

Annual Report 2026

ESIL Interest Group on International Criminal Justice

During the past twelve months, the ESIL Interest Group on International Criminal Justice organized and participated in a number of activities. Most notably, the Interest Group convened a pre-conference workshop in conjunction with the ESIL Annual Conference in Málaga and supported the publication of selected papers from the previous year's workshop. Elections to the Coordinating Committee are also scheduled to take place in November 2026.

The Interest Group's Coordinating Committee is currently composed of Alexandre Skander Galand (chair), Claudio Pala, Franka Pues, and Kyra Wigard. Alexandre Skander Galand and Caleb Wheeler were elected for four-year mandates in November 2022, while Claudio Pala, Franka Pues, and Kyra Wigard were elected for four-year mandates in November 2024. Following his election to the ESIL Board in September 2026, Caleb Wheeler ceased to serve on the Coordinating Committee. The next elections will take place in November 2026.

The IG worked with *Völkerrechtsblog* to publish a symposium arising from its 2025 pre-conference workshop in Berlin. Entitled "International Criminal Law in Turmoil: Charting New Paths as They Unfold", the symposium opened with an introduction by Caleb H. Wheeler, Kyra Wigard, Franka Pues, Alexandre Skander Galand, and Claudio Pala. Published between 22 and 26 June 2026, it included six contributions: Maria Crippa, "High-Profile Targets, Empty Courtrooms?"; Alison Bisset, "The Ljubljana–The Hague Convention"; Marie Wilmet and Damien Scalia, "The Complex Realities of International Criminal Justice's Growing Domestic Practice"; Sharon Weill, "Criminal Law of Mass Crimes: Individuals, Corporations and States' Responsibilities"; Yulia Ioffe, "Reconstructing International Criminal Justice in Real Time"; and Patrick Siegle, Claire Beutter, and Shima Esmailian, "Understanding International Criminal Justice as a Network".

On 3 September 2026, the IG held its pre-conference workshop in Málaga on the theme "Is the International Criminal Court in Conflict?". The call for papers attracted 32 abstracts, from which five papers were selected. Following the withdrawal of one selected participant, the workshop featured four presentations. It opened with welcome and introductory remarks by Caleb Wheeler, followed by a keynote address by Professor Frédéric Mégret. The first panel, "External and Conceptual Conflicts: Legitimacy, Power, and Critique", was chaired by Franka Pues. Thomas Obel Hansen presented "The Legitimacy Paradox in International Criminal Justice", while Karen Lønne Ring presented "Justificatory Labour and the Internal Conflicts of Legality at the ICC". The second panel, "Internal Conflicts at the ICC: Law, Discretion, and Institutional Tensions", was chaired by Alexandre Skander Galand. Marco Longobardo presented "The ICC Appeals Chamber and the Avoidance of Conflicts between the OTP and PTCs regarding Prosecutorial Discretion", and Ezequiel Jimenez Martinez presented "The Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute: Taming the Prosecutor?". Closing remarks were delivered by Kyra Wigard.

The Coordinating Committee was pleased with the quality of the papers and the exchanges that took place throughout the workshop. The event provided an opportunity to examine

the external, conceptual, and institutional conflicts confronting the ICC at a particularly challenging moment for the Court and the broader international criminal justice project.

The IG intends to remain active in the coming year, planning both in-person and online events. We continue to welcome suggestions from members about the type and subject of activities they would like the Interest Group to host.