



ESIL BOARD ELECTIONS 2026
ÉLECTIONS DU COMITÉ DE LA SEDI 2026



**VERONIKA
FIKFAK**

SHORT BIOGRAPHY IN ENGLISH

Dr. Veronika Fikfak is a Professor of Human Rights and International Law at University College London (UCL) and co-director of the UCL Institute for Human Rights. Educated at the University of Ljubljana and the University of Oxford, she previously taught at Cambridge and Copenhagen and worked at the International Court of Justice. Her research focuses on the intersection of international law, human rights, and public law, studying how states interact with international courts. She has written extensively on compliance in international law, remedies for human rights violations, access to justice and automation in the international judiciary. She serves as an ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights and an expert on the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

COURTE BIOGRAPHIE IN FRENCH

Dr. Veronika Fikfak est professeure de droits de l'homme et de droit international à l'University College de Londres (UCL) et codirectrice de l'Institut des droits de l'homme de l'UCL. Formée à l'université de Ljubljana et à l'université d'Oxford, elle a précédemment enseigné à Cambridge et à Copenhague, et a travaillé à la Cour internationale de justice. Ses recherches portent sur l'intersection du droit international, des droits de l'homme et du droit public, et étudient la manière dont les États interagissent avec les tribunaux internationaux. Elle a beaucoup écrit sur le respect du droit international, les réparations en cas de violation des droits de l'homme, l'accès à la justice et l'automatisation au sein du système judiciaire international. Elle siège en tant que juge ad hoc à la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme et intervient en tant qu'experte auprès du Comité consultatif du Conseil des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies. Elle est également membre de la Cour permanente d'arbitrage.



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STATEMENT

My name is Veronika Fikfak, and I am a Professor of Human Rights and International Law at University College London. I have served on the Board of the European Society of International Law for the past four years, a period of important change for the Society. Our membership has grown considerably, and we have travelled to new places – Aix, Berlin, Vilnius, Krakow, Catania, and, for the first time next year, Maribor in Slovenia, which as a Slovenian I am especially happy about. We have also established a fully functioning Early Careers Network and a Diversity Advisory Board, both of which I have had the privilege of working with closely. Their input has been vital in widening the diversity and reach of our annual conferences and research fora, and in the many new events and collaborations we now offer.

I am running to continue serving on the Board because there is more I would like to do.

First, I want to expand and diversify our membership and membership categories. ESIL should be visible and relevant in parts of Europe and beyond where it has not been so far – I am keen to explore how we can connect with international law scholars across South and Eastern Europe, as well as in specific pockets of Western and Northern Europe. I also want to create new opportunities for existing members to feel valued and involved. Having placed early career researchers at the heart of what ESIL does over the past four years, I now want to do more to attract and engage mid-career and senior members, including through a Senior or Emeritus Members' Advisory Council.

Second, I want to prioritise collaboration and engagement with practitioners. ESIL has traditionally been a scholarly society, but many of our members straddle the line between academia and practice. I believe we can benefit enormously from finding new ways to involve practitioners in the Society, whether by working alongside them or including them more fully in our events.

Third, this past year we have piloted new types of events that bring international law directly to our members – from Conversations to Rapid Response seminars. These have been highly successful and well attended, and have showcased the Society's expertise and leadership in international law. I want to build on this and expand the range of activities we offer.

Above all, my goal is to ensure that our expertise in international law remains visible and recognised – and that, with your help and input, ESIL continues to be a society that believes strongly in international law and in what it can still achieve in today's world.

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