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University of Athens**

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Athens PIL
Athens Public International Law Center

Athens PIL Report 10th Anniversary Edition



Athens PIL Report
10th Anniversary Edition



It is with pleasure that I present the comprehensive activity report of the Athens Public International Law Center (Athens PIL), which provides an overview of the Center's activities on the occasion of its 10th year anniversary.

The Athens Public International Law Center was founded in July 2015, as a research institution within the Faculty of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens dedicated to public international law. The Center serves as an academic hub aiming to contribute to the study and advancement of international law through teaching, research, scholarship and practice, to provide an environment that brings together academics, researchers and students interested in international law within the Athens Law School and from all over the world, and to engage in outreach through cooperation and partnerships with other academic institutions, international organizations and scientific and social entities.

Since its foundation, the Athens PIL has established as its annual flagship event, the Nicolas Politis Lecture Series, named after the famous Greek international jurist. It has organized an array of international conferences, guest lectures, research projects, summer schools, law clinics, research exchange meetings, and other activities which are summarized in the present report. Numerous projects, individual and collaborative, have been completed or are underway in various thematic areas including sovereignty beyond borders, international human rights, migration, law of the sea, maritime security, offshore energy, environmental protection, space law, and emerging technologies.

In its 10 years of existence the Center has established itself as a leading research institution in public international law. More importantly, it has created a vibrant community of scholars, which is expanding and flourishing. Many thanks are owed to the whole team for this joint effort. Moving forward, we look to exciting and fruitful years and invite you to continue following our activities.

Professor Photini Pazartzis
Director

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OUR PEOPLE

Faculty



**Linos-Alexandros
Sicilianos**

Professor of International
Law, former Dean
of the Faculty of Law



Photini Pazartzis

Professor of International
Law, Director AthensPIL



Maria Gavouneli

Professor of International
Law, Deputy Director
Athens PIL, Director LLM
in International and
European Law



**Georgios
Kyriakopoulos**

Associate Professor of Inter-
national Law, Vice-Dean of
the Faculty of Law



Anastasios Gourgourinis

Assistant Professor
of International Law



**Efthymios
Papastavridis**

Assistant Professor
of International Law



Eleni Micha

Teaching Fellow,
Public International Law



**Rebecca-Emmanuella
Papadopoulou**

Professor of EU Law



Manolis Perakis

Associate Professor
of EU Law



Metaxia Kouskouna

Assistant Professor
of EU Law



Ioannis Kourtis

Assistant Professor
of EU Law

Emeritus Faculty



Emmanuel Roukounas

Professor Emeritus



Antonis Bredimas

Professor Emeritus



Angelos Yokaris

Professor Emeritus

Fellows



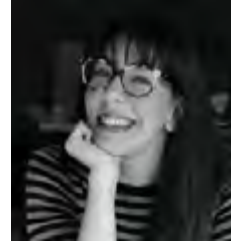
Niki Aloupi



Danae Azaria



Orfeas
Chasapis-Tassinis



Maria-Louiza Deftou



Georgios
Dimitropoulos



Marco Ferrazzani



Iakovos Iakovidis



Markos Karavias



Anthi Koskina



Vaios Koutroulis



Sotirios-Ioannis
Lekkas



Panos Merkouris



Taygeti Michalakea



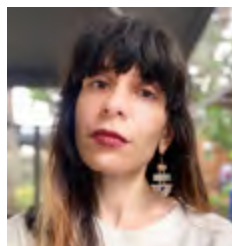
Rebecca
Mignot-Mahdavi



Maria Panezi



Stavros-Evdokimos
Pantazopoulos



Matina Papadaki



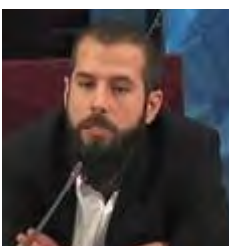
Dimitra Papageorgiou



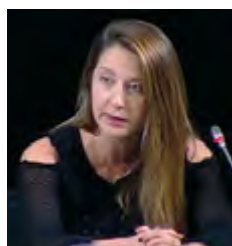
Ilias Plakokefalos



Aikaterini Tsampi



Antonios
Tzanakopoulos



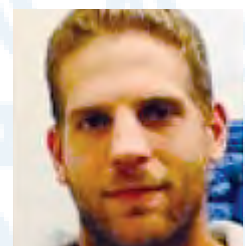
Vicky Tzatzaki



Esra Ünal



Anna Ventouratou



Nikolaos Voulgaris

Researchers



Antonis
Antonopoulos



Sofia Atsoparidi



Nikos Bourazelis



Crystalie Bourcha



Aliko Gkana



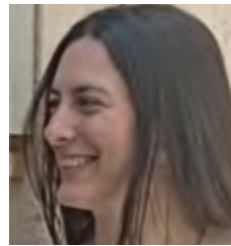
Amalia
Giannakopoulou



Sandrine de Herdt



Eirini Kikarea



Lydia Kriki



Eleni Methymaki



Dimitris Panousos



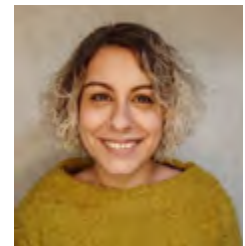
Alina Papanastasiou



Maria Paschou



Katerina Pitsoli



Myrto Stavridi



Marina Trindade



Eva Tzavala



Lydia Venieri

Visiting Fellows and Researchers

Athens PIL hosts visiting researchers, both independently and through two distinguished international programs: the **Erasmus+ Student Mobility for Placements Programme** and the **UNNF Fellowship Programme**. These initiatives provide valuable opportunities for academics, students and professionals to gain experience, contribute to groundbreaking research, and further their academic and professional development.

Erasmus+ Student Mobility for Placements Programme

The **Erasmus+ Student Mobility for Placements Programme** offers European university students and recent graduates the opportunity to undertake internships of 2 to 12 months at institutions, training centers, companies, or organizations across Europe, excluding the European Union's institutions.

As part of the Erasmus+ initiative, participants gain hands-on experience in their field of study, enhancing their adaptability to the EU labour market and boosting their entrepreneurial mindset. The programme also fosters collaboration between European institutions and enterprises, helping students to develop vital skills in communication, social interaction, and languages, while immersing themselves in different cultures and academic environments.

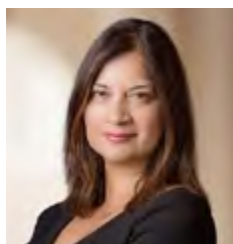
At Athens PIL, we welcome Erasmus+ participants as **Research Trainees**, offering them a platform to engage in impactful research while furthering their career ambitions.

UNNF Fellowship Programme

Athens PIL is also proud to participate in the **United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme**. This prestigious fellowship offers government officials and mid-level professionals from developing nations the chance to receive advanced training in ocean affairs, the law of the sea, marine science, and related disciplines.

The fellowship includes exposure to international legal frameworks and best practices in ocean affairs, and allows participants to conduct individual research under academic supervision. Fellows will also develop a written thesis on a topic of their choosing. Athens PIL provides key resources for this program, offering co-supervision for fellows' research projects and an enriching academic environment to support their professional growth.

Visiting Fellow (2025-26)



Schona Jolly

Visiting Researchers (2025-26)



Ivan Bassères



Federica Montanaro



The background is a warm, yellow-toned photograph of a lecture hall. In the foreground, a black gooseneck microphone is positioned on a desk. The background shows rows of empty seats and a stage area with a screen or board, all softly blurred.

NICOLAS POLITIS
LECTURE SERIES

Nicolas Politis Annual Lectures



The *Nicolas Politis* lectures are the flagship event of the Athens PIL. The lectures are delivered each year in Athens by a person of eminence in the field of international law in memory of **Nicolas Politis**, a prominent Greek international lawyer and diplomat.

Politis started his career as an academic at the Universities of Paris and Aix. As of 1912, he began his diplomatic career by serving as a Greek ambassador to foreign capitals and the League of Nations and representing Greece in various diplomatic conferences. He also held leading positions in the Greek executive branch, serving first as Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1914-1916) and subsequently as Minister of Foreign Affairs (1916-1920, 1922). He was also a Member and Vice-President of the *Institut de droit international*, a Member and Vice-President of the *Curatorium* of The Hague Academy of International Law, as well as a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Nicolas Politis left behind a scientific work of significant magnitude, comprising of numerous articles, monographs and books on public and private international law.

