



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

### **ANNUAL REPORT (2024–2025)**

#### **ESIL Interest Group on the European and International Rule of Law**

**Chair: Paolo Davide Farah**

#### **1. Introduction**

The ESIL Interest Group on the European and International Rule of Law (IG RoL) continued to expand its scholarly activities and international partnerships throughout 2024–2025. Building upon the IG's original mission to explore the supra-, inter-, and transnational dimensions of the rule of law, the IG organized and co-organized a record number of academic events, five major international conferences and ESIL pre-conference workshops, bringing together scholars, practitioners, and institutions across Europe and beyond.

Throughout the year, the IG strengthened cooperation with several ESIL Interest Groups, including the IG on International Environmental Law, the IG on Energy and International Law, and the IG on International Economic Law. It also expanded institutional partnerships with universities and research centers in Lithuania, France, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, Czech Republic and Germany.

#### **2. Major Milestones and Activities (2024–2025)**

##### **A. Pre-Annual Conference Workshop (Vilnius, Lithuania)**

***Technological Change, Artificial Intelligence and Governance: A Focus on SDG 16***

**Date:** 4 September 2024

**Venue:** Vilnius University, Law School

**Co-organizers:**

- ESIL IG on International Environmental Law
- ESIL IG on European & International Rule of Law

**Summary:**

This workshop explored the rule of law implications of digital transformation and artificial intelligence for SDG 16 (“Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions”). The event analyzed AI’s transformative role in governance, justice systems, anti-corruption mechanisms, and climate litigation, while also engaging with concerns related to transparency, fairness, discrimination, and digital accountability.

The Call for Papers and concept note emphasized the need to understand how AI technologies can both strengthen and threaten rule-of-law values by altering decision-making processes and institutional capacities . The program featured presentations on AI and human rights, digital state capitalism, corruption indicators, climate justice technologies, and evidence-building for climate litigation .

**Institutional partnerships:**

Vilnius University; ESIL IG on International Environmental Law.

**B. International Conference (Barcelona, Spain)*****The Crossroad of International Environmental Law Enforcement – Instrumentalization of Other Legal Regimes***

**Dates:** 2–3 December 2024

**Venue:** Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)

**Co-organizers:**

- ESIL IG on International Environmental Law
- ESIL IG on European & International Rule of Law
- gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

**Summary:**

This major conference examined the challenges of enforcing international environmental law through other legal regimes such as human rights law, trade law, tort law, and constitutional law. The CFP stressed the fragmentation of international law, weak compliance mechanisms in environmental treaties, and the growing reliance on cross-regime legal strategies such as litigation, human rights adjudication, and trade law remedies.

The detailed conference program included panels on environmental governance, ITLOS advisory opinions, marine biodiversity, climate litigation, environmental human rights, sustainability in trade agreements, and hybrid legal regimes linking environmental and economic governance.

**Institutional partnerships:**

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, CEI International Affairs, ESIL IG on IEL, ESIL IG Rule of Law, gLAWcal.

**C. Online Webinar (ESIL IG Rule of Law)*****The Rule of Law in Germany (and Internationally)***

**Date:** 6 June 2025

**Format:** Online Webinar

**Organizer:** ESIL Interest Group on the European and International Rule of Law

**Summary:**

This online event focused on the newly published book *The Rule of Law in Germany: Bringing the Rechtsstaat into the 21st Century* by **Dana Burchardt** and **Hannah Birkenkötter** (Hart Publishing, 2025). The webinar explored the book's chapters dealing with Germany's engagement with European and international rule-of-law questions, connecting domestic constitutional traditions with broader supranational and international legal developments.

Following presentations by the authors, invited discussants **Paul Gowder** and **Stephan Ollick** offered analytical reflections and raised critical questions relating to the Rechtsstaat, rule-of-law backsliding, constitutional identity, and Germany's evolving role in promoting rule-of-law principles internationally. Their contributions stimulated a wide-ranging and interactive debate among participants.

Although scheduled for one hour, the webinar extended to nearly **1 hour and 40 minutes**, illustrating the high degree of engagement among speakers and attendees. The event gathered **15 participants** from various institutions and fostered a rich academic exchange on one of Europe's foundational constitutional traditions and its contemporary transformations.

**D. ESIL-Supported International Conference (ENS-PSL, Paris, France)*****Towards a Global Ecological-Economic Legal Framework***

**Dates:** 6–7 June 2025

**Venue:** École Normale Supérieure – Paris Sciences & Lettres (ENS-PSL)

**Co-organizers:**

- ESIL IG on International Environmental Law

- ESIL IG on EU & International Rule of Law
- ESIL IG on Energy & International Law
- ESIL IG on International Economic Law
- ENS-PSL, CTAD, gLAWcal

**Summary:**

This major conference focused on the integration of international economic law and international environmental law. The CFP highlighted the need to rethink the ecological consequences of trade, investment, and economic governance, and the inadequacy of fragmentation between environmental and economic legal regimes in addressing global ecological crises .

The two-day program included keynote talks (including by Gregory Shaffer), and presentations by Gabrielle Marceau (WTO and Geneva), Jaye Ellis (McGill University) and many others, interdisciplinary panels on subsidies, trade exceptions, WTO reform, sustainability impact assessments, investment law reforms, climate dispute settlement, hybrid legal regimes, and justice-oriented integration of ecological and economic governance .

**Institutional partnerships:**

ENS-PSL; ESIL IGs (Environmental, Rule of Law, Energy Law, International Economic Law); gLAWcal.

**E. Second International Conference (Barcelona, Spain)**

***The Crossroad of International Environmental Law – Paradoxes of Energy Transition and Global Inequalities***

**Dates:** 3–4 September 2025

**Venue:** Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)

**Co-organizers:**

UOC, Universitat de Barcelona, Universidad de La Laguna, Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya, CEDAT, ESIL IG Rule of Law, ESIL IG Environmental Law, gLAWcal, ICIP.

**Summary:**

The conference examined the global inequalities created by the energy transition, with a focus on extractivism, critical minerals, human rights violations, environmental justice, and governance failures in the Global South. The CFP emphasized paradoxes of “clean energy”

that reproduce neocolonial patterns of exploitation and exacerbate socio-environmental conflict .

The conference program included panels on expropriation for climate justice, energy permitting conflicts, environmental crimes, supply-chain due diligence, litigation, indigenous rights, critical minerals, and minimum thresholds for energy access .

**Institutional partnerships:**

UOC, Universitat de Barcelona, La Laguna, CEDAT, Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya, gLAWcal, ICIP.

**F. ESIL Pre-Annual Conference Workshop (Berlin, Germany)**

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

**Date:** 11 September 2025

**Venue:** Department of Law, Freie Universität Berlin

**Co-organizers:**

- ESIL IG on European & International Rule of Law
- ESIL IG on International Environmental Law

**Summary:**

In the context of the 2025 ESIL Annual Conference (“Reconstructing International Law”), this workshop examined how geopolitical tensions, unilateralism, sanctions, and global governance crises challenge the rule of law. The CFP emphasized the need to reassess institutional resilience, security-based legal mechanisms, and structural reforms at the UN, WTO, WHO, and other bodies .

The program included three panels on global security, institutional reform, climate-related rule-of-law challenges, sanctions, development inequalities, and the integration of private-sector governance into rule-of-law frameworks .

**Institutional partnerships:**

Freie Universität Berlin; ESIL IG on International Environmental Law.

**3. Cross-Group Collaboration**

Across all events, the IG strengthened synergistic cooperation with other ESIL Interest Groups, including:

- **IG on International Environmental Law** (Vilnius 2023, Barcelona 2024, Barcelona 2025, Berlin 2025, Paris 2025)
- **IG on Energy and International Law** (Paris 2025)
- **IG on International Economic Law** (Paris 2025)

These collaborations enhanced the thematic reach of the IG, particularly in relation to AI governance, global climate litigation, energy transition governance, international trade and investment law, and broader questions of global legal order.

#### **4. Publications and Research Impact**

Across all events in 2024–2025, publication plans were launched, including:

- Special issues in peer-reviewed journals
- Edited volumes (including in the Palgrave MacMillan/gLAWcal “Global Issues” series)
- ESIL Series with Oxford University Press/EUI Working Papers

Publication opportunities were formally offered in the CFPs for the Barcelona 2024, Paris 2025, and Berlin 2025 events, and were discussed with participants during each conference.

#### **5. Conclusion and Outlook**

The reporting period marked a substantial expansion of activities for the ESIL IG on the European and International Rule of Law. With five major international events, several co-organized across multiple ESIL Interest Groups and research institutions, the IG demonstrated its strong leadership in advancing interdisciplinary and cross-regime scholarship on the rule of law.

