



## Call for Abstracts

### ***From Interdependence to Weaponisation: Energy Security and International Law***

**Pre-Conference Workshop of the Interest Group on Energy and International Law Convened by  
Elena Cima, Ilaria Espa, and Martin Švec**

**2026 ESIL Annual Conference on “International Law and Conflict: An Enduring Tension?”**

3-5 September 2026, Malaga

Energy, once framed primarily as a source of mutual interdependence, is increasingly deployed as an instrument of power in an increasingly conflictual international order. Geopolitical tensions, security concerns, and technological change are reshaping energy relations and raising new questions for international law. This workshop seeks to explore the different forms of conflict associated with these transformations, which may include *military and security conflicts* (such as attacks on energy infrastructure, cyber operations, or resource exploitation in situations of armed conflict), as well as *economic and trade conflicts* (including sanctions, export controls, transit disputes, and investment claims arising from security-driven energy measures). More broadly, the workshop seeks to explore geopolitical rivalries, including the weaponisation of energy dependencies, competing regulatory spheres of influence, and sovereignty disputes over resources, as well as technological and transitional conflicts related to digitalisation, critical minerals, and the restructuring of global supply chains in the energy transition. By doing so, the discussion will try to assess how international law responds to (and is re-shaped by) the securitisation of energy in an era marked by escalating confrontation and the erosion of multilateralism and rule-based frameworks.

We invite submissions on the following non-exhaustive list of topics related to the conference theme:

- The securitisation of energy and its implications for international law
- Energy and armed conflict, including attacks on energy infrastructure and resource exploitation in conflict situations
- The use of economic sanctions and trade restrictions in the energy sector
- Sovereignty disputes over energy resources and competing claims to control strategic assets
- Critical minerals, supply chain restructuring, and the geopolitics of the energy transition
- The role of international law and institutions in managing energy-related tensions in a fragmented international order

### Submission Guidelines

Submissions are welcome from scholars and practitioners, across disciplines and career stages.

Abstracts should be no more than 300 words and must be submitted by **Friday, 24 April 2026**. Please include a brief biography (max. 150 words) along with your abstract, highlighting your relevant research or experience in the field.

Abstracts will be evaluated based on their relevance to the theme of the workshop, originality, clarity, and contribution to ongoing debates in the field of international energy law.

Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, 8 May 2026. Submissions and inquiries should be directed to: [elena.cima@unige.ch](mailto:elena.cima@unige.ch)

We look forward to welcoming participants in person for this workshop, which will be held onsite in Malaga. Before you submit an abstract proposal to us, please ensure that you are able to travel to Malaga.

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 Carers' Grants](#) will be available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding.

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

**All participants, including speakers and chairs, at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register and are warmly invited to attend the whole Annual Conference.**

**Detailed information will follow on the registration options including information on preferential fees for ESIL Members and the option to register to attend the pre-ESIL Annual Conference workshops only.**

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.**