



Call for Abstracts

Securitisation of economic policy, fundamental rights, business, and accountability in comparative perspective

Proposal by IG on BHR for an Agora to be held during the ESIL Annual Conference

ESIL Annual Conference 2026 – ‘International Law and Conflicts: An Enduring Tension?’ 3-5 September 2026, Málaga

The increasingly complex discourse around the securitisation of economic policy, whether through the lens of economic security or use of economic tools to promote other security objectives, has raised numerous questions about the sustainability and effectiveness of existing international legal rules and institutions. Despite increasing attention to this topic, much remains to be debated about the human or fundamental rights implications of this trend and how to promote accountability for violations of such rights, either at the international or domestic level. For instance, in the economic sanctions context, while substantial literature debates their effects on human rights and consequent legality, much less explores violations of equal treatment for economic operators that occur due to poor sanctions implementation or the linkage between overcompliance with sanctions and violations of international human rights. Further, to the extent these issues are discussed, even less convergence exists about how to promote accountability. Similarly, with increasing securitisation of instruments ranging from public procurement rules to investment restriction to critical minerals partnerships, the effects of such instruments may raise questions both about their consequences for fundamental rights and how to address such consequences in international or other arenas.

This proposed agora seeks to place the perspectives and experiences of different jurisdictions into a global and comparative dialogue to explore the different challenges that have arisen and various judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms that may exist. This is an especially timely moment to convene a group of global scholars as increasing geopolitical fragmentation and conflict reshape attitudes of various jurisdictions to participating in or managing the effects of the securitisation of trade. For the EU, while contributions taking a pan-EU perspective are welcome, we also encourage contributions exploring perspectives from different Member States.

If this proposed agora is not selected for the ESIL conference, we will host it as the pre-conference IG workshop in September 2026. We aim to publish a special issue in an international journal on this topic and, based on the presentations, we may invite selected participants to submit their work as part of this endeavour. The special issue will be co-edited by Nina M Hart, King's College London/Pusan National University, and Xueji Su, University of Macau, with support from the ESIL IG co-convenors.

Instructions for submission

Materials: 500-word max abstract along with the following details

- Name
- Affiliation
- ESIL and ESIL IG membership status
- Brief biography or cv (max 1pg)

Please note that participants whose abstracts are selected must confirm ESIL membership within four weeks or the offer will be withdrawn in favour of another short-listed paper.

Deadline: 16 January 2026 at 23:59 GMT

Results notified: 23 January 2026 (authors must confirm participation by 27 January as the Agora proposal must be submitted by 31 January)

Submission email: esilighbhr@gmail.com