#### **6. Future Initiatives and Upcoming Activities**

Looking ahead to 2025–2026, the IG plans to:

- deepen collaborations with ESIL IGs on technology, human rights, environmental law, and international economic law;
- continue developing publication outputs arising from the 2024–2025 conferences;
- explore thematic initiatives on global legal fragmentation, AI governance, and geopolitical realignments.

The IG remains committed to providing a dynamic platform for cutting-edge research and fostering inclusive scholarly dialogue on the evolving contours of the rule of law in international and European contexts.

In particular, the Interest Group on the European and International Rule of Law intends to expand its scholarly outreach through a series of thematic **webinars, book discussions, and special issue launches**. Building on the success of the June 2025 webinar on *The Rule of Law in Germany*, the Coordinating Committee intends to establish a **regular online seminar series** devoted to new monographs, edited volumes, and emerging scholarship on the rule of law in European, international, and comparative contexts. These sessions will provide an accessible forum for dialogue among authors, discussants, and IG members, and will complement the IG's larger in-person events.

In addition, the IG is preparing **several major conferences and collaborative workshops** for the upcoming cycle, including events in partnership with other ESIL Interest Groups and academic institutions across Europe and the world. These initiatives will address themes such as technological change and the rule of law, multilevel governance and constitutionalism, global security challenges, and the evolving role of international courts and institutions in safeguarding rule-of-law standards. Calls for papers and further details will be circulated to members in due course. Through these activities, the IG aims to deepen engagement with its membership, foster interdisciplinary debate, and contribute meaningfully to ESIL's broader scholarly community.

## **7. Governance and Leadership**

The ESIL Interest Group on the European and International Rule of Law continued to be guided in 2024–2025 by its Coordinating Committee, whose members oversee the IG's strategic direction, activities, and engagement across ESIL fora. **Till Patrik Holterhus** and **Velimir Živković** were re-elected to the Coordinating Committee for a **four-year mandate in January 2022**, ensuring continuity in the Group's long-term governance and academic leadership. In **November 2023**, **Paolo Davide Farah** and **Denise Wohlwend** were elected for a **four-year mandate**, strengthening the IG's interdisciplinary expertise and expanding its international reach.

Together, the four members have coordinated the IG's workshops, calls for papers, and collaborative events with other ESIL Interest Groups and academic institutions, following practices comparable to those described in other ESIL IG governance structures (as illustrated, for example, in the governance section of the ESIL IG on Energy & International Law report, where conveners similarly supervise day-to-day operations and event organization).

In line with the ESIL Interest Group Policy Guidelines, **the next elections for the Coordinating Committee will take place in January 2026**, at the conclusion of the current mandates. The Committee will issue a call for expressions of interest ahead of the election period to ensure transparent and inclusive participation by IG members.

**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 2024 ESIL Annual Conference taking place at Vilnius University, Law School (Lithuania), 4-6 September 2024, themed ‘Technological Change and International Law?’.**

**Pre-Annual Conference Workshop on**

**TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GOVERNANCE: A FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 16 “PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS”**

**DATES ESIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**4-6 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**DATE IG ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND RULE OF LAW**

**PRE-ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

**4 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**VENUE**

**VILNIUS, LITHUANIA**



**INTEREST GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

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



## **Technological Change, Artificial Intelligence and Governance: A Focus on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”**

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG16) aims at the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; the provision of access to justice for all and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable societies are dependent upon effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, as well as citizens having access to justice to be able to protect their rights. Injustice can otherwise destabilize peace. Consequently, the international community decided to provide a holistic approach by involving these elements in this goal given their interconnected nature and measuring progress through specific indicators mainly good governance, rule of law, and institutions at all levels of governance. In that sense, SDG16 is about governance more than anything else given the poor governance practices of states over the years despite their continuous commitments to realizing various goals agreed upon by the international community. In fact, SDG16 covers various elements and topics that must be addressed holistically in the general framework of the 2030 agenda as this goal highlights the interplay between sustaining peace and the agenda. Given the importance of this SDG, an increasing number of countries are seeking to implement it in practice, where the role of local and regional authorities is of utmost importance to such implementation. Other stakeholders that play an equally important role are civil society, youth, and the private sector. The importance of this SDG led to considering its implementation as an accelerator for the entire 2030 agenda given its existing challenges. These include the lack of available data; absence in many cases of accountable and inclusive institutions; the need to ensure the localization of SDGs and the creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights highlighted the need to achieve the commitments under SDG16 and called for an SDG16 plus – a concept that captures the interlinkages between SDG16 and all other SDGs. Unlike the rest of the SDG16 that address specific elements, the existence of a holistic approach for adopting and implementing this goal instead of a fragmented one allows solving various challenges at once. So far this SDG has not been examined in the context of emerging technologies and prospects of using these technologies for facilitating its implementation.

Technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) have emerged where current discussions are focusing on how AI can support SDGs. Indeed, numerous studies and articles have been written on the interplay between AI and SDGs from different angles. Studies differ in terms of the ability of AI to address the various SDGs with the end goal of achieving a sustainable economy. It is currently being used for addressing traffic management, enhancing the efficiency of renewable energies, in improving efficiencies in criminal justice and law enforcement, and the efficiency

of irrigation and fertilization among many other things. Hence, the power of AI and digital technologies in this context is in their innovative nature allowing its rapid evolvement and adaptation. Still, for now, very few studies assessed systematically the impact of AI on the realization of SDGs and their targets, despite the great role AI and digital technologies are expected to play in the realization of the 2030 agenda. The need for such studies led to the establishment of new groups and organizations addressing solely the interplay between AI and SDGs such as AI for Sustainable Development Goals (AI4SDGs) Think Tank and the UN-driven initiative AI4Good. In the context of SDG16, AI is expected to have a great impact. For instance, AI can be used to monitor illicit financial transactions and crack down on Money Laundering but can also be used to enable Money Laundering. AI can also be used to promote the rule of law by addressing the various crimes occurring at the national level through face recognition and so on. AI is also being used for building strong institutions and enhancing peace globally, even though these attempts are still at a nascent stage and problems exist in the immature nature of the technology. AI can reduce discrimination, corruption and provide access to e-government, personalized, and responsive intelligent services; nevertheless, studies have shown it can lead to flawed and discriminatory automated decision-making. AI does offer significant advantages to this goal; it can be used to solve the existing challenges facing the implementation of SDG16, mainly providing the ability to track progress through machine learning and to measure impact of changes in the context of different SDG16 indicators. This will further enhance the understanding of the various governance issues facing countries, the improvements needed and provide a better support to the countries seeking to implement this SDG. The hope is that AI can revolutionize all these areas, especially in developing and least developing countries that are facing great challenges requiring the use of all available means. Yet, so far there is a shortage of legal literature addressing the interplay between SDGs and AI, addressing the interplay between the problematic nature of AI and the advantages it offers. This joint event between the ESIL IG on European and International Rule of law and the ESIL IG on International Environmental Law is seeking to fill this gap by focusing on a specific SDG and its connection with emerging technologies, given the constant incorporation of AI and digital technologies in everyday life, where it is no longer possible to ignore the need to acknowledge its impact on development in general and SDGs in this context, but also considering that unexpected new challenges may emerge as a result of the use AI.

## **APPLICATIONS & ELIGIBILITY**

This call is open to academics, as well as practitioners of international organizations and NGOs working in these areas. The objective is to optimize research impact of our participants by engaging the different communities of practice in law, political science, climate, or environmental science in this interdisciplinary field of sustainability, trade, investment, energy, and environment. The following must be submitted to paolofarah@yahoo.com by **28 April 2024**:

- The author's name and affiliation;
- A 500-700-word abstract [Word file or PDF];
- The author's CV, including a list of relevant publications, if applicable;
- The author's contact details, including e-mail address and phone number;
- Whether the author is an ESIL member (Being an ESIL Member is not a requirement to submit an abstract)
- Interdisciplinary and co-authored papers are also welcomed

Multiple abstracts from the same authors will be considered, but only one can be selected. Co-authored multidisciplinary papers are also welcomed. Applicants will be informed of the selection committee's decision no later than **30 April 2024**. The Organizers are unable to provide funding for any cost related to participation to the conference.

The Interest Group is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Some [ESIL travel grants](#) and [ESIL careers' grants](#) will be 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 conference.

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 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.

