



National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens  
Faculty of Law



**Athens PIL**  
Athens Public International Law Center

## **AthensPIL Research Exchange 2023 – 2024** **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting**

We are happy to announce our second Research Exchange meeting for this academic year! The meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13 December** 18:00-19:00 at AthensPIL premises (47 Academias str., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor).

We will have the pleasure to hear from **Ms. Dionysia Vanikioti**, trainee lawyer in Athens and LL.M. Candidate of Public International Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, presenting her ongoing research on the following subject: ***“Jurisdictional Immunities of State Officials: The Work of the ILC on First Reading”***.

### ***Presentation Abstract:***

In 2022, the ILC adopted the Draft Articles on Immunities of State Officials after 16 years of work. The subject has sparked controversy and long debates within the international community, as to which officials enjoy immunity *ratione personae* or whether there are exceptions to immunity *ratione materiae* concerning international crimes. The Draft Articles, as they stand today, have been expanded with articles on procedural provisions, providing clarity for the domestic investigative and judicial authorities. In anticipation of the comments by Governments and the second reading of the Articles, the discussions continue on whether the Draft Articles codify customary international law or constitute a progressive development of international law, which are not at all helped by the diverging State practice. At times, there has been criticism on the approach of the Special Rapporteur to include additional crimes on the list of exceptions to immunity *ratione materiae* or to omit adding other Ministers aside from the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs in the persons enjoying immunity *ratione personae*. It remains to be seen whether the Commission will propose the Draft Articles as a basis for a binding treaty or keep them as a soft law instrument.

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Convenors:  
Ms. Aliko Gkana  
Ms. Matina Papadaki  
Ms. Vera Chatzigeorgiou