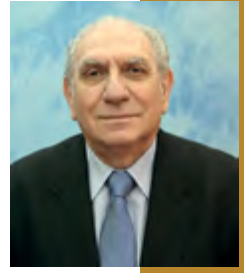
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The Inaugural *Nicolas Politis* Lecture was delivered on 23 November 2015 by Professor Emeritus Emmanuel Roucounas. The subject of the lecture was:

A Landscape of the Contemporary Theory of International Law

Emmanuel Roucounas

Emeritus Professor of International Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Member and former President of the Academy of Athens, Member and former President of the Institute of International Law.

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On 8 November 2016 Judge Christos Rozakis delivered in Greek the 2nd Annual *Nicolas Politis* Lecture on the subject of

International Law and International Politics: an Interdependent Relation

Christos Rozakis

Emeritus Professor of International Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, former Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights, former President of the Administrative Tribunal of the Council of Europe.

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On 5 October 2017 Professor Christof Schreuer delivered the *Nicolas Politis* Lecture on:

War and Peace in Investment Law

Christof Schreuer

Emeritus Professor of International Law, University of Vienna, Formerly Professor of International Law at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University in Washington. He has served as an arbitrator in ICSID and UNCITRAL arbitrations and was a member of the ICSID Panel of Conciliators and Arbitrators.



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On 6 October 2017 **Professor Emeritus Allain Pellet** delivered the *Nicolas Politis* Lecture on:

The Paradox of the Prohibition of the Use of Force in Contemporary International Law

Allain Pellet

Alain Pellet taught Public International Law at the University Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense. Director of the Centre de Droit International of the University between 1991 and 2001, he was the co-head of the Master 2 (research) Laws of International Relations and of the European Union. Between 1990 and 2011, he was a Member of the United Nations International Law Commission and acted as Chair in 1997. He has been Counsel for numerous governments (including the French Government) and for international organisations, before the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, as well as in arbitration cases.

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The 2019 *Nicolas Politis* lecture was delivered on 12 September 2019 by **Professor Yves Daudet**, during the inaugural session of the 2019 ESIL Annual Conference at Athens. The subject of the lecture was:

Sovereignty - The Past and the Future

Yves Daudet

Emeritus Professor Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Former President of the Curatorium of The Hague Academy of International Law, ad hoc judge at the International Court of Justice.

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The 2020 *Nicolas Politis* lecture was delivered by **Judge Linos-Alexander Sicilianos** on 17 February 2020, with the topic:

70 Years from the European Convention on Human Rights: Main Achievements and Perspectives

Linos-Alexander Sicilianos

Professor of Public International Law, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Member of the Institut de droit international, Member of the Curatorium of the Hague Academy of International Law.



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The 2022 *Nicolas Politis* Lecture was delivered by **Professor H       Ruiz Fabri**, on 7 December 2022. The subject of the lecture was:

International Adjudication in Times of Crisis

H       Ruiz Fabri

Professor at the Sorbonne Law School (University Paris 1 Panth      -Sorbonne), Director of the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law, where she headed the Department of International Law and Dispute Resolution, Associate Member of the Institut de droit international, former President of the European Society of International Law. She is a judge at the Bank of International Settlements Tribunal.

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The 2025 *Nicolas Politis* Lecture was held on May 7, 2025, featuring **Professor Emeritus Pierre-Marie Dupuy**. The lecture, organised with the support of the European Society of International Law, was titled:

International Law as a Common Heritage of Mankind

Pierre-Marie Dupuy

Emeritus Professor at the University of Paris II (Panth      -Assas), the European University Institute in Florence and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.





A woman with blonde hair, wearing a red ribbed sweater, is shown from the chest up, holding a smartphone in her right hand. She is looking at the phone. In the background, there is a wooden bookshelf filled with books. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent red gradient.

EVENTS

AthensPIL Discussion Group

In 2022 AthensPIL launched the **AthensPIL Discussion Group**, furthering its mission as a leading research center committed to the study and promotion of international law.

The Discussion Group gathers together AthensPIL people -faculty, fellows, researchers, students- and international law enthusiasts from around the world to listen, discuss, and debate with invited guest speakers sharing their research on important and topical issues of international law.

Five online discussions took place during the academic year 2021-2, featuring distinguished speakers and discussants:

- **12 January 2022:** Professor Dire Tladi on **The Second Reading of the ILC's Draft Conclusions on Peremptory Norms**, with Discussant Ms Maria Telalian
- **9 February 2022:** Professor Philippa Webb on **The Right to a Fair Trial: The Most Litigated Yet Elusive Human Right**, with Discussant Professor Yuval Shany
- **23 February 2022:** Dr Martins Paparinskis on **Crippling Compensation after the Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo Case**, with Discussant Professor Pierre d'Argent
- **30 March 2022:** Professor Marko Milanovic on **International Law and the War in Ukraine**, with Discussant Professor Alexander Linos Sicilianos
- **13 April 2022:** Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue on **The 'Africanization' of International Investment Law: Myth or Reality?**, with Discussant Asst. Professor Anastasios Gourgourinis

All Discussion Group talks are live streamed and remain available for viewing at the AthensPIL [Youtube page](#).

The Second Reading of the ILC's Draft Conclusions on Peremptory Norms

by Professor Dire Tladi

Discussant: **Ms Maria Telalian**, Legal Advisor to the Prime Minister, Former Head of the Legal Department of the Greek MFA. Moderator: **Professor Photini Pazartzis**. Convenors: **Dr Nikolaos Voulgaris**, **Dr Efthimios Papastavridis**. Research Coordinator: **Ms Matina Papadaki**.

Dire Tladi, BLC LLB (Pretoria) LLM (Connecticut) PhD (Erasmus) is Professor of international law, the holder of the NRF SARChI Chair in International Constitutional Law at the University of Pretoria. He is a member of the UN International Law Commission and its Special Rapporteur on Peremptory Norms of General International Law (Jus Cogens). He is also a member of the Institut de Droit International. He was formerly Special Adviser to the South African Foreign Minister and has also been legal adviser to the South African Foreign Ministry and the Legal Counsel to the South African Mission to the United Nations in New York. Professor Tladi has appeared as counsel before the International Criminal Court.



Latest book: *Peremptory Norms of General International Law: Disquisitions and Disputations* (Brill)

The Right to a Fair Trial: The Most Litigated Yet Elusive Human Right

by Professor Philippa Webb

Discussant: **Professor Yuval Shany**, Hersch Lauterpacht Chair in International Law, Hebrew University, former Chair UN Human Rights Committee.

Philippa Webb is Professor of Public International Law at King's College London and a barrister at Twenty Essex Chambers. Previously, she served as the Special Assistant and Legal Officer to Judge Rosalyn Higgins GBE QC during her Presidency of the International Court of Justice and held positions in the International Criminal Court and United Nations Headquarters. Her publications include: *The Right to a Fair Trial in International Law* (OUP 2020, with Amal Clooney) with the accompanying travaux préparatoires to Article 14 of the ICCPR (2021), *Oppenheim's International Law: United Nations* (2017, with Rosalyn Higgins, Dapo Akande, Sandy Sivakumaran, and James Sloan, awarded the ASIL Certificate of Merit), *The Law of State Immunity* (2105, with Lady Hazel Fox QC) and *International Judicial Integration and Fragmentation* (2015). Her work has been cited by the leading national courts in the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, and South Africa as well as the International Court of Justice.



Crippling Compensation after the *Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo* Case

by Dr Martins Paparinskis

Discussant: **Professor Pierre d'Argent**, University of Louvain, Member of the Institute of International Law, President European Society of International Law, Member of the Brussels Bar, special counsel to Foley Hoag (notably counsel and advocate of Uganda in the DRC v. Uganda case).
Moderator: **Professor Photini Pazartzis**.

Dr Martins Paparinskis is Reader in Public International Law at University College London. He has published widely on foundational as well as specialist topics of public international law, including in *American Journal of International Law*, *British Year Book of International Law*, *European Journal of International Law*, and *Modern Law Review*. Martins is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, ICSID Panels of Arbitrators and of Conciliators, and the Implementation Committee of the UNECE Water Convention, and was recently elected to the International Law Commission for the 2023-2027 quinquennium.



Recent publications: "A Case Against Crippling Compensation in International Law of State Responsibility", 83 *Modern Law Review*, 2020/6, pp. 1246-1286.