All Members of the ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law, the members of the ESIL Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law,

the members of other ESIL IGs and also the non -ESIL members (ESIL membership might be required if the abstract is selected) are invited to submit abstracts.

## **VENUE AND DATES**

A pre-Annual Conference workshop on **Technological Change, Artificial Intelligence and Governance: A Focus on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”** in the context of the 2023 ESIL Annual Conference. The ESIL Annual conference will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, 4-6 September 2024 and the pre-Annual Conference workshop jointly organized by the Interest Group on International Environmental Law and the Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law on 4 September 2024.

## **PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES**

The organizers have publication plans for the presented papers. The precise format of the publication will be discussed during the conference.

## **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**Chair of the Pre-Annual ESIL Conference Workshop:** Paolo Davide Farah (West Virginia University & gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development).

**Scientific Committee:** Chamu Kuppuswamy (University of Hertfordshire), Daria Boklan (HSE), Martin Svec (Masaryk University & gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, UK), and Otto Spijkers (Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs of Leiden University College); Till Patrik Holterhus (Leuphana Law School), Denise Wohlwend (Kellerhals Carrard & Université de Fribourg - Universität Freiburg) and Velimir Zivkovic (University of Warwick), Imad Antoine Ibrahim (University of Twente), Jon Truby (Newcastle University and University of Oxford)

**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 2024 ESIL Annual Conference taking place at Vilnius University, Law School (Lithuania), 4-6 September 2024, themed ‘Technological Change and International Law?’.**

**Pre-Annual Conference Workshop on**

**TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GOVERNANCE: A FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 16 “PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS”**

**DATES ESIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**4-6 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**DATE IG ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND RULE OF LAW**

**PRE-ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

**4 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**VENUE**

**VILNIUS, LITHUANIA**



**INTEREST GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

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

12:30 – 15:30

Ignas Kalpokas, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania and SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland; Julija Kalpokiene, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Datafication, Artificial Intelligence, and Rule of Law: A Tale of Incompatible Values

Qingxiu Bu, University of Sussex, United Kingdom

Digital State Capitalism: A Game-Theoretic Perspective on Global Data Governance in Flux

Ghulam Mujtaba, University of Szeged, Hungary

Balancing Forensic Technology and Human Rights in the International Legal Framework and Financial Crime Context: A Legal Analysis

José-Miguel Bello y Villarino, University of Sydney , School of law, Australia & ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision Making and Society (ADM+S) / Diplomatic Corps of Spain (on leave)

What Counts as Corruption? Alternative Indicators for SDG16.5 in the Era of AI

Stefania Rutigliano, University of Bari, Italy

Use of AI System for the Administration of Justice: Are We there Yet?

Piero Marra, University of Bari, Italy

Digital Justice and SDG 16.7: Creating Inclusive and Participatory Digital Governance System

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 18:45

Özge Varış, Kırklareli University, Faculty of Law, Turkey

Transparency In Economic and Social Governance System According to AI



Paolo Davide Farah, West Virginia University, United States & gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, United Kingdom & Fabio Macioce University Lumsa, Rome, Italy

Artificial Intelligence and the Rule of Law: Transparency, Accountability, Fairness, and Justice from a Legal Theory Perspective

Martin Svec, Masaryk University, Law School, Brno, Czech Republic

The Role of Emerging Technologies in Achieving Climate Justice: Detection of Methane Emissions.

Yao-Ming Hsu, National Cheng-Chi University, College of Law, Taiwan

Artificial Intelligence in Facilitating SDG 16 with Climate Action (SDG 13): An Example of Evidence-building and Data Research in Climate Litigation

Thomas Mc Inerney, Loyola University Chicago, Law School, United States

“Artificial Intelligence and Earth Observation for Monitoring International Law: Current Legal and Regulatory Approaches to Ensure Responsible Practice”

# CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

## THE CROSSROAD OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

*The instrumentalization of other legal regimes and discourses  
in the era of fragmentation and the Anthropocene.*

**Barcelona, 2-3 December 2024**

ORGANIZED BY



Universitat Oberta  
de Catalunya

Open University of Catalonia



ESIL Interest Group on International  
Environmental Law



ESIL Interest Group on the European and  
International Rule of Law



## Introduction

International Environmental Law (IEL) has experienced a major development and expansion in the last 50 years. The relevance of IEL has taken a significant leap as the international community acquired awareness of the increasing exploitation of natural resources beyond planetary boundaries. At the present stage, because of our dependence on fossil fuels and the limitations of the current transition to renewables, the rise in global temperature will most likely be more than three degrees in the next two decades, which will trigger devastating environmental and economic impacts, especially in the Global South. Moreover, another manifestation of this overshoot is the surpassing of at least four other planetary boundaries, namely, the alteration of the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, the loss of biological diversity, chemical contamination and land use and deforestation. Humanity is running out of time to ensure environmental sustainability and stop climate change, and strong compliance with environmental international norms is not only advisable, but indispensable for the survival of flora, fauna and, of course, humans.

However, the effectiveness of IEL has been challenged by multiple factors, including the lack of accountability for its violations, and a propensity for soft compliance mechanisms that are non-adversarial and non-confrontational. These mechanisms may be considered adequate in terms of providing a greater space for States to develop sufficient capacities to comply with IEL obligations at a pace that respects their capabilities. However, it may also be argued that the urge to revert environmental impacts does not leave room for progressive enforcement, and that more accountability is needed to ensure the effectiveness of IEL. Nevertheless, IEL lacks strong enforcement mechanisms.

In contrast to the soft enforcement of IEL, other fields of law may open paths through which IEL obligations may be enforced, due to the close connection between the environment and societal challenges. In this regard, environmental law obligations have been channeled through tort law, constitutional law, international trade law, or human rights law –inter alia–, particularly in relation to subsistence human rights, such as the right to an adequate standard of living, and related rights aimed at covering basic material needs, such as food, water, and housing. In this process, IEL is translated into a tort law, constitutional law, trade law or human rights law discourse, which may impact how objectives are prioritized and goals are pursued.

The translation of environmental obligations into the law and language of these other legal regimes calls for an evaluation of the systemic risks such a merger may entail. In the first place, it is necessary to reflect on the adequateness of these regimes in the light of the particularities, ethos and objectives pursued by IEL; in the second place, considering the different –and perhaps non-aligned– interests pursued by the different regimes, it is necessary to identify whether it is in the interest of the enforcement of IEL for adjudicators from other fields of law to become interpreters and adjudicators on IEL, thereby creating jurisprudence and participating in the progressive development of IEL.

# THE CROSSROAD OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

## Call for Papers

The Scientific Committee of the International Conference “The crossroad of international environmental law enforcement: The instrumentalization of other legal regimes and discourses in the era of fragmentation and the Anthropocene” launches a call for papers and invites contributions that aim to explore the current tensions and synergies within international law from the perspective of the enforcement of international environmental law (IEL).

### *Possible topics to be addressed:*

- Benefits and limits of IEL Non-compliance mechanisms.
- Alternative mechanisms for IEL enforcement and / or accountability, pertaining to other legal regimes: risks, benefits, and experiences.
- The interpretation and application of IEL in the context of the fragmentation of international Law and /or CIL development.
- The evolution of the concept of State jurisdiction and state responsibility in the light of IEL.

## Applications

### I. ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:

The deadline for abstract submission is **July 1, 2024**. Abstracts may be submitted via e-mail to the following email addresses: [ielconference@uoc.edu](mailto:ielconference@uoc.edu) and [paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk](mailto:paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk). Please include the following information, in separate documents:

- Document 1: **Anonymized abstract** (500-700-word).
- Document 2: **Authors' information**:
  - Name, affiliation and contact details (e-mail and phone number).
  - Title of the abstract.
  - A short CV, including a list of relevant publications, if applicable.
  - Whether the author is an ESIL member (being an ESIL member is not a requirement to submit the abstract).

Both senior and junior scholars are invited to participate in the call for papers. Multiple abstracts can be submitted, but only one abstract per author will be accepted.

### II. BLIND REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE:

Applications will be submitted to a process of blind review, and all applicants will be informed of the decision of the selection committee by **July 30, 2024**.

# THE CROSSROAD OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

## III. PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES: DRAFT SUBMISSION

The conference organizers have publication plans for the presented papers. The precise nature and format of the publication will be discussed in more detail during the conference. Among the options already available at the time of the call for papers, the organizers envisage to publish a book collection in the Palgrave MacMillan/gLAWcal book series on “Global Issues” or a special issue/symposium in relevant peer-review SSCI or US journals.

A provisional draft of the paper should be submitted by **November 28, 2024**. The deadline and format of the final drafts will be discussed during the conference.

