH), the [Global Health Law Consortium](#) (GHLC), and the [Observatory on Human Rights: Bioethics, Health, Environment](#). The summer course consisted of 20 hours of lectures taught by internationally renowned scholars with a recognised expertise in the fields of European Union health law and global health law. The faculty included other two co-conveners of the ESIL IGIHL, Prof.

Gian Luca Burci (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies), who is also the co-founder of the IG, and Dr. Pedro A. Villarreal Lizárraga (German Institute for International and Security Affairs); former EAHL President and Vice-President, Professors Steven Lierman (University of KU Leuven) and Joaquín Cayon de Las Cuevas (IDIVAL, University of Cantabria); GHLC Chair Prof. Benjamin Mason Meier (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and Consortium members Dr. Mark Eccleston-Turner (King's College London) and Dr. Katrina Perehudoff (University of Amsterdam); as well as key staff members from the EU4GH Centre, Prof. Giacomo Di Federico (University of Bologna and newly appointed EAHL National Contact Person for Italy) and Dr. Sandro Bonfigli (Italian Ministry of Health).

The course addressed the European Union's role as a global actor in the international health security scenario, while discussing the pillars of EU health law and its interactions with global health law. Special emphasis was placed on legal tools for prevention, preparedness and response to public health emergencies and serious cross-border health threats under global and EU law, the WHO International Health Regulations and the Pandemic Agreement, with an eye to the operationalization of the One Health approach.

For the future, the IGIHL will continue stimulating the debate on the challenges and perspectives of International Health Law and organising academic and other events.

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IGIHL coordinating committee

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