Symposium: <https://www.modernlawreview.co.uk/paparinskis-symposium/>

International Law and the War in Ukraine

by **Professor Marko Milanovich**

Discussant: **Professor Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos**, Dean of the Athens Law School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, former President of the European Court of Human Rights

Moderator: **Professor Maria Gavouneli**, Director, Refugee & Migration Studies Hub - RMS Hub, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Marko Milanovic is Professor of Public International Law and Co-Director of the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham School of Law. He is co-editor of EJIL: Talk!, the blog of the European Journal of International Law, as well as a member of the EJIL's Editorial Board. Professor Milanovic was formerly Vice-President and member of the Executive Board of the European Society of International Law. He held visiting professorships at Michigan Law School, Columbia Law School, Deakin Law School, the University of Bologna, the University of the Philippines College of Law, and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. Professor Milanovic was appointed by the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights as one of three high-level experts who will assist her in conducting a comprehensive examination of alleged human rights violations committed in Belarus since 1 May 2020, pursuant to the UN Human Rights Council's mandate in its Resolution 46/20. He is co-general editor of the ongoing Tallinn Manual 3.0 project on the application of international law in cyberspace and Senior Fellow, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.



The 'Africanization' of International Investment Law: Myth or Reality?

by **Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue**

Discussant: **Assistant Professor Anastasios Gourgourinis**, Athens Law School, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. Moderator: **Professor Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos**, Dean of the Athens Law School, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, former President of the European Court of Human Rights.

Makane Moïse Mbengue is Professor of International Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva and Director of the Department of International Law and International Organization. He is also an Affiliate Professor at Sciences Po Paris (School of Law). He holds a Ph.D. in Public International Law from the University of Geneva. Since 2017, he is the President of the African Society of International Law (AfSIL). He has acted and acts as expert for the African Union, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) among others. He also acts as a Professor for courses in International Law organised by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) and by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Professor Mbengue acts as counsel in disputes before international courts and tribunals (in particular, before the International Court of Justice and in investment cases) and as advisor for governments. He is involved in the negotiations of several international investment agreements in Africa.



AthensPIL Research Exchange

The **Research Exchange** is a monthly hybrid meeting bringing together AthensPIL young researchers, PhD candidates, recent doctorate holders, and postgraduate students on public international law to present their current research to faculty and peers. The **Research Exchange** aims to create a community of graduate researcher and to give early career scholars the opportunity to receive constructive feedback on their research.

2022-2023: Dr Matina Papadaki, Ms Alik Gkana (PhD candidate) and Mr Dimitrios Panousos (PhD candidate)

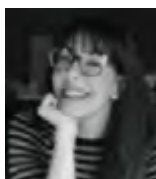
2023-2026: Assistant Professor Akis Papastavridis

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2022-2023



Dr Evangelos Tolis, currently a Military Judge, presented his post-doctoral research project entitled *The Application of article 6 of the ECHR before Greek Criminal Courts*.



Dr Maria-Louiza Deftou presented the main arguments of her PhD thesis entitled *Exporting the European Convention on Human Rights* examining the question of impact of the ECHR norms on other regional and global legal orders and the judicial dialogue between their enforcement mechanisms.



Mr Dimitris Panousos, (PhD candidate, EUI), presented a research paper produced in the context of the LLM course on International Humanitarian Law entitled *The HMS Defender Incident: A Gap in the Law of Neutrality?* examining the continuing applicability of UNCLOS in times of armed conflict and its interplay with the law of naval warfare. Mr. Panagiotis Sergis, Policy & Legal Advisor at the Hellenic Navy, lead the discussion.



Ms Myrto Stavridi, graduate of the LLM Programme and PhD candidate, gave a presentation sharing her own experience on *Preparing for a PhD Research Proposal* initiating a discussion on the procedure leading to the submission of a PhD proposal, the manner to approach and explore a PhD topic, finding an original research field, choosing a methodology. To complement this presentation and further the discussion, Asst. Professor Akis Papastavridis served as discussant.

■ 2023-2024



Ms Olena Ptashenchuk, PhD Candidate at the University of Athens, presented her research entitled *Existing Legal Gaps and Conflicting Interpretations of the 'Military Activities' Exception under Article 298(1)(b) of UNCLOS*. (22.11.2023)



Ms Dionysia Vanikioti, trainee lawyer in Athens and LL.M. candidate of Public International Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, presented her ongoing research on *Jurisdictional Immunities of State Officials: The Work of the ILC on First Reading*. (13.12.2023)



Dr Lorenzo Palestini gave a lecture on *Stability and Finality of Baselines, Outer Limits and Maritime Boundaries in the Context of Anthropogenic Sea-Level Rise*. He is a Lecturer at the Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement, and his doctoral thesis *La protection des intérêts juridiques de l'Etat tiers dans le procès de délimitation maritime* (Bruxelles, Bruylant, 2020) was awarded the 2021 Paul Guggenheim Prize (11.4.2024).



Mr Diego Zannoni, researcher in International Law at the Department of Political Science, Law, and International Studies of the University of Padova, gave a lecture on *The Principles of Non-Appropriation and Peaceful Use of Outer Space between Progressive Erosion and Empowering Interpretation* (20.5.2024).



Prof. Dr Erika de Wet delivered a series of lectures from 25 to 28 June 2024 on general issues of Public International Law and practical guidance on academic writing and publishing. She is a leading scholar of international law, holding degrees from the University of the Free State, Harvard University, and the University of Zurich. She serves as Professor of International Law and Co-Director of the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa at the University of Pretoria and as a tenured (part-time) Professor at the University of Amsterdam. Her influential work on the UN Security Council's Chapter VII powers has been widely cited, and she has authored and edited major publications with leading academic publishers. She is also Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Reports on International Law in Domestic Courts and General Editor of Oxford Constitutions Online.



■ 2024-2025



Ms Agostina Pirello, a PhD researcher at Utrecht University, presented her research which seeks to expand the concept of access to justice within the European Union, not only by ensuring the availability of effective judicial remedies, but also by incorporating the guarantees of transparency and good governance. Through empirical investigation, she explores how this broader model of access to justice may be applied to the EU management of migration which involves EU Agencies (23.10.2024).



Ms Lydia Veneri, a PhD candidate at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and a qualified Greek lawyer specializing in privacy and new technologies presented her doctoral research which focuses on data protection and artificial intelligence in public international law and human rights (30.5.2025).



Mr Dimitrios Papantoniou, a Hellenic Air Force officer and postgraduate researcher in International Law and Security Studies, presented his doctoral research focusing on the rules of engagement at the intersection of *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* and the legal challenges of the use of force in contemporary military operations (26.6.2025).



■ 2025-2026



Ms Evdokia Trangelou, a PhD candidate at the Law School of the University of Athens, presented her doctoral research focusing on Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Migrants in the Case Law of the ECtHR.



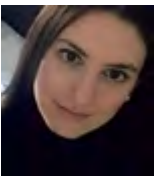
Mr Ivan Bassères, Visiting Fellow of the AthensPIL through the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme, presented his research on *Marine Pollution in Brazil: Advancing Policies and Best Practices for Offshore Activities towards a Low-Carbon Blue Economy* (31.10.2025).



Ms Federica Montanaro, PhD candidate in Human Rights, Global Politics and Sustainability at the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (Pisa) and Visiting Researcher at the AthensPIL presented her research on *Jurisdiction, Control and Accountability at Sea: Reassessing the ECHR Framework in the Mediterranean* (10.12.2025).



Ms Vera Chatzigeorgiou, PhD candidate, presented her on-going research on *Due Diligence and Health Emergencies under International Law* (28.1.2026).



Ms Lydia Kriki, PhD candidate at the Athens Law School and Paris II, Panthéon-Assas University, under a c0-tutelle scheme, presented her research on *The Right to Environment under International Law: Its Origins and Boundaries* (2.3.2026).

Conferences / Panels / Workshops

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ESIL Annual Conference



The **Athens Public International Law Center** was extremely pleased to host the **15th Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law**. This is the first time that an ESIL annual event is hosted in Greece. The Conference, entitled “**Sovereignty: A Concept in Flux?**” was held from 12 to 14 September and was attended by more than 500 participants. The conference took place at the main building of the University of Athens, and the formal opening, in the prestigious Aula, was held in the presence of **H.E. The President of the Hellenic Republic, Professor Prokopios Pavlopoulos** who delivered the opening speech. This was followed by a keynote address by **Professor Yves Daudet** (Université Paris-I Panthéon Sorbonne), setting the theme of the conference.