## Registration, Venue, and dates

The International Conference will take place in person, on the premises of the Open University of Catalonia (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya), Barcelona, Spain on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2024**.

We are pleased to offer an **optional dinner event** on the 2nd of December. Kindly note that participants are responsible for covering the cost of their own dinner (maximum cost: 45 euros)\*.

**Registration** will be open from March 20, 2024, at the following Registration Link: <https://symposium.uoc.edu/113850/detail/the-crossroad-of-international-environmental-law-enforcement.html>

### Registration fees:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Early Registration <b>until November 14, 2024</b> ..... | <b>20 €</b> |
| Late Registration <b>from November 15, 2024</b> -.....  | <b>60 €</b> |

*\*During registration, attendees will be asked to indicate whether they will attend the dinner event.*

## Conference Chairs and Coordinators

Mariona Cardona-Vallès and Bettina Steible, Open University of Catalonia (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya), Ana Garcia (CEI International Affairs), Paolo Davide Farah (West Virginia University, USA & gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, United Kingdom)

## Scientific Committee

Chamu Kuppuswamy (University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom), Martin Svec (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic), Daria Boklan (HSE University).

# International Conference

## THE CROSSROAD OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

*The instrumentalization of other legal regimes and discourses in the era of  
fragmentation and the Anthropocene.*

**Barcelona, 2-3 December 2024**

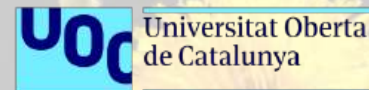
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Building Can Jaumendreu: [Carrer del Perú, 52, Barcelona](#)



ESIL Interest Group on the  
European and International  
Rule of Law



ESIL Interest Group on  
International Environmental  
Law



Universitat Oberta de  
Catalunya



gLAWcal - Global Law  
Initiatives for Sustainable  
Development



# Concept Note

International Environmental Law (IEL) has experienced a major development and expansion in the last 50 years. The relevance of IEL has taken a significant leap as the international community acquired awareness of the increasing exploitation of natural resources beyond planetary boundaries. At the present stage, because of our dependence on fossil fuels and the limitations of the current transition to renewables, the rise in global temperature will most likely be more than three degrees in the next two decades, which will trigger devastating environmental and economic impacts, especially in the Global South. Moreover, another manifestation of this overshoot is the surpassing of at least four other planetary boundaries, namely, the alteration of the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, the loss of biological diversity, chemical contamination and land use and deforestation. Humanity is running out of time to ensure environmental sustainability and stop climate change, and strong compliance with environmental international norms is not only advisable, but indispensable for the survival of flora, fauna and, of course, humans.

However, the effectiveness of IEL has been challenged by multiple factors, including the lack of accountability for its violations, and a propensity for soft compliance mechanisms that are non-adversarial and non-confrontational. These mechanisms may be considered adequate in terms of providing a greater space for States to develop sufficient capacities to comply with IEL obligations at a pace that respects their capabilities. However, it may also be argued that the urge to revert environmental impacts does not leave room for progressive

enforcement, and that more accountability is needed to ensure the effectiveness of IEL. Nevertheless, IEL lacks strong enforcement mechanisms.

In contrast to the soft enforcement of IEL, other fields of law may open paths through which IEL obligations may be enforced, due to the close connection between the environment and societal challenges. In this regard, environmental law obligations have been channelled through tort law, constitutional law, international trade law, or human rights law –inter alia–, particularly in relation to subsistence human rights, such as the right to an adequate standard of living, and related rights aimed at covering basic material needs, such as food, water, and housing. In this process, IEL is translated into a tort law, constitutional law, trade law or human rights law discourse, which may impact how objectives are prioritized and goals are pursued.

The translation of environmental obligations into the law and language of these other legal regimes calls for an evaluation of the systemic risks such a merger may entail. In the first place, it is necessary to reflect on the adequateness of these regimes in the light of the particularities, ethos and objectives pursued by IEL; in the second place, considering the different –and perhaps non-aligned– interests pursued by the different regimes, it is necessary to identify whether it is in the interest of the enforcement of IEL for adjudicators from other fields of law to become interpreters and adjudicators on IEL, thereby creating jurisprudence and participating in the progressive development of IEL.

*This Conference is funded by the project “Access to Justice in the Anthropocene”, financed by The UOC Research Accelerator 2023.*

## Chairs

Bettina Steible (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya), Mariona Cardona-Vallès (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya) and Paolo Davide Farah (West Virginia University, USA & gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development)

## Co-organizers

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), the European Society of International Law (ESIL) Interest Group on International Environmental Law, the European Society of International Law (ESIL) Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law, and gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development.

# Monday 2nd December 2024

8:30 - 9:00 **REGISTRATION.**

9:00 - 9:15 **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.**

**Ignasi Beltrán de Heredia Ruiz**, Dean of the Faculty of Law (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya).

**Bettina Steible** and **Mariona Cardona-Vallès** (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya); **Paolo Farah** (European Society of International Law Interest Group on International and European Rule of Law)

9:15 - 11:15 **PANEL 1. REIMAGINING ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND ENFORCEMENT IN A FRAGMENTED LEGAL LANDSCAPE.**

*Chair:* Ana García Juanatey (CEI International Affairs)

**Keynote speech: Paolo D. Farah (West Virginia University)**

***Reframing Environmental Governance in the Anthropocene: Exploring Biocentric and Ecocentric Alternatives.*** Briana Bombana (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya); Gabriela Fauth (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya); Pep Vivas-Elias (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya).

***The Crossroad of International Environmental Law Enforcement in the Eastern African Great Lakes Region.*** Margaret Wagana (Judiciary, Government of Uganda).

***Pandora's Box? A Pragmatic Perspective on Climate Change and Security.*** Niklas S. Reetz (European University Institute)

***Enforcing International Environmental Law through Refugee Law/International Human Rights Law: The Case of Climate Displaced Persons*** Justo Corti Varela (National Distance Learning University).

11:15 - 11:45 *Coffee Break*

11:45 - 13:15 **PANEL 2. SAFEGUARDING MARINE SPACES: CLIMATE CHANGE, LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT.**

*Chair:* Clara Esteve (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

***Do Some Island States Take Their Responsibilities Regarding Climate Change More Seriously than Others? On the UK Government's Net Zero Strategy and the ITLOS Advisory Opinion.*** Tom Baycock (University of Exeter).

***The potential impact of ITLOS' recent climate change advisory opinion on uses of the seas in areas beyond national jurisdiction.*** Anemoon Soete (Ghent University).

***The Freezing of Territorial Claims and Environmental Protection: The Case of the Antarctic Continental Shelf.*** Marta Sobrido (University of A Coruña).

***Addressing climate change through an advisory opinion of ITLOS: what follows from qualifying anthropogenic GHG emissions as marine pollution?*** Francesca Mussi (University of Trento).

***The IMO Mechanisms of Implementation Related to Decarbonisation and its Contribution to the International Environmental Law Enforcement.*** Rafael Prado (IMO International Maritime Law Institute).

13:15 - 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30- 16:30 **PANEL 3. BRIDGING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES. \***

Chair: Daniel Iglesias (Universidad de La Laguna).

**Keynote speech: Annalisa Savaresi (Professor of International Environmental Law, Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law, University of Eastern Finland; University of Stirling)**

**International environmental law and human rights between fragmentation and integration: the multilateral dimension of the climate crisis.** Giorgia Pane (Università degli studi di Milano La Statale).

**La Oroya Community v. Peru: A Case Study in the Challenges of Protecting Environmental Human Rights in the Inter-American Human Rights System.** Giovanna E. Gismondi (The George Washington University Law School).

**Assessing Saudi Arabia's International Responsibility for Human Rights Impacts of Saudi Aramco.** Miguel Ángel Elizalde (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya).

**Strategic Climate Change Litigation and Government Framework Cases: A Means of Defining and Enforcing Substantive Due Diligence Obligations under the Paris Agreement?** Agnes Viktoria Rydberg (University of Sheffield)

*\* This Panel is part of the research project R-ICIP 2024-ICI02724000017, led by Daniel Iglesias and funded by the Institut Català Internacional per la Pau.*

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 - 18:15 **PANEL 4. ALIGNING ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDAS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW.**

Chair: Mariona Cardona Vallès (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya).

**Compelling States to Act on COP Decisions at National and International Levels.** Monika Feigerlová (Centre for Climate Law and Sustainability Studies at the Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences / Charles University) and Eva Balounová (Centre for Climate Law and Sustainability Studies at the Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences).

