



2023 PARIS

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**Interview with the
 Professor Stéphane
 Braconnier**
*President of the University Paris
 Panthéon-Assas*

1) The University Paris Panthéon-Assas is a partner to the events linked to the 150th anniversary of the International Law Association in 2023. What are the reasons for this commitment?

There are three reasons why the University Paris-Panthéon-Assas is committed to support the International Law Association. The first reason is historical. Our university is a great Faculty of Law, heir to the University of Paris Faculty of Law. As such, it enjoys particular recognition and visibility in the field of law. It was therefore essential, in my view, that Paris-Panthéon-Assas be present at this event, in a place commensurate with its reputation. The second reason is academic. For decades, international law has occupied a central place in legal thinking. Moreover, it transcends disciplinary boundaries, since it very frequently brings together specialists in private international law and in public international law. As such, it often prefigures major developments in domestic law. A major legal university such as Paris-Panthéon-Assas must be the receptacle of these reflections and developments. The third reason is more personal. The 150th anniversary of the ILA is being organised in Paris by one of the University's most eminent colleagues, Professor Catherine Kessedjian. It is therefore quite naturally, and with great enthusiasm, that I accepted her proposal to be a partner in this world-class scientific event.



2) International law has become an important and even dominant part of the legal profession. What steps have you taken to ensure that students at your university receive adequate training to prepare them for international mobility?

The international dimension in the training of legal professionals is essential. The University Paris-Panthéon-Assas has long maintained close relations with many of the most prestigious foreign universities. This network allows for exchanges of professors and researchers, through scientific meetings and seminars. Above all, it enables many of our students to spend one or two semesters studying in a European, American or Asian university. We also welcome a growing number of foreign students who considerably enrich the general legal culture of our students. Finally, in recent months, we have taken two major initiatives to strengthen the international dimension of the University. Firstly, we have created 12 semester courses taught entirely in English and spread over the first four years of studies. In addition, very soon Paris-Panthéon-Assas will join an European university, the Alliance 4EU+, which brings together major European research universities. This is a major step in the international consecration of our university, which more than ten years ago had already shown innovation by creating its first delocalized campus in Singapore.

3) During the Grenelle du Droit which took place on 6 January in the premises of Paris-Panthéon-Assas and at your invitation, it was questioned whether international law is still a factor of peace. In your opinion, what should we do to strengthen the Rule of Law in the world?

This question raises, more generally, the question of our societies' relationship to the norm, to the legal rule. To what extent is the law still capable of constraining, of creating obligations that are sufficiently solid to be duly respected? This is true in the domestic legal order, but also, and perhaps especially, in the international legal order. From this point of view, the recent crises, particularly in Ukraine, remind us of the extent to which the law can neither foresee nor prevent major conflicts. However, even if it is unable to prevent wars, the law retains the valuable capacity to organise the consequences and punish those who violate its rules. From this point of view, international law retains an unprecedented driving force. In my opinion, the real difficulty lies in the ability of our societies to prevent the weakening of its binding force in national legal systems that would result in the erosion of international law in a resolutely changing world order. This is a major societal challenge to which learned societies, along with universities, must be particularly attentive.

REPORT OF THE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE CO-ORGANISED WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

“Three takeaways from the 2023 Inaugural Conference” by
Jelena Protic

MLaw, Teaching assistant and PhD student at the University of Lausanne



On January 12, participants of the ILA's 2023 Inaugural Conference were captivated by rich and fruitful discussions on the role of national, regional, or even global parliaments and the legitimacy of international law. For the purpose of this paper, we will highlight three main topics that have arisen from the debate.

Parliaments offer a potential for reconnecting citizens with international law in a climate of hostility towards the latter. A widespread feeling of disconnection of many people from international law can hardly be denied. Greater involvement of Parliaments in the development of international law at both the national and international levels would make it more open, more transparent, and consequently more legitimate. However, this parliamentary potential to increase the legitimacy of international law faces two major challenges. First, the low public approval of Parliaments in many countries must not be overlooked. Secondly, a lack of expertise in international law on the part of some MPs causes them not to engage with this area. Yet, this insufficient knowledge could be improved by providing regular access to relevant information or educational trainings. Nevertheless, Parliaments play an absolutely central role in making international law more accessible to a broader public that truly cares about its issues.

Parliaments can be involved in both "input" and "output" legitimacy. The first includes parliamentary presence at the creation of international law, the ability to influence the outcome, as well as the oversight of its implementation. The fundamental concerns regarding "input" legitimacy relate mainly to the appropriate form and the optimal moment of parliamentary association. It is considered that Parliaments can only contribute in a truly effective manner during the negotiation phase. The second facet of legitimacy, i.e. "output" legitimacy, implies that the legislative branch takes international action to promote international law when the executive cannot or should not act, particularly in sensitive political situations.

Finally, the relevance of Parliaments' participation in the field of international soft law should not be disregarded. The concept of soft law has evolved considerably and is no longer simply an intermediate phase before the conclusion of a binding treaty. Non-binding norms have become the primary means of regulating certain aspects of international law, particularly in the areas of international banking, financial and monetary law. Moreover, their "soft" or "non-binding" character continues to be called into question. Parliamentarians should therefore also have a say in international soft law given its significance in the global governance of the 21st century and in view of the principle of good faith in inter-organ relations.

EVENT SCHEDULE FOR THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The table below intends to give a synthetic view of all the events we are organising in 2023. The best thing to do is to visit the webinars and the Paris event page on our website.

<https://www.ilaparis2023.org/webinaires/>

<https://www.ilaparis2023.org/paris-2023-evenement-hybride/>

EVENT SCHEDULE FOR THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY NB:PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL TIMES ARE CET		
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
01/12 - 1PM - 4:30PM INCREASING THE LEGITIMACY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS	02/01 - NOON -3PM ANTROPOCENE	03/07 - 1PM - 4PM GLOBAL GOVERNANCE/ MULTILATERALISM
01/24 - 2PM - 5PM ENERGY	02/14 - 2PM -5PM SDGS BEYOND 2030	03/16 - 2PM - 5PM FOOD/AGRICULTURE
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
04/03 - 2PM - 5PM INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS	05/04 - (TIME TO BE CONFIRMED) HEALTH	JUNE 18-19-20TH SYMPOSIUM (HYBRID EVENT)
04/20 - 2PM - 5PM BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS	05/16 - 2PM - 5PM THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION	
04/25 - 2PM - 5PM OCEAN	05/23 - 2PM - 5PM DIGITAL CHALLENGES FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW	
	05/31 - 2PM - 5PM DISPUTE RESOLUTION	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
07/05 - 2PM - 5PM CIVIL STATUS	08/24 - 2PM - 5PM INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	09/04 - (TIME TO BE CONFIRMED) OUTER SPACE
07/12 - 2PM - 5PM THE FUTURE OF LABOUR LAW		09/12 - 2PM - 5PM MASS CRIMES AND IMPUNITY
		09/14 - 2PM - 5PM HUMAN RIGHTS
		09/25 - 2PM - 5PM LAW IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
10/19 - 2PM - 5PM MIGRATION	11/02 - (TIME TO BE CONFIRMED) INTERNATIONAL FINANCE	12/14 CLOSING DAY
	11/14 - 2PM - 5PM TAXATION	
	11/21 - 2PM - 5PM CULTURAL HERITAGE	

The webinars will be recorded and available for replay throughout 2023.

<https://www.ilaparis2023.org/>

The Newsletter ADI/ILA 2023 n°13 will be released by the end of February or beginning of March.