The aim of the conference was to revisit state sovereignty in international law and the current challenges that call into question its basic contours. In keeping with the Society’s tradition, the conference featured keynote speakers, a closing discussion round table, and six fora, exploring the normative, theoretical and practical aspects of sovereignty. In addition, twelve agorae, with speakers selected on the basis of calls for papers, examined more specific aspects of state sovereignty in various areas of international law: economic law, environmental law, law of cyberspace, maritime law, law of culture, use of force, refugee and migration law and international dispute resolution. In all, 90 speakers from more than 30 countries participated in the fora and the agorae of the conference. Among them, judges from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR); members of the International Law Commission (ILC) and the UN treaty bodies; national supreme court justices and legal advisers to international organizations and Ministries of Foreign Affairs; distinguished academics from world-renowned research institutes and more than 50 universities worldwide; eminent practitioners from leading law firms; and a number of scholars who discussed the future of international law in 14 ESIL Interest Groups, held prior to the main conference. The welcome reception was hosted at the Presidential Palace and the Gala dinner was held at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center.

The rules of interpretation of international law

The TRICI-Law project, AthensPIL, the University of Groningen and the Faculty of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens organised a conference on *The Rules of Interpretation of Customary International Law*, which took place at the Faculty of Law of the University of Athens, on 12-13 October 2023. The conference was a part of the research conducted by the project 'The Rules of Interpretation of Customary International Law'. This project, led by **Professor Panos Mercouris** (University of Groningen) has received funding from the European Research Council ('ERC') under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme (Grant Agreement No. 759728).



The Conference addressed the central role of interpretation in international law as the process through which the meaning and scope of legal rules are determined. It highlighted that most disputes before international courts and tribunals involve questions of interpretation, a process codified for treaties in Articles 31-33 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. These provisions were examined with regard to the interpretative elements they set out, including the text and context of treaties, their object and purpose, and the intention of the parties, while emphasizing that this framework applies only to treaties and not to customary international law. The Conference examined customary international law as one of the principal sources of international law and discussed the challenges arising from its unwritten nature, traditionally identified through state practice and *opinio juris*. Particular attention was paid to the absence of a clearly articulated framework for the interpretation of customary rules once they have been formed, and to the conceptual and practical

difficulties this creates in judicial practice. The discussions explored the risks of both repeatedly re-inducing customary law and of judicial overreach through its assertion. Against this background, the Conference reflected on the prospects, methods, and limits of interpreting customary international law, drawing on theoretical perspectives and the practice of international and domestic courts across different fields of international law. It examined potential divergences between treaty interpretation and the interpretation of custom and discussed general and specialized approaches to customary law. Finally, the Draft Conclusions and commentaries of the TRICI-Law project were presented and critically discussed as part of the Conference programme.

The organisers of the Conference were **Professor Panos Merkouris** (Principal Investigator of the TRICI-Law project & Professor of International Law, University of Groningen), **Professor Alexandros-Linos Sicilianos** (former President of the European Court of Human Rights & Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Athens), **Professor Photini Pazartzis** (former Chair of the Human Rights Committee & Constantine G. Karamanlis Chair in Hellenic and European Studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; Director AthensPIL).

Protection of the Environment in Armed Conflicts



The Toxic Crimes Project (Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki), the Athens Public International Law Center (Athens PIL) Law School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Finnish Institute at Athens (FIA) organized an international workshop to discuss the legal, historical and practical aspects of environmental protection during armed conflicts from ancient to contemporary contexts. **Dr Stavros Pantazopoulos** led the organisation of this event. The keynote speaker was **Ambassador Marja Lehto** (former UN International Law Commission Special Rapporteur, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland).

Forum on Safety of Navigation

Professor Maria Gavouneli, Law School, participated as keynote speaker to the **Forum on Safety of Navigation from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea to the Indo-Pacific**, jointly organised by the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy - ELIAMEP and the Embassy of Japan in Greece, which took place on 23 March 2023 at the Theocharakis Foundation. The Athens Public International Law Center - Athens PIL and the LLM in International & European Law of the Law School were knowledge partners to the event. This is the first such cooperation with Japan in what may well develop into a closer academic relationship.



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Rapid Response Roundtable ITLOS Advisory Opinion on Climate Change



A Rapid Response Roundtable took place on Friday, 24 May, from 17:00 to 18:30 at Room 8 of the New Building of the School of Law, 3 Sina Street. Against the background of increasing climate change litigation, the Roundtable addressed legal issues arising from the Advisory Opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on Climate Change and the Law of the Sea, which had been published on 21

May. The Roundtable was chaired by **Professor Maria Gavouneli**, and the speakers included Assistant Professor **Ilias Plakokefalos** (NKUA), **Dr Sophia Kopela** (WWF Greece), **Dr Efthymios Papastavridis** (NKUA), and **Dr Stavros Pantazopoulos** (NKUA).

Lecture of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Volker Türk

In the packed Great Hall of the University of Athens, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Volker Türk, delivered, on 18 November 2024, quite a powerful keynote speech on the current crisis of human rights, titled «*The centrality of Human Rights in the current context*». The High Commissioner particularly noted that this crisis is taking unprecedented and alarming dimensions and put particular emphasis on all the contemporary challenges contributing to this crisis, including the proliferation of armed conflicts across the globe (in Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar, Congo), the financial crisis and the accelerating impact of climate change.



Introducing the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prof. Linos-Alexander Sicilianos, emphasised the pivotal importance of the institution of the High Commissioner at this critical juncture for human rights. He referred, in particular, to the fact that, for the first time, all major ongoing military crises are brought before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague. Having as a jurisdictional

basis the most important UN treaties on human rights, the ICJ is called upon to pronounce on States' accountability for gross human rights violations in the context of recent or ongoing armed conflicts.

Lecture Closing Conference of the “EU Maritime Security Post-2020”

This project examines the post-2020 EU maritime security architecture from the perspective of public international law, focusing on emerging threats such as the protection of critical energy infrastructure, marine biodiversity, and the increased use of drones and satellite surveillance. It addresses key legal challenges, including shared responsibility, human rights protection, and data privacy within the evolving EU maritime security framework. Conducted under the auspices of the Athens Public International Law Center and led by Dr Efthymios Papastavridis, the project brings together postdoctoral and doctoral researchers supported by an international advisory committee. The research explores novel threats, maritime domain awareness, multilateral cooperation, and legal remedies. Its findings will be presented at an international conference in Athens and published by a leading international law publisher.



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Human Rights at Sea: Contemporary Challenges

“Human Rights at Sea: Contemporary Challenges” is a specific workshop held in Athens, organized by the Hellenic Branch of the International Law Association and the Athens Public International Law Center (Athens PIL) at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), focusing on urgent issues like migration, rescue operations, climate change, and security threats impacting human rights on the seas, with key contributors including Law Professor Maria Gavouneli and other international law experts.



Tariffs: Quo Vadis?



On May 29, 2025, we hosted an event on the theme of “Tariffs: Quo Vadis?” featuring distinguished speakers, including Professor Dimitrios Kainourgios, Professor George Dotsis, Professor Christos Gortsos, and Assistant Professor Anastasios Gourgourinis. The event was co-organised in collaboration with the University of Athens MBA, the Alumni MSc in Internal Audit, Risk Management

and Compliance - NKUA IARC, the NKUA MSc in Applied Economics and Finance and AthensPIL.

Workshop of the Greek International Economic Lawyers (GIEL)



The inaugural workshop of the Greek International Economic Lawyers (GIEL) Network was held on 27 June 2025 at the Law School of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, hosted by the Athens Public International Law Center. Co-convened by Georgios Dimitropoulos, Stratos Pahiis and Anastasios Gourgourinis, the Network aims to connect Greek and

Greece-associated scholars and practitioners in international economic law abroad. The workshop featured two roundtables on recent developments in international trade and investment law, with participation from academics and practitioners in the field.

Immediate Reaction: The Libyan Fields

The Athens PIL Center held a roundtable immediate reaction discussion on the events in Libya concerning among others the Law of the Sea and international migration. The discussion took place on Thursday, 17 July 2025, at the Athens PIL Center.



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BBNJ Roundtable Seminar in Recognition of the BBNJ Agreement Entering into Force 16 January 2026



On Friday 16 January 2026, the Athens Public International Law Center and the World Maritime University-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute (WMU-GOI) co-hosted at the Senate room of the central building of the NKUA a ‘BBNJ Roundtable Seminar’ to celebrate the entry into force on 17 January 2026 of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (‘BBNJ Agreement’). The BBNJ Agreement, which is the third Implementing Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), was adopted on 19 June 2023 by consensus,



and it marks a significant milestone for the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity worldwide. Greece ratified the BBNJ Agreement on 9 June 2025.