**International Economic Law Tribunals as Support for International Environmental Law Enforcement.** Florian Couveinhes-Matsumoto (Université Paris Sciences et Lettres).

**Marginalization of Sustainability Principles in the African Mineral Value Chain.** Collins Chikodili Ajibo (University of Freiburg).

**Evaluating monitoring mechanisms and sanctions for non-compliance in Trade and Sustainable Development (TDS) chapters in EU Free Trade Agreements.** Siri Silvereke (University of Copenhagen).

19:00 Dinner at **El Menjador de la Beckett** (Optional; the participation requires pre-confirmation through the registration link, and prepayment).

## Tuesday 3rd December 2024

9:00 - 11:00 **PANEL 5. EVOLVING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR PROTECTING NATURAL SPACES: ACCOUNTABILITY, RIGHTS, AND BIODIVERSITY.**

*Chair:* Beatriz Felipe Pérez (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)

**Keynote speech:** Teresa Fajardo del Castillo (Universidad de Granada)

**UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: implementing International Environmental Law in a place-based approach.** Tiago de Melo Cartaxo (University of Exeter).

**A rights of nature-based (RoN) approach to protecting human rights affected by biodiversity loss in domestic courts as a way to enhance State compliance with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).** Julián Suárez (University College Cork).

**Adding another piece to the puzzle – The fragmentation of International Environmental Law as an underlying reason for the lack of agricultural emissions mitigation.** Katharina Neumann (University of Oxford)

11:00 - 11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30 - 12:45 **PANEL 6. ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS IN EUROPE: LEGAL CHALLENGES AND HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES.**

*Chair:* Bettina Steible (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya).

**Securing the Future: The Urgency of a Right to a Healthy Environment in the Council of Europe Framework.** Francesca Cerulli (University of Florence)

**Enforcement of Participatory and Procedural Environmental Rights before the ECtHR: Challenges and Future Developments.** Enikő Krajnyák (University of Miskolc)

**Can an EU Law Infringement Complaint be Used to Ensure Compliance with International Environmental Law? - The Case of the Polish EIA Procedure.** Anna Haładyj (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin)

**Environmental plans and Aarhus Pillar III in Poland: a few comments on the need to 'green' the theory of legal sources in the context of constitutional and administrative law.** Małgorzata Szalewska (Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz) and Karolina Karpus (Nicolaus Copernicus University)

12:45- 14:30 *Lunch Break*



14:30 - 15:30 **PANEL 7. ENFORCING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PRIVATE LAW MECHANISMS. \***

*Chair:* Chiara Marullo (Universitat Jaume I)

***Harmonized Corporate Sustainability Disclosure Regulation: A Key for the Enforcement of International Environmental Law.*** Charles Codère (Laval University).

***The private enforcement of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive: access to court in environmental litigation.*** Sara Sánchez Fernández (IE University).

***Greenwashing by omission: corporate responsibility and emerging legal trends.*** Katherine Quinn (University of Cambridge) and Sara González (Plenitude)

*\* This Panel is part of the research project CIGE/2022/63, led by Chiara Marullo and funded by Conselleria de Innovación, Universidades, Ciencia y Sociedad Digital of Generalitat Valenciana*

15:30 - 16:00 **CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS.**

***Bettina Steible and Mariona Cardona-Vallès***, on behalf of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

***Paolo Farah***, on behalf of the European Society of International Law Interest Group on International and European Rule of Law.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# TOWARDS A GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL-ECONOMIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

**DATES**  
**6-7 JUNE 2025**

**VENUE**  
**ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE-PARIS**  
**SCIENCES ET LETTRES (ENS-PSL), CITE**  
**UNIVERSITAIRE**  
**PARIS, FRANCE**

**ORGANIZED BY**



**CTAD**  
Centre de Théorie et Analyse du Droit  
UMR 7074 CNRS



**THIS CONFERENCE IS AN ESIL-SUPPORTED EVENT**





# INTRODUCTION

Until recently, International Economic Law (IEL) and International Environmental Law (IEnvL) were largely treated as separate domains. The prevailing assumption was that there was no conflict between them, with each supporting the other, either spontaneously or through purposeful design. It was believed that the pursuit of **economic growth** and the establishment of a level playing field did not conflict with the goal of **preserving a healthy environment** or maintaining ecological balance.

However, it is now undeniable that the way we produce, consume, invest and trade — which is shaped by International economic Law — is the main cause of ecological crises, which are structural and not temporary or limited. The legal rules that either directly impose or indirectly incentivize these practices must be revisited and reformed. This shift is crucial, as States have common (but differentiated) responsibilities to prevent and mitigate climate disruption and face the need to reconcile goals such as a decent life for all with environmental sustainability.

Despite the growing cross-references between **IEL and IEnvL**, this trend often fails to bridge the gap between economic growth or competition-driven global economic structures and the need for an economy grounded in environmental sustainability. As a result, while hybridization is occurring, it remains fragmented, with environmental goals often relegated to an ideal rather than embedded within the operational mechanisms of global economic practices.

However, recent trends like the inclusion of “sustainable development” chapters in trade agreements, and the adoption of carbon border adjustment mechanisms in the EU indicate a gradual shift toward embedding sustainability within economic frameworks. The evolving general international law such as the duty to prevent atmospheric degradation in the 2021 ILC articles on protection of the atmosphere push environmental protection measures into other domains. Yet, these examples often lack the binding or enforceable provisions needed to make meaningful impact on actual economic practices.

To address these challenges, it is essential to examine the legal instruments, provisions, institutions and procedures that have emerged in recent years, along with the new proposals being made. These elements should be assessed to determine how they can effectively support —or at least safeguard— **the genuine and reasonable commitments made by companies and States towards a more sustainable and environmentally respectful economy.**





# CALL FOR PAPERS

To identify both the shortcomings and dead ends, as well as the potential avenues for the future, the symposium's organizing committee invites submissions that offer a fresh perspective on the following topics:

- **Provisions in environmental agreements** that highlight the use of economic leverage (e.g., the Paris Agreement's reference to "making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development"),
- **Provisions in trade and investment agreements** that address the possibility of regulating the economy for environmental purposes (e.g., the right to regulate, preventing an environmental race to the bottom, etc.), or that incorporate obligations from environmental agreements (such as those stemming from the Montreal Protocol in the USMCA or the Trans-Pacific Partnership)
- **New chapters in "classical" trade and investment treaties** (e.g., the "sustainable development" chapters in mega-regional trade and investment agreements, or treaty chapters concerning international investment obligations, particularly in relation to the environment),
- **Cross-references between ecological and economic treaties**, with a focus on recent approaches to linking normative instruments (e.g., the EU-New Zealand agreement that coordinates the co-implementation of its own rules and those of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)),
- **The ecological benefits of revising or denouncing old agreements or treaties** (e.g., revising the OECD Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits or updating the Energy Charter Treaty to include an Annex on National Investment (NI), or denouncing agreements such as many bilateral investment treaties or the Energy Charter Treaty, first by European states and then by the European Union),
- **The conclusion of environmental treaties within economic negotiation forums** (e.g., the 2022 treaty on subsidies for illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing within the WTO framework) or treaties that clearly blend economic and ecological issues (e.g., the 2023 UN Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)), or economic, ecological and other issues such as cultural heritage, agriculture, human rights, indigenous rights, health, etc. (e.g. the 2024 WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Knowledge or other instruments on intellectual property),
- **The environmental and economic aspects of general obligations** in International Law - e.g. sources of international law, expansion of general principles, customary law, etc.
- **The environmental and economic aspects of litigation** in national and international fora - such as the ITLOS advisory opinion, the ICJ advisory opinion, pending, and InterAmerican HR court pending opinions,
- **The development of municipal law** on the integration of the ecological values into economic development and their interface with international rules,



- **The launch of new hybrid international negotiations** (e.g., on environmental goods, trade and environmental sustainability, plastic pollution, etc.) or international negotiations which, among other aspects, have both economic and ecological implications (e.g. the human-animal interface in the framework of the current negotiation of an instrument to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response),
- **New mechanisms for implementing or settling disputes** related to sustainable development chapters, with particular focus on provisions addressing disputes handled by systems based on sustainable chapters and those captured by systems based on other chapters of trade and investment agreements,
- **Innovative proposals from States** on how to link IEL and IEnvL (e.g., the 2020 US proposal on advancing sustainability goals through trade rules to create a level playing field),
- **Proposals for revising standard models for economic or environmental agreements** (e.g., the OECD “Future of Investment Treaties” initiative, or BIT models proposed by panel of experts within the framework of the International Institute for Sustainable Development),
- The potential for using and generalizing:
  - o Traditional techniques, such as the creation of compliance standards,
  - o Principles that are already in force but may not be fully exploited, such as the (rebuttable) presumption of conformity with WTO law for domestic measures based on international standards,
  - o Harmonization instruments used in other fields (e.g., the revision of multiple bilateral treaties through a multilateral convention).

