



ESIL Interest Group ‘The EU as a Global Actor’

Pre-Conference ESIL Interest Group Workshop Annual Conference
Malaga

3 September 2026 (Thursday)

The EU as Global Peace Actor: Rhetoric or Reality?

– CALL FOR PAPERS –

The European Society of International Law (ESIL) Interest Group ‘The EU as a Global Actor’ (IG EUGLOBAL) welcomes submissions for a workshop taking place prior to the [ESIL Annual Conference in Malaga](#) (3-5 September 2026).

The theme of the 2026 Annual Conference is *International Law and Conflict: An Enduring Tension?* In this context, the IG workshop will explore the role of the EU as a peace actor in addressing regional and global conflicts. The Treaty on European Union sets out that the EU’s aim is “to promote peace...” and that it “shall contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth” (Articles 3(5) and 21 TEU). In 2012, the European Union was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for its contribution “to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe”. In recent years, however, the EU has faced multiple crises, including conflicts in its neighbourhood and beyond, that have called into question the EU’s ability to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security. Against this background, can the EU today be conceived as a real (global) peace actor?

The ESIL IG Workshop will explore the legal dimensions of the EU’s external action as a peace and security actor. Questions include, but are not limited to:

- How does EU external action contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction?
- How does the EU engage with international law in situations of armed conflict?
- What legal, institutional, and normative constraints shape the EU’s capacity to act as a peace actor?
- What role does the European Peace Facility (EPF) play in the EU’s external action, including in relation to arms supply and military assistance?

- How do EU sanctions function as tools of peace and conflict management, and what are their legal and normative limits?
- How should the EU's role as a peace actor be understood in light of recent defence-related initiatives (such as ReArm Europe) and its relationship with NATO?
- How has the EU contributed to international law, including international peace and security, through its involvement in cases before the International Court of Justice?

The IG EUGLOBAL invites submissions of abstracts, written in English or French, of no more than **600 words**. Applications should be submitted to euglobalactor@gmail.com by **15 April 2026 (Friday) 24:00h CET**, with a short curriculum vitae containing the author's name, institutional affiliation, contact information, and whether the applicant is an ESIL member.

Selected speakers will be notified by the **end of April 2026** via e-mail.

Kindly note that the IG is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Please see the ESIL website for information about [travel grants and carers' grants](#) offered to ESIL members, which are available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding.

Please see the [ESIL website](#) for all relevant information about the 2026 ESIL Annual Conference.

All participants are required to register for the Annual Conference. There will be an option to register just to attend the IG workshops; however, all participants are warmly invited to attend the entire event.

The selected speakers are to send extended abstracts of up to 3000-3500 words, by 20 August 2026 (Thursday) at the latest. These will be circulated amongst the panellists prior to the workshop.

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.

The IG EUGLOBAL Coordinating Committee:

Melanie FINK; Tamas MOLNAR; Jed ODERMATT; Raphael OIDTMANN

The Interest Group 'The EU as a Global Actor' (EUGLOBAL) is one of the interest groups of the [European Society of International Law](#) (ESIL). The IG EUGLOBAL seeks to engage with ESIL members with an interest in issues such as the interrelationship between European and international law, and the role and responsibilities of regional actors in the international (legal) order. By doing so, the group hopes to build a shared knowledge base among ESIL members interested in the role of the EU as a global normative actor