The participants in the Roundtable Seminar discussed among others: the current status of the BBNJ Agreement and its relationship with other relevant treaties and international organizations; the challenges that lie ahead in terms of implementation of the Agreement both globally and regionally, including in the Mediterranean Sea; the question of Marine Protected Areas that are to be adopted under the Agreement; and finally the transfer of marine technology and capacity building specifically to Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



This Seminar is another one in the long series of international conferences on topical issues of international concern that Athens PIL Center has organized since its establishment in 2015.



The Criminalization of Journalism and Dissent



On 9 February 2026, an open session was organized by the Human Rights Institute at Columbia Law School, the Clooney Foundation for Justice, and the Columbia Global Center in Athens, in collaboration with the Athens Public International Law Center - Athens PIL, hosting the inaugural TrialWatch Clinical Network Forum in Athens, Greece. Members of the academic community were invited to engage with one of the most pressing challenges facing democracies today: **the criminalization of journalism and dissent through the misuse of legal systems**. The discussion led by TrialWatch (Columbia Law School) and CFJ TrialWatch, drew on experiences from multiple regions and real cases monitored globally. Speakers included **Professors Maria Gavouneli and Photini Pazartzis**, **Tejal Jesrani**, **Stephen Townley** and **Billie Blanco**.

The Future of International Dispute Settlement



Professor Béatrice Bonafé (Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas), joined us for a discussion on **The Future of International Dispute Settlement**, on the occasion of the publication of **Dr Nicolaos Voulgaris'** new book entitled: ***The ICJ and Multi-Forum Litigation Strategy*** (Brill/Nijhoff, 2025). The discussion was moderated by **Professor Photini Pazartzis**.



Previous Events Archive

- 2019

International Symposium on The Future of Global Law

The Keynote Address was delivered by Mr Prokopios Pavlopoulos, President of the Hellenic Republic on “The predominance of ‘financial’ over ‘institutional’. From the democratically ‘institutional’ to the financially ‘structured’ regulatory power of the rule of law”.

- 2018

Rethinking Reparations in International Law

ESIL-sponsored workshop at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (University of Cambridge) co-organised by Athens PIL. Organizers: Professors Veronica Fikfak and Photini Pazartzis.

China-Greece Law of the Sea Forum

Forum jointly organised by Athens PIL and the China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies - CIBOS of the Wuhan University on ‘Cooperation in the Law of the Sea’.

Colloquium on International Investment Law & Competition Law

Opening Keynote by Professor Friedl Weiss, closing Keynote by Professor Thomas Cottier.

- 2017

Lectures by Professor Steven Freeland

Professor Steven Freeland gave two lectures on: Is the International Criminal Court Really a Good Idea? and Technology and Politics - Addressing the Challenges for Space Law Over the Next Decade.

The South China Sea Arbitration: Conclusions and Effects

Panel Discussion with Professor Photini Pazartzis, Associate Professor Petros Liacouras, Assistant Professor Maria Gavouneli, Dr Efthymios Papastavridis and Dr Maria Telalian. Professor Emeritus Emmanuel Roucounas moderated the discussion.

- 2016

The Work of the UN Human Rights Committee: Recent Developments

Lecture by Professor Yuji Iwasawa, Vice-Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Content and Evolution of the Rules of Interpretation

The Athens PIL hosted the inaugural meeting of the ILA Study Group.

- 2015

Energy at Sea: Old Problems, New Challenges

Closing Conference of the “Energy at Sea” Research Project. The Keynote address of the Conference was delivered by Professor Catherine Redgwell, Chichele Professor of Public International Law, University of Oxford and Fellow, All Souls College.

A red-tinted photograph of a classical building with columns and a flag. The building features a prominent portico with several columns. A flag is flying on a tall pole in front of the building. The text "TEACHING & ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

TEACHING & ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

■ The LL.M. in International & European Law

Director: Professor Maria Gavouneli

Our LL.M. in International and European Law, taught entirely in English, builds on the very successful LL.M. programme we have created in the Athens Law School in the past ten years. It is an intensive Master's program, which provides students with an in-depth understanding of International and European Union Law in both their theoretical and practical aspects. The Programme covers a single academic year, in the course of which students must successfully complete two semesters of core, mandatory taught modules while conducting research, under the supervision of our Faculty, leading to an original item of written work in the form of a dissertation. For the successful completion of the Programme students must obtain 75 ECTS. The taught part of the LL.M. Programme is divided into two semesters - winter and spring. In each semester, students are offered one core module and its seminar and many optional modules. They must attend the core module (10 ECTS for the module and 5 ECTS for the seminar) and three optional modules in each semester (5 ECTS per module), chosen from a list of modules which cover the most important legal issues in their specialization. The remaining credits (15 ECTS) are covered by the successful submission of the LL.M. dissertation, on a subject of the student's choice, often related to one or more of the modules taught, supervised by an academic staff member. Students choose the subject of their thesis during the second semester of their studies, upon consultation with their academic supervisor. The dissertation must be written by each student individually and must be the result of their original scientific research. It is written in English. Students will present their research before a 3-member academic panel, who will grade the dissertation. The LL.M. course starts on 1st October and lasts until the mid-June. The written or oral examinations take place in February and June, upon completion of each semester. Students may re-sit a failed examination in September following the end of the academic year. The Master thesis shall be submitted by 30 September of the year during which the spring semester takes place.

For more information: <https://llm-inteurl.law.uoa.gr/>



■ CIVIS Courses on Ocean Law and Governance

Athens PIL participates in the online **Ocean Law and Governance** courses organised by CIVIS, with **Professor Maria Gavouneli** delivering lectures on ocean governance. The interdisciplinary programme, offered jointly with **Aix Marseille Université**, covers legal, institutional, and policy aspects of contemporary ocean affairs, including maritime spatial planning, offshore energy, marine resources management, environmental law, and maritime transport.



■ Jean Monnet Actions



Jean Monnet Activities are designed to promote excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide, while fostering dialogue between the academic community and policy-makers with a view to enhancing EU governance. European Union studies focus on the European integration process in its internal and external dimensions, the role of the EU in a globalised world, and the promotion of active European citizenship and intercultural dialogue, including specialised research and teaching on migration and asylum policy systems and

migration flows. These activities are carried out under the academic supervision of **Professors Maria Gavouneli, Revekka-Emmanouela Papadopoulou, and Manolis Perakis.**



■ United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme

Athens PIL participates in the **UNNF Fellowship Programme**, hosted by the **UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea**, supporting capacity building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea. The Fellowship provides government officials and midlevel professionals from developing States with advanced training, research opportunities, and academic supervision in international legal and policy frameworks. Upon completion, Fellows apply their expertise in their home countries to strengthen ocean governance and implement the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.



Memorandum of Cooperation between the Law School NKUA and the Hellenic Diplomatic Academy (17.9.2025)

A Memorandum of Cooperation between the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) and the Hellenic Diplomatic Academy (HDA) with the aim of strengthening and expanding bilateral cooperation, was signed on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, by the Dean of the Law School of the NKUA, **Professor Constantine Christodoulou**, and the Director of the HDA, **Ambassador Michalis Diamessis**, in the presence of the Rector of the University of Athens, **Professor Gerasimos Siassos**, and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Ambassador Teresa Angelatou**. The signing ceremony was also attended by **Spyros Vlachopoulos**, member of the Administrative Council of the University of Athens and professor at the Law School, former Dean of the Law School, **Professor Linos-Alexandros Sicilianos**, the Deputy Dean of the Law School, **Associate Professor Georgios Kyriakopoulos**, **Professors Photini Pazartzis**, **Rebecca-Emmanuela Papadopoulou**, and **Elina Moustaira**, **Associate Professor Anastasios Gourgourinis**, and the Director of Studies of the Hellenic Open University, **Deputy Minister Michael Angelopoulos**. This Memorandum lays the foundations for a common framework for action aimed at improving mutual knowledge, promoting research and educational exchanges, and exchanging views, experiences, best practices, and know-how. In this context, the scope of cooperation between the Law School of the University of Athens and EDA includes, among other things, the exchange of academics, faculty members, diplomats, and researchers.



The background of the image is a warm, orange-toned photograph of a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a soft, artistic feel. The text "RESEARCH PROJECTS" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Athens PIL is engaged in the development and execution of Research Projects relating to the study and promotion of various aspects of public international law, at the national, European and international level.