The organizers emphasize that presentations should not simply describe the rules and practices examined, but also include an assessment of their effectiveness and appropriateness.

## APPLICATIONS

### I. ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:

The deadline for abstract submission is **February 28, 2025**. Abstracts may be submitted via e-mail to all the following email addresses: **florian.couveinhese@ens.psl.eu**, **paolo.farahe@lawcal.org.uk** and **research@lawcal.org.uk**.

Please include the following information, in separate

Document 1: Anonymized abstract (500-700-word).

Document 2: Authors’ information: Name, affiliation and contact details (e-mail and phone number).

Title of the abstract.

A short CV, including a list of relevant publications, if applicable.

Whether the author is an ESIL member (being an ESIL member is not a requirement to submit the abstract).

Both senior and junior scholars are invited to participate in the call for papers. Multiple abstracts can be submitted, but only one abstract per author will be accepted. We encourage submissions from scholars of all backgrounds, particularly those from underrepresented groups in international law.



## II. BLIND REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE:

Applications will be submitted to a process of blind review, and all applicants will be informed of the decision of the selection committee by March 5, 2025.

## III. PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES: DRAFT SUBMISSION

The conference organizers have publication plans for the presented papers. The precise nature and format of the publication will be discussed in more detail during the conference. Among the options already available at the time of the call for papers, the organizers envisage to publish a book collection in the Palgrave MacMillan/gLAWcal book series on “Global Issues” or a special issue/symposium in relevant peer-review SSCI or US journals. **Participants are required to submit a provisional draft of the paper by May 15, 2025.** The deadline and format of the final drafts will be discussed during the conference.

# REGISTRATION, VENUE, AND DATES

This international conference will take place in person, on the premises of the École Normale Supérieure-Paris Sciences et Lettres (ENS-PSL), France on the 6-7th June 2025. Registration will be open from April 1st, 2024, at specific Registration Links that will be provided.

Registration fees for Paper Presenters are as follows:

- ESIL Members: €120
- ESIL Early Career Scholars: €70
- Non-ESIL Members: €170
- Non-ESIL Early Career Scholars: €120

We are pleased to offer an optional dinner event on the 6th June 2025. Kindly note that all participants (paper presenters, chairs and discussants) are responsible for covering the cost of their own dinner (maximum cost: 50 euros).

Conference participants and presenters are encouraged to become ESIL members before the conference and register to benefit from the ESIL membership. Panel chairs and discussants are also invited to join ESIL. The organizers are actively applying for funding, which may allow to offer free registration to a limited number of paper presenters and participants. Priority will be given to early career scholars, as well as scholars from low-income countries or economies in transition, who request free registration due to a lack of financial support from their institutions or other financial constraints. If you wish to apply for free registration, please indicate this in your submission and provide a brief explanation of your circumstances.





# CONFERENCE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

Florian Couveinhes Matsumoto, (École Normale Supérieure-Paris Sciences et Lettres (ENS-PSL), France) and Paolo Davide Farah (West Virginia University, John D. Rockefeller IV School of Policy and Politics, USA & gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, United Kingdom)

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Daria Boklan (HSE University), Chamu Kuppuswamy (University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom), Matjaz Nahtigal (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), Martin Svec (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic and gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, UK), Till Patrik Holterhus (Leuphana Law School, Lüneburg, Germany), Denise Wohlwend (Harvard Law School, USA and Kellerhals Carrard, Zurich, Switzerland), Velimir Živković (University of Warwick School of Law, United Kingdom), Patrick Abel (University of Passau, Germany and European University Institute, Fiesole, Italy), Carlo De Stefano (Roma Tre University, Italy), José Gustavo Prieto Munoz (Ghent University).

## CO-ORGANIZERS

This conference is organized as a European Society of International Law (ESIL)-supported event by the École Normale Supérieure-Paris Sciences et Lettres (ENS-PSL), Centre de Théorie et Analyse du Droit, gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, the ESIL Interest Group on the European and International Rule of Law, the ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law, the ESIL Interest Group on International Economic Law.



## THIS CONFERENCE IS AN ESIL-SUPPORTED EVENT





# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## TOWARDS A GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL-ECONOMIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

DATES

6-7 JUNE 2025

VENUE

UNIVERSITY PSL - ENS - CAMPUS JOURDAN

48 BD JOURDAN · +33 1 43 13 61 00

ORGANIZED BY



**CTAD**  
Centre de Théorie et Analyse du Droit  
UMR 7074 CNRS



THIS CONFERENCE IS AN ESIL-SUPPORTED EVENT





# 6 JUNE 2025

8:45 – Welcoming Participants

9:00 – 9:05 Welcoming from Frédéric Worms, Director of Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

9:05 – 9:10 – Introduction from the Chair of the Conference (Florian Couveinhes Matsumoto & Paolo Davide Farah)

9:10 – 9:15 Address from the ESIL Interest Group Chairs and Conveners

Paolo Davide Farah – Chair of the ESIL IG on EU and International Rule of Law

Daria Boklan – Co-Convener of ESIL IG on International Environmental Law

Elena Cima – Co-Convener of the ESIL IG on Energy and International Law

José Gustavo Prieto Muñoz – Co-Convener ESIL IG on International Economic Law

9:15 – 10:15

**Keynote Speaker: Gregory Shaffer, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington DC, USA**  
**Addressing the Negative Externalities of Trade**

10:00 – 10:15 – Discussants, Q&A and Debate – Florian Couveinhes Matsumoto & Paolo Davide Farah

10:15 – 10:30 Break

**10:30 – 12:15 – Inaugural Panel: The Relationship between International Environmental Law and International Economic Law**

Chair: Gregory Shaffer, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington DC, USA

The Emperor's Green Clothes: Exposing the Structural Pathologies of Environmental Exceptions in Trade and Investment Agreements

Caroline Henckels, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Promoting Corporate Environmental Standards Through Interlegality

Jaye Ellis, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Balancing the Energy Trilemma Through Dispute Resolution Reform

Guillermo Garcia Sanchez, Texas A & M University

Business, Human Rights, and the Environment: Indigenous Perspectives and the 2024 WIPO Treaty, Paolo Davide Farah, West Virginia University (USA) and gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

12:00 – 12:15 – Q&A and Debate

**6 JUNE 2025**

**12:15 – 13:30 Panel 1: Reframing International Rules on Subsidies and Industrial Policy for a Sustainable Future – ESIL Energy and International Law**

Chair: Ilaria Espa, University of Lugano, Switzerland

Green Subsidies and WTO Rules

Gabrielle Marceau, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Mapping Current Subsidy Practices and Their Effects

Elettra Bargellini, Dublin City University, Ireland

Subsidies, Industrial Policies and Dispute Settlement

Tetyana Payosova, International Trade Law and Policy Expert

Subsidies and Renewable Energy

Elena Cima, University of Geneva, Switzerland

13:15 – 13:30 – Q&A and Debate

13:30 – 15:00 – Lunch Break

**15:00 – 16:00 – Panel 2 – Reframing International Trade Law – Principles and Exceptions**

Panel Chair: Gabrielle Marceau, University of Geneva

Climate Change Interpretation of Trade Rules or Used as Guise for Protectionism?

Daria Boklan, HSE

Can Climate Change Be Considered "Other Emergency In International Relations" Under Article XXI(B) of the GATT94? The Potential Strengthening Of Environmental Restrictions in a Context of Securitization of International Trade

Justo Corti-Varela, UNED, Spain

Navigating Through a Fragmented International Legal Order: Is There a Place For Sectoral Agreements on Trade and Environment Outside the WTO?