Our projects include:

- **Research programmes**, including privately-funded programmes;
- Organisation and hosting of **scientific events, lectures, seminars and conferences**;
- Specialized research-oriented **summer courses**;
- **Research** conducted for the Faculty of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens;
- **Other activities** relating to the study of public international law.

The outcomes of the Athens PIL Research Projects are publishable, in accordance with its statute. For more information, consult our **Research Paper Series** and our **Publications section on our website**.

Migration and Asylum Policy Systems - MAPS

Jean Monnet Module, Erasmus+ Programme



Expanding our work on migratory flows into the roots, causes and context of the asylum conundrum, Athens PIL participates in the Migration and Asylum Policy Systems - MAPS project, mus+ Programme of the European

The **MAPS project** is carried out by a **network of ten European Universities**, encompassing more than 150 researchers, working together in more than 60 workshops and meetings with world-class scholars and all pertinent shareholders. It aims to create an international platform of know-how on legal tools and best practices for stakeholders and provide a coherent framework for risk assessment and sustainable management of different implementation on migration and asylum policies in EU member States.



Coordinator: Professor Maria Gavouneli

Faculty: Assoc. Professor Rebecca-Emmanouela Papadopoulou, Assistant Professor E. Perakis

Fellows: Dr Dimitra a, Dr Efthymios Papastavridis, Dr Maria-Louiza Deftou

Researchers: **Eva Tzavala**



■ Borderless Challenges



This research project examines how sovereignty and borders are challenged beyond territory and beyond the State, in areas such as migration control, the high seas, climate change, and cyberspace governance. It explores whether traditional rules of international law can respond to increasingly fluid global realities involving cross-border

flows of people, resources, and data. The project is conducted under the auspices of the **Athens Public International Law Center** and is academically supervised by **Professor Maria Gavouneli**.

Publications:

- Research Paper on Cyber governance (30/6/22)
- Policy Brief on Cyber governance (4/11/21)
- Policy Brief on Cyber-governance (30/4/21)
- Research Paper on Migration Interdiction in the Mediterranean Sea: From Unilateral to Multilateral Cooperation (15/12/20)
- Policy Brief on Migration (15/12/20)
- Policy Brief on Migration Controlling immigration beyond the External Borders of the EU (15/12/20)
- Policy Brief on Climate Change Governance (15/12/20)

Coordinator: **Professor Maria Gavouneli**

Research Team: **Professor Photini Pazartzis, Professor Theodore Christakis, Dr Efthymios Papastavridis, Dr Dimitra Papageorgiou, Dr Ilias Plakokefalos, Dr Maria-Louiza Deftou, Antonis Antonopoulos, Eva Tzavala, Eleni Anagnostopoulou**



■ EU Maritime Security Post - 2020

This project examines the evolving EU maritime security architecture after 2020 through the lens of public international law, focusing on new threats such as energy infrastructure protection, marine biodiversity, and advanced surveillance technologies. It assesses whether the existing legal framework adequately addresses issues of shared responsibility, human rights, privacy, and data protection in the context of EU-led maritime operations. The project is conducted under the auspices of the **Athens Public International Law Center** and is supervised by the **Principal Investigator, Assistant Professor Efthymios Papastavridis**.



Principal Investigator: **Dr Efthymios Papastavridis**

Research Team: **Dr Dimitra Papageorgiou, Dr Ilias Plakokefalos, Dr Maria-Louiza Deftou, Eva Tzavala**

Advisory Committee: **Professor Maria Gavouneli, Professor Irini Papanicolopulu, Professor Sofia Galani, Professor Seline Trevisanut, Dr Kiara Neri**

■ Space Law and Artificial Intelligence



This project explores the interaction between the space law regime and the growing use of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in space exploration and related activities. It assesses how existing regulatory frameworks address issues such as data exploitation, ownership, and the legal implications of AI-driven space technologies through an interdisciplinary approach. The project is conducted under the auspices of the **Athens Public International Law Center**, under the academic supervision of **Professors Photini Pazartzis and Georgios Kyriakopoulos**.



■ The execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in the Greek legal order



This research examines Greece's compliance with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights from 1991 to 2017, focusing on legislative, administrative, and judicial measures adopted before and after the 2011 reform of the Court's supervision mechanism. It systematically maps individual and general execution measures, judicial remedies, and the role of Greek courts in directly applying ECHR case law. The project also adopts a comparative perspective, analysing execution practices in Cyprus, Croatia, Germany, and Poland.

The results of the research were presented in a conference held in Athens on 19 February 2020.

Research conducted by: **Dr Eleni Micha, Ms Stavroula Trekli**

Research Assistants: **Athanasios Plexidas, Maria Vasilaki**

NESMes Project

Athens PIL partnered with the University of Palermo's Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza in the Project **The New Era of Smuggling in the Mediterranean Sea**, funded by Philip Morris International - PMI. The research team, under the supervision of Professor Photini Pazartzis, examined Greek legislation and case law on smuggling of migrants, drugs, and cigarettes. The project involved research fellows and postgraduate students from Athens PIL and the Faculty of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.



UNCTAD University IIA Mapping Project

The Faculty of Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens participates in the **UNCTAD University IIA Mapping Project**, a global initiative mapping over 3,000 international investment agreements to create a searchable database for policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders. Under the academic supervision of Lecturer **Anastasios Gourgourinis**, students contribute to analyzing and categorizing hundreds of treaties, fostering practical skills, international collaboration, and in-depth understanding of investment law across multiple languages and legal systems.



Energy at Sea



This research develops a comprehensive legal regime for offshore energy, addressing fragmented and overlapping rules in areas such as jurisdiction at sea, energy-environment interfaces, sectoral cooperation, human factors, and energy security. The project combines specialized expertise across six interrelated work packages, with dissemination of findings in international conferences and publication in a leading law volume, offering an innovative tool for scholars and policymakers in international energy law.

■ Clean Mediterranean Sea!

Athens PIL established a research group to analyse Greece's implementation of the EU Single-Use Plastic Directive 2019/904 and its alignment with international environmental and waste management law, within the framework of the **Clean Mediterranean Sea! - CMS!** project. The team, supervised by **Professor Maria Gavouneli**, examines domestic legislation, national programmes, administrative and enforcement measures, and marine plastic pollution, providing a comprehensive legal analysis to support policymakers, scholars, and practitioners in implementing effective environmental protection measures.



The output of this research was published in a dedicated issue of the *Journal of Law and Environment* (Nomiki Vivliothiki) in June 2022.

Research Team: **Efstathia Kosma**, **Eirini Zachariadi**, **Foivos Stathas**, **Giorgos Kouvaras**, and **Konstantina Meletiadou** under the supervision of **Professor Maria Gavouneli**.



■ United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme



Athens PIL participates in the **UNNFP Fellowship Programme**, hosted by the **UN Division for Ocean Affairs** and the **Law of the Sea**, supporting capacity building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea. The Fellowship provides government officials and midlevel professionals from developing States with advanced training, research opportunities, and academic supervision in international legal and policy frameworks. Upon completion, Fellows apply their expertise in their home countries to strengthen ocean governance and implement the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.



■ Trade Law Clinic

The **Trade Law Clinic**, organized under the auspices of Athens PIL by **Assistant Professor Anastasios Gourgourinis** within the undergraduate course **International Economic Law** provides students with hands-on experience in international trade and investment law. Working in groups under academic supervision, students prepare legal reports for governmental, non-governmental, and civil society partners, presenting their findings in public events while applying theory to real-world legal and policy challenges.

The background is a teal-tinted photograph of a classroom setting. In the center, a wooden desk holds a spiral-bound notebook with a blue cover, several pens, and a hand writing on a piece of paper. The desk is part of a larger wooden table. The overall image has a soft, out-of-focus quality.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Summer School in International Investment Law (2016-2025)



The **Summer School on International Investment Law** is co-organized annually since 2016 by ELSA Athens and the Athens PIL) under the academic supervision of **Assistant Professor Anastasios Gourgourinis**, with a view to provide participating students from all over the world with a comprehensive understanding of international investment law, as well as the capacity to locate and compare

the various approaches taken by arbitral tribunals and understand the different aspects and controversies of the discipline. Renowned scholars and practitioners guide participants through the fascinating universe of international investment law, while skills training workshops are included, to further enhance the educational objectives of the project.

The **2025 10th Summer School on International Investment Law** constituted of more than 32 hours of interactive lectures and workshops over 6 days and provided participants with all the essential tools to grasp the key aspects of international investment law, while also addressing some of the currently “hottest topics” of the field. The Programme also featured a **Skills Training Workshop on Written and Oral Advocacy in Investment Arbitration** offered by ICDR Y&I.



Summer Course on Space Law and Policy of the European Center of Space Law (ECSL) (26.8.-6.9.2024)



From 26.8.2024 to 6.9.2024, the Athens Law School and the Athens PIL, together with the **European Space Agency (ESA)** and the **European Centre for Space Law (ECSL)**, organised the annual Summer Courses in this field of law. Around sixty students and young professionals from all over Europe were welcomed to the premises of the Law School, where a number of professors and high-level experts gave them the opportunity to become more familiar with space law, its problems and perspectives.



On Monday, 9th of September, a similarly co-organised **International Young Scholars Conference on Space Law**, unique in the international academic annals, was held, in the framework of which about thirty students from all over the world presented extremely interesting ideas and thoughts and answered numerous questions from the audience.



The theme of the conference was the development of legal reflection on the dilemma of “**space exploration vs. space exploitation**”. An indication of the success of the workshop is the fact that papers were presented by young scholars from fourteen countries (Norway, Netherlands, Finland, Vietnam, South Africa, India, UK, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, Peru, Portugal, Greece).

The Summer Course was opened by the former Dean of the Law School, **Professor Linos-Alexandros Sicilianos**, and the Director of the Athens PIL, **Professor Photini Pazartzis**, while the current Dean of the Law School, **Professor Konstantinos Christodoulou**, introduced the Conference.

The Law School’s Department of International Studies was instrumental in making this happen. The Vice-Dean of the Law School, **Associate Professor Georgios Kyriakopoulos**, not only coordinated the overall events, but also made a significant contribution to the teaching of the summer courses, while at the same time taking the lead in the academic evaluation and final selection of the proposals submitted for the Conference.



In addition, an organising committee of more than fifteen students (postgraduate and undergraduate), worked tirelessly and ultimately with complete success for these academic events.

As part of the ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy hosted by the Athens Law School, students visited the premises of Hellas Sat in Koropi. The visit included a guided tour of the company’s facilities, including the Satellite Operations Centre, Network Operations Centre, and Teleport and





Data Centre, followed by a presentation and discussion with the company's President, **Mr Christodoulos Protopapas**. Students gained first-hand insight into satellite systems and communications and expressed strong appreciation for the facilities and hospitality. Hellas Sat's long-standing support for the Law School and its students, including sponsorship of the Summer Course and the Manfred Lachs Moot Court teams, was also highlighted.





MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS



The **Athens Law School** and the **Department of International Law** participate each year in a series of national and international student Moot Court or Arbitration competitions, in the fields of Public International Law, Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, European Law, International Criminal Law, Roman Law, Space Law, Air Law, Commercial Law, Commercial Arbitration, International Commercial Arbitration and United Nations simulations, in which it has obtained a significant number of awards.

A **Moot Court** is a simulation of trial or arbitration, in which students compete in English, on a case involving complex legal issues, acting as lawyers representing the plaintiff, the defendant or the parties of an arbitration. They answer questions asked by the judges and challenge the arguments of their opponents. Some competitions also require the contestants to submit written memoranda or legal sources relevant to their argumentation. Law Professors and eminent legal practitioners are sitting as “Judges” in the competition. Competitors are graded on the basis of specific criteria and the best teams and speakers are awarded team and individual awards, as well as best written memoranda awards.

Prospective students who will be admitted to the LL.M. Programme in International and European Law might have the opportunity to experience a moot court competition. Therefore, they will be presented with the opportunity to cultivate their legal skills in a competitive and multicultural environment. This rare experience would see them becoming more competent within the global community of lawyers, familiarise themselves with the latest legal developments and also broadening their horizons by strengthening the cooperation between nations.

The outstanding achievements and distinctions received by our students in several international competitions rank the Athens Law School - regarding the total number of awards over the last years - among the best in the world. Some of our prizes include:

- **1st place** in the **European Human Rights Moot Court Competition 2015**
- **1st place** in the **Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot 2015**
- **3rd place** in the **European Law Moot Court (ELMC) 2016**
- **1st place** in the **Leiden Sarin International Air Law Moot Court Competition 2018**
- **2nd place** in the **NILOS Moot Court Competition 2019**
- **2nd place** in the **Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition (European Rounds) 2021-2022**
- **1st place** in the **NILOS Moot Court Competition on the Law of the Sea 2021-2022**
- **2nd place** in the **John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition on World Trade Organisation Law (European Rounds) 2021-2022**
- **1st place** in the **All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition 2022-2023**
- **2nd place** (advocate general) & **3rd place** in the world in the **European Law Moot Court (ELMC) 2022-2023**
- **2nd place** in the **Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition 2022-2023**
- **1st place** in the **Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot 2023-2024**
- **1st place** in the **All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition 2023-2024**
- **2nd place** in the **Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition 2023-2024**
- **2nd place** in the **All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition 2024-2025**

Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot (2023-2024)

The team of the International Studies Department of the Faculty of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens won the first place in the world for its written performance, receiving the **Best Claimant Memorial Award**, as well as **third place** in the world for its Combined Written and Oral Scores at the **World Final Round of the Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot 2023**.

The FDI Moot is a virtual international investment arbitration competition on the constantly evolving international law for the protection of foreign investments and is a simulation of the arbitration procedure for the resolution of international investment disputes. In this year's FDI Moot 2023 competition, a total of 149 student teams from universities around the world took part, including King College London, Singapore Management University, Law Society of Ireland, NALSAR Uni-versity, Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico etc. The Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens participated for the tenth year in the FDI Moot competition under the scientific supervision of **Assistant Professor Anastasios Gourgourinis**. This year's Law School team that travelled to India for the World Final Round of the competition consisted of undergraduate students **Irimi Alexiou**, **Alexandros Brachos** and **Irimi Hartzzi**, while undergraduate students **Marousa Ioanna Diamanti**, **Panagiotis Karagiannis** and **Hermione Koukoulis** participated in the preparation of the briefs. The coach of the team was the lawyer **Maria Paschou**.



All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition 2023-2024 & 2024-2025

The All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition is based on a case study prepared by the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Competition addresses pressing and topical issues in international humanitarian and refugee law, drawing on current global developments, and offers students the opportunity to strengthen their legal analysis, ad-vocacy, and role-playing skills before experienced judges and practitioners. Within this framework, the team of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens



(NKUA) Law School has established a strong and consistent presence in the Competition, achieving remarkable success over consecutive years under the supervision of visiting researcher **Dr Stavros Evdokimos Pantazopoulos**.

In the 8th edition of the Competition, held from 21 to 24 November 2023 at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana, the NKUA team participated for the second time and was declared the **winning team** for the second consecutive year after a highly competitive final round against Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. The team was composed of undergraduate students **Semina Athinelli**, **Angelos Bozios**, and **Iro Sala**, with Iro Sala also receiving the **award of Best Oralist** of the Final Round.

Building on this success, NKUA returned to the Competition for a third consecutive year in 2024. The 2024 edition, held from 19 to 22 November at the University of Ljubljana with the participation of teams from 19 European universities, once again saw NKUA reach the final round. Representing the University were undergraduate students **Eleftherios Staikos** and **Melina Thanasoulia**, together with postgraduate student **Irini Dimakopoulou**. The team delivered an exceptional performance and secured **second place** following a closely contested final against Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, further underscoring NKUA's sustained excellence and strong institutional support. The team of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) Law School has established a strong and consistent presence in the All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition, achieving remarkable success over consecutive years.



Monroe Price Media Law Moot Court Competition 2023-2024 & 2024-2025

The **Price Media Law Moot Court Competition** is an annual international moot court organized by the **Bonavero Institute of Human Rights** at the Faculty of Law of the University of Oxford, focusing on media law and information technologies in society and addressing contemporary legal issues, including the relationship between artificial intelligence and freedom of expression. The **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) Law School** has participated in the Competition since 2020, demonstrating consistently strong performances in both the written and oral stages. The NKUA teams competing during the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 were prepared under the academic supervision of Professors Rebecca-Emmanouella Papadopoulou and George Kyriakopoulos.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the NKUA team represented Greece in the European Regional Round of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition, held in Paris from 31 January to 2 February 2024. **The team advanced to the European Final and qualified for the International Rounds**, which took place in Oxford from 15 to 19 April 2024. The team consisted of undergraduate students **Athanasia Pateli, Argyro-Demetra Papavassiliou, Ioanna Lymioti, and Ioanna-Rafailia Malandraki**, with valuable assistance



from **Eleni Radovits**, a member of the 2022 team. The team received **excellent evaluations** for both its written submissions and oral pleadings, with judges highlighting the depth, coherence, and resilience of its legal arguments, as well as its strong command of international law, media law, and information technologies.