Antoine Comont, Universite de Bordeaux, France

Q&A and Debate: 15:45 – 16:00

Break and Poster Presentations: 16:00 – 17:00



## 6 JUNE 2025

### **17:00 – 18:15 – Panel 3 – The Tools of Trade Agreements and Policies, and Their (In)Efficiency – Ecological-Economic Agreements**

Panel Chair: Paolo Davide Farah, West Virginia University (USA) and gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

Towards a New Generation of Agreements for Sustainability  
Rhea Tamara Hoffmann, University of Siegen, Germany

Strengthening International Climate Change Mitigation Law through Regional Trade Agreements?  
Prospects and Obstacles for Concretization, Adjudication and Enforcement  
Andreas Buser, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Sustainability Impact Assessments of Trade Agreements: Harm Prevention and Due Diligence  
Johanna Aleria Lorenzo, University of Amsterdam

The Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS): Check and Balances Between the Institutional System and the Environmental Commitments  
Esther López Barrero, Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM), Spain

## 7 JUNE 2025

### **9:30– 10:15 – Panel 4 – The Tools of Trade Agreements and Policies, and Their (In)Efficiency – Ecological-Economic Agreements – Ecological-Economic Policies**

Chair: Justo Corti-Varela, UNED, Spain

The Protection of Marine Ecosystems Through Trade: Assessing the European Union Toolbox  
Justine Muller, National University of Singapore, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL)

Biodiversity Protection in EU Policy: Balancing Disclosure Enforcement, and the Role of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive in The Omnibus Review  
Marco Corradi, ESSEC Business School, Paris, France  
Silvia Grandi, University of Bologna, Italy  
Marios Iacovides, Uppsala University, Sweden

Q&A and Debate: 10:00 – 10:15

# 7 JUNE 2025

## 10:15 – 11:15 – Panel 5 – Reframing International Investment Law

Panel Chair: Catharine Titi, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)–CERSA, University Paris–Panthéon–Assas, France

General Principles of International Law: Bridging Investment Arbitration and Environmental Protection  
Marina–Elissavet Konstantinidi, Independent Researcher, Brussels

Should I Stay or Should I Go? A Comparative Analysis of the Exclusion of Protection for Fossil Fuel Investments Under the Modernized ECT and in the Event of Withdrawal from the ECT  
Johannes Tropper, University of Vienna, Austria

Between Sovereignty and Systemic change: MDBs and Paris Alignment in Development Policy Lending  
Katerina Akestoridi, Boston University, Global Development Policy Center, USA

Q&A and Debate: 11:00 – 11:15

Break and Poster Presentations: 11:15 – 12:00

## 12:00 – 13:15 – Panel 6 – Key “Hybrid” Institutions and Themes

Panel Chair: Jaye Ellis, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Revisiting and Comparing International Legal Arrangements Governing Transfer of Technology in International Economic Law For Sustainability  
Felipe de Andrade, University of Antwerp and KU Leuven, Belgium

International Law and Circular Economy: The Case of Recycling Raw Materials Necessary for the Energy Transition  
Victor Grandaubert, Université Paris Nanterre – Centre de droit international de Nanterre (CEDIN), France

The Challenges of Including The/A One Health Approach in a Legally Binding Instrument  
María Juliana Tenorio Quintero, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

Managing Regime Conflicts in Climate Governance: Towards a More Structured Approach to Systemic Integration  
Huiwen Yang, National University of Singapore, Asia Pacific Centre of Environmental Law, Singapore

Q&A and Debate: 13:00 – 13:15

13:15 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations



# 7 JUNE 2025

## **15:00 – 16:00 Panel 7 – Reconnecting the Global Ecological-Economic Legal Framework with General International Law and Theories of Justice**

Panel Chair: Florian Couveinhes Matsumoto, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

The Emergence of an Environmental Jus Cogens Norm: Rethinking General Obligations in International Economic and Environmental Law

Kasim Balarabe, O P Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana, India

Bringing Ecological and Socioeconomic Justice Together: A Law & Political Economy Approach to Planetary and Earth System Justice

Gauthier Martens, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles, Belgium

## **POSTER PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

June 6, 2025, 16:00 – 17:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Benedicta Naa Sackiorkor Quarcoo, Luiss Guido Carli University Law School, Italy, The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms: Legal Implications for International Trade and Cooperation

June 6, 2025, 16:00 – 17:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Mariela (Maidana-Eletti) de Amstalden, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, Engineering Biology, Planetary Health and New WTO Law: Examining the Role of International Standards in Operationalizing the Principle of (Rebuttable) Presumption of Compliance under WTO law

June 6, 2025, 16:00 – 17:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Nehir ARSLAN, Paris 8 University Vincennes-Saint-Denis, France, Cultural and Natural Heritage in Investment Arbitration: A Misalignment that Needs Alternative Paths

June 6, 2025, 16:00 – 17:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Valerio Sinaj, IUSS Pavia & Università di Roma Unitelma Sapienza, Italy, Who Pays for Environmental Harm? State and Corporate Responsibility in International Law

June 6, 2025, 16:00 – 17:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Xiaofeng Li, Durham Law School, United Kingdom, China's Industrial Policy and World Trade Law

June 6, 2025, 16:00 – 17:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Farouk GHAZI Badji Mokhtar-Annaba University, Algeria, & Tareck ALSAMARA, Prince Sultan University, Saudi Arabia, The Environmental and Economic Dimensions of Litigation in National and International Courts: fossil fuels companies versus international climate change law



## POSTER PAPER PRESENTATIONS

June 7, 2025, 11:15 – 12:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Claudia Pharaon, Leiden Law School, The Netherlands, Rethinking the Settlement of International Investment Disputes to Address Ecological Challenges

June 7, 2025, 11:15 – 12:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Preetkiran Kaur, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, India, Assessing the “Sustainability” Aspect and Implications of the EU-Angola Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement vis-à-vis Critical Minerals Supply Chain

June 7, 2025, 11:15 – 12:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Laura Létourneau Tremblay, University of Inland Norway, Norway, Interpretation of International Investment Law: Towards an Ecological Approach?

June 7, 2025, 11:15 – 12:00 Break and Poster Presentations and June 7, 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break and Poster Presentations: Mohamed Abubakr Abdelmaqsoud, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, Causation in Climate Change Litigation: Legal Challenges and Alternative Approaches

## CONFERENCE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

Florian Couveinhes Matsumoto, (École Normale Supérieure–Paris Sciences et Lettres (ENS-PSL), France) and Paolo Davide Farah (West Virginia University, John D. Rockefeller IV School of Policy and Politics, USA & gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, United Kingdom)





# SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Daria Boklan (HSE University), Chamu Kuppuswamy (University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom), Matjaz Nahtigal (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), Martin Svec (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic and gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, UK), Till Patrik Holterhus (Leuphana Law School, Lüneburg, Germany), Denise Wohlwend (Harvard Law School, USA and Kellerhals Carrard, Zurich, Switzerland), Velimir Živković (University of Warwick School of Law, United Kingdom), Patrick Abel (University of Passau, Germany and European University Institute, Fiesole, Italy), Carlo De Stefano (Roma Tre University, Italy), José Gustavo Prieto Munoz (Ghent University).

## CO-ORGANIZERS

This conference is organized as a European Society of International Law (ESIL)-supported event by the École Normale Supérieure-Paris Sciences et Lettres (ENS-PSL), Centre de Théorie et Analyse du Droit, gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, the ESIL Interest Group on the European and International Rule of Law, the ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law, the ESIL Interest Group on International Economic Law and the ESIL Interest Group on Energy and International law.



**gLAWcal**  
Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development



**International Economic Law  
Interest Group**



**ESIL INTEREST GROUP  
ON ENERGY AND  
INTERNATIONAL LAW**

**THIS CONFERENCE IS  
AN ESIL-SUPPORTED  
EVENT**





# CALL FOR PAPERS

## 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference

### THE CROSSROAD OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Paradoxes of energy transition and global inequalities

**Barcelona, 3 - 4 September 2025**



Universitat Oberta de Catalunya



Universitat de Barcelona



Universidad de La Laguna



Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya



ESIL Interest Group on the European & International Rule of Law



ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law



gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development



Centre d'Estudis de Dret Ambiental de Tarragona



Grant PID2023-146791NB-I00 funded by MCIU / AEI / 10.13039/501100011033 / ERDF, EU.



## Introduction

The need for an energy transition has never been more urgent than in the context of the ongoing climate and environmental crises. As global temperatures continue to rise, driven by the over-exploitation of fossil fuels, the consequences of inaction are becoming increasingly devastating. Climate change is not only a threat to natural ecosystems but also to human life, as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and disruptions to food and water supplies disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, particularly in the Global South. The shift towards renewable energy is critical to mitigating the worst effects of climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. However, this transition must be carefully managed to prevent the perpetuation of existing inequalities and ensure that it does not come at the cost of human rights, social justice, or environmental degradation in the regions already most affected by industrial exploitation and resource extraction.