Building on this success, the NKUA Law School once again represented Greece in the European Regional Round of the Competition during the 2024-2025 academic year. The European Rounds were held in Paris from 5 to 7 February 2025, where **the team reached the European Final and qualified for the International Rounds** in Oxford (21-25 April 2025). In a historic achievement for the University, the team was awarded **first place and the Best Memorials Award** at the European Rounds, achieving an exceptionally high score, and also recorded an **outstanding performance** at the Global Rounds. The team



was composed, at the European Rounds, of undergraduate students **Nikoletta Misarli, Areti-Paraskevi Theiakouli, and Hector Spiliopoulos**, as well as postgraduate student **Efrosyni Koukouflippi** (LLM in International and European Law). At the Global Rounds, the team consisted of **Nikoletta Misarli, Areti-Paraskevi Theiakouli, and Efrosyni Koukouflippi**. The preparation of the team was further supported by **Ioanna Lymioti and Athanasia Pateli**, members of the 2023-2024 team.

European Law Moot Court Competition 2023-2024 & 2024-2025

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) Law School achieved consecutive distinctions in the European Law Moot Court Competition (ELMC) during the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years, confirming its strong and consistent presence in one of Europe's most prestigious moot court competitions.



In the ELMC 2023-2024, following the written phase, the undergraduate team qualified for the Madrid Regional Final (7-10 March 2024) and advanced to the semi-finals, ranking among the top four teams of the Regional Final and among the top sixteen teams overall. The team consisted of undergraduate students Eirini Efthymiou, Eleni Sargioti, Vasileia Spaydioti, Vasiliki Christofilopoulou, and Panagiotis Davakis.

Building on this success, NKUA participated again in the ELMC 2024-2025. After the written phase, the undergraduate team qualified for the Lyon Regional Final, held from 27 February to 2 March 2025. Representing the special role of Commission Agent, the team advanced to the semi-finals and, following outstanding oral pleadings, ranked among the top sixteen universities worldwide for performance in this role. The team was composed of undergraduate students Alexandra Alexaki, Eleni Vasilaki, Eleni-Maria Kotzia, Sofia Bantaná, and Despoina Malliarou.

The European Law Moot Court Competition, organized since 1989 under the auspices of the Court of Justice of the European Union, brings together teams from over 80 European and U.S. universities and simulates proceedings before the CJEU, combining written and oral advocacy in English and French. Both teams were academically supervised by Associate Professors Rebecca-Emmanouela Papadopoulou and Manolis Perakis, and former Assistant Professor Metaxia Kouskouna, with valuable support from postdoctoral researcher I. Kourtis and former ELMC team members.



Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2023-2024

The **Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition - White and Case International Rounds**, took place from March 30 until April 6 2024, in Washington, D.C., USA. Jessup is the world's oldest, largest and most emblematic moot court competition, covering all aspects of public international law, in which the School of Law has consistently participated with memorable distinctions. This year's team consisting of the undergraduate students **Anagnostopoulou Efpraxia**, **Zeris Ioannis**, **Ntompalska Elisavet**, as well as the postgraduate students **Riskakis Panagiotis** and **Sdrali Kalypso-Sofia** qualified to the international rounds of the competition, after successfully competing in the national rounds against the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. During the international rounds held under the auspices of the law firm "White & Case", the Law School was distinguished as **one of the Top-48 Teams among the 143 participating schools**. After winning 3 out of 4 preliminary matches, the Team managed to advance to the next phase of the competition. In a tough match, the Team representing the Law School was eliminated by the National Law Institute of India, finishing 35th in the final rankings. Moreover, the Team won the **7th place for its Written Submissions (Memorials)** and **was awarded the Alona M. Evans Award**. This constitutes one of our School's greatest distinctions in the Jessup competition. It is worth noting that the Law School of Athens was one of the few non-English speaking universities that qualified to the Top-48 stage and was distinguished for its Memorials. In fact, the Law School scored higher in the Written Submissions section than leading universities including Oxford, Yale, Columbia, New York University, and University College London among others. The successful preparation of the team in both the national and international rounds was conducted under the academic supervision of **Prof. Efthymios Papastavridis**, **Matina Papadaki**, (PhD candidate in International Law at the School of Law of the University of Athens, and Research Associate at the Academy of Athens) and **Aspasia Marinaki** (trainee-lawyer and former contestant).



Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition 2023-2024

The **team of the Athens School of Law**, representing Europe as regional champion at the global finals of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, **achieved second place worldwide**, following outstanding performances. Team member **Chrysi Vorloou** was also awarded **Best Oralist in the World**. The global finals were held in Milan from 14-18 October 2024 during the 75th International Astronautical Congress. Earlier, at the European Rounds in Vienna (8-12 April 2024), the team won first place in Europe, along with all major awards, including best written memorials and Best Oralist—marking the first time all awards were won by a single team.



The competition, organized by the **International Institute of Space Law** and the **European Centre of Space Law**, involved over 70 universities worldwide and addressed issues relating to space research, orbital collisions, and the protection of the dark and quiet sky. This year's success further strengthens the Athens School of Law's leading position

in the competition since its first participation in 2011. The team consisted of **Chrysi Vorloou**, **Evangelos Gazis**, and **Reggina Kourtidi**, under the supervision of **Associate Professor George Kyriakopoulos**, with additional support from former team members. The achievement highlights the excellence of Greek students and the high academic standards of the Athens School of Law.



■ Leiden-Sarin Moot Court Competition 2024-2025



The Athens Law School team achieved outstanding results at the Leiden-Sarin Air Law Moot Court Competition 2025, earning 3rd place worldwide in the Oral Pleadings and 4th place overall. The competition, hosted for the first time by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (25-27.4.2025) provided a platform for in-depth engagement with Public International Law and International Air Law.

The case focused on issues of fair competition and environmental obligations in international air transport. The team, composed of undergraduate students **Paraskevi Kalogno-mou**, **Ioannis Gouzeas**, and **Symeon Palaiochorldis**, under the guidance of Associate Professor **George Kyriakopoulos**, received excellent feedback from the judges, reflecting the high academic standard and international standing of the Athens Law School.



■ Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition 2024-2025

The team from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens School of Law successfully participated in the grand final of the **13th Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition**, held at the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Comprising undergraduate students **Nikolaos Kyrillidis**, **Andriana Chandanou**, **Iason-Omiros Christidis**, and **Kyriaki Chronaki**, the team excelled in both written and oral phases, **ranking fourth overall in the written submissions** and advancing as the **third highest finalist from the Vilnius Regional Round**. Coached by **Katia Rippi** and **Eirini Vyzirgiannaki** under the supervision of **Professor Maria Gavouneli**, the team demonstrated outstanding legal reasoning, advocacy, and teamwork while engaging with complex issues of personal autonomy and property rights under the European Convention on Human Rights. Their **14th-place finish in the Final Oral Round** reflects the Law School of Athens' high academic standards and strong tradition of excellence.



PUBLICATIONS



Athens PIL supports academic excellence through its publications, providing platforms for both established and emerging scholars. Research outcomes are disseminated through the **Athens PIL Research Paper Series**, while the **Athens International Law Review**, a student-run e-journal, published on our website, promotes scholarly engagement with contemporary international legal issues through case notes, commentaries, and in-depth studies.

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As part of the Athens PIL research activity, Fellows, Researchers and students conduct research on current issues of international law. The outcome of this effort is published in the **Athens PIL Research Paper Series**.



■ Athens International Law Review

The *Athens International Law Review* is a student-run international law e-journal published under the auspices of the AthensPIL. It is devoted to timely discussion of significant issues of international law. Its editorial board consists exclusively of undergraduate students at the School of Law, NKUA. The Journal, published two times a year electronically on this website, includes: a) Case Notes and commentaries on selected Judgments and Advisory Opinions of international courts and tribunals (International Court of Justice, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, International Criminal Court, European Court of Human Rights, etc.); and b) Studies on topical issues of international law.

The Editorial Board also organizes events and conferences with a view to strengthening students' familiarity with the constantly developing field of international law.

The issues of the Review are available here:

https://www.athenspil.law.uoa.gr/athens_international_law_review/vol_1_2025







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