The energy transition towards renewable energy sources, primarily driven by the Global North, has led to an increase in conflicts in the Global South, particularly due to the negative impacts on human rights and the environment stemming from the planning and implementation of renewable energy projects. Additionally, the extraction of essential minerals for renewable energy production, such as lithium, cobalt, and copper, is often linked to social and environmental conflicts in the Global South. These activities, both in renewable energy projects and mineral extraction, reflect the continuation of the extractivist logic characteristic of fossil fuel-based models, reproducing neocolonial dynamics of wealth accumulation.

In this context, the energy transition raises complex challenges, particularly when considering its environmental and social impacts. While the transition to renewable energy is necessary, it should not ignore the adverse effects it can have on human rights and the environment, especially in the Global South. The production and extraction of raw materials for renewable energy technologies – such as cobalt, lithium, and other minerals – often lead to severe social and environmental consequences. These impacts include violations of workers' rights, displacement of local communities, destruction of ecosystems, and the exacerbation of existing socio-economic inequalities. Moreover, these environmental and social issues are frequently exacerbated by the failure of States to adequately incorporate human rights and environmental considerations into their policies, allowing business interests to take precedence over the welfare of affected communities.

Despite the growing recognition of these issues, many State policies fail to adequately address or prioritize the social and environmental impacts of renewable energy projects and mineral extraction. This oversight reflects a broader tendency for governments to prioritize economic growth and energy independence over the human rights and environmental consequences of their policies. The lack of comprehensive environmental and social assessments, coupled with weak regulatory frameworks, has allowed business actors to exploit natural resources without due consideration for the communities affected. In many instances, the State's role in facilitating or even promoting such activities, without enforcing robust human rights and environmental standards, exacerbates the negative consequences faced by vulnerable populations.

### Call for Papers

The Scientific Committee of the **International Conference “The crossroad of international environmental law: Paradoxes of energy transition and global inequalities”** invites contributions that explore the complex intersection of energy transition, environmental law, and human rights. We seek papers that critically examine the tensions, challenges, and potential synergies arising from the global shift to renewable energy, with a focus on the environmental, social, and economic impacts of this transition, particularly in the Global South.

#### ***Possible topics to be addressed:***

- “Just transition”: Balancing economic growth, social justice, and environmental protection in the Global South.
- Neocolonialism in the energy transition: Exploitation of resources in the Global South.
- Impact of renewable energy projects on human rights in the Global South.
- Corporate responsibility in the energy transition.
- Environmental justice in the energy transition.
- The role of states in the energy transition.
- The paradox of clean energy: Conflicts in the green economy.
- Integrating human rights and environmental protection in global energy governance.
- The future of fossil fuels and its effects on social and environmental justice.
- Planetary boundaries and the negative effects of the energy transition in the Global South.
- Trade and investment in the energy transition: Impacts on human rights and environmental enforcement

### Submission Guidelines

#### **I. ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:**

The deadline for abstract submission is **May 10, 2025**. Abstracts may be submitted via e-mail to the following email addresses: [ielconference@uoc.edu](mailto:ielconference@uoc.edu). Please include the following information, in separate documents:

- Document 1: **Anonymized abstract** (500-700-word).
- Document 2: **Authors’ information**:
  - Name, affiliation and contact details (e-mail and phone number).
  - Title of the abstract.
  - A short CV, including a list of relevant publications, if applicable.

Both senior and junior scholars are invited to participate in the call for papers. Multiple abstracts can be submitted, but only one abstract per author will be accepted.

## 2nd THE CROSSROAD OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

### II. BLIND REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE:

Applications will be submitted to a process of blind review, and all applicants will be informed of the decision of the selection committee by **June 5, 2025**.

### III. PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES: DRAFT SUBMISSION

The conference organizers have publication plans for the presented papers. The precise nature and format of the publication will be discussed in more detail during the conference. Among the options already available at the time of the call for papers, the organizers envisage to publish a book collection or a special issue/symposium in relevant peer-review journals.

A provisional draft of the paper should be submitted by **July 30, 2025**. The deadline and format of the final drafts will be discussed during the conference.

## Registration, Venue, and dates

The International Conference will take place in person, on the premises of the Open University of Catalonia (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya), Barcelona, Spain on **September 3-4, 2025**.

We are pleased to offer an **optional dinner event** on **September 3**. Kindly note that participants are responsible for covering the cost of their own dinner (maximum cost: 45 €)\*.

**Registration** ([available here](#)) will be open **from March 1, 2025 until July 15, 2025**.

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Registration fee for members of the ESIL .....     | <b>20 €</b> |
| Registration fee for non-members of the ESIL ..... | <b>60 €</b> |

*\*During registration, attendees will be asked to indicate whether they will attend the dinner event.*

## Organizing Institutions

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Universitat de Barcelona

Universidad de La Laguna

Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya

Centre d'Estudis de Dret Ambiental de Tarragona

ESIL Interest Group on the European & International Rule of Law

ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law

gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

### Conference Chairs and Coordinators

Mariona Cardona-Vallès, *Open University of Catalonia*

Bettina Steible, *Open University of Catalonia*

Daniel Iglesias Márquez, *University of La Laguna*

Mar Campins Eritja, *University of Barcelona*

Antoni Pigrau Solé, *University Rovira i Virgili - Centre d'Estudis de Dret Ambiental de Tarragona (CEDAT)*

Paolo Davide Farah, *West Virginia University & gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, UK*

Ana Garcia Juanatey, *CEI International Affairs*

**A pre-Annual Conference workshop organized by the Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law in the context of the 2025 ESIL Annual Conference taking place at the Department of Law of Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), 10-13 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**

**10 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**DATE IG ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND RULE OF LAW**

**PRE-ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

**11 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**VENUE**

**BERLIN, GERMANY**



**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.



## **APPLICATIONS & ELIGIBILITY**

### **Submission Guidelines:**

This call is open to academics, as well as practitioners of international organizations and NGOs working in these areas. The objective is to optimize research impact of our participants by engaging the different communities of practice in law, political science, and other disciplines to permit an interdisciplinary dialogue

- Abstracts (300-500 words) should be submitted by **April 30, 2025**.
- Please include your name, affiliation, and a short bio (150 words).
- The author's CV, including a list of relevant publications, if applicable;
- The author's contact details, including e-mail address and phone number;
- Whether the author is an ESIL member (Being an ESIL Member is not a requirement to submit an abstract)
- Interdisciplinary and co-authored papers are also welcomed
- Full papers will be considered for publication in a special issue or reputable publisher or for the EUI/ESIL working papers.

Submissions should be sent to **[paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk](mailto:paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk)**

For inquiries, please contact **[paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk](mailto:paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk)**

Multiple abstracts from the same authors will be considered, but only one can be selected. Co-authored multidisciplinary papers are also welcomed. Applicants will be informed of the selection committee's decision no later than **30 April 2025**. The Organizers are unable to provide funding for any cost related to participation to the conference.

The Interest Group is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Some [ESIL travel grants](#) and [ESIL careers' grants](#) will be 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 conference.

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 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.

All Members of the ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law, the members of the ESIL Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law, the members of other ESIL IGs and also the non -ESIL members (ESIL membership might be required if the abstract is selected) are invited to submit abstracts.

## **VENUE AND DATES**

A pre-Annual Conference workshop on **Reevaluating the Rule of Law in an Era of Geopolitical Tensions: Necessity and Prospects for Reform** in the context of the 2025 ESIL Annual Conference. The ESIL Annual conference will take place in Berlin, Germany, 10-13 September 2025 and the pre-Annual Conference workshop organized by the Interest Group on European and International Rule of Law on 11 September 2025.

## **PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES**

The organizers have publication plans for the presented papers. The precise format of the publication will be discussed during the conference.

## **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**Chair of the Pre-Annual ESIL Conference Workshop:** Paolo Davide Farah (West Virginia University & gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development).

**Scientific Committee:** Till Patrik Holterhus (Leuphana Law School), Denise Wohlwend (Kellerhals Carrard & Université de Fribourg - Universität Freiburg) and Velimir Zivkovic (University of Warwick), Martin Svec (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic)

**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 Malavika Rao, Food as Power: Geopolitics in the Perpetuation of Famine

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 – 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

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 Abdulkadir Gülçür, Common Interests, the Rule of Law, and the Struggle for Global Justice: Rethinking International Governance in the Age of SDGs

11:10 – 11:20 Thea Hoffmann, The EU Omnibus proposal: simplifying corporate sustainability due diligence at the expense of the rule of law and the European Green Deal

11:20 – 11:30 - Taygeti Michalakea, Rule of Law and the Private Sector

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)