



INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SMALL STATES

Inaugural Conference of the Baltic States' Branch of the International Law Association ILA

29 May 2026

Location: Estonian Academy of Sciences, Kohtu 6, Tallin

Programme

9:00-9:15 Welcome address: *Kerli Veski* (Undersecretary for Legal and Consular Affairs at the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

9:15-10:30 Panel 1. A conversation about the Baltic States and the current state of international law between *Lauri Mälksoo* (University of Tartu; member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences), *Ineta Ziemele* (Riga Graduate School of Law; judge at the ECJ) and *Dainius Žalimas* (Member of the European Parliament; University of Kaunas), editors-in-chief of the *Baltic Yearbook of International Law* (at De Gruyter Brill)

10:30-12:00 Panel 2. „Small states and International law. Global Perspectives“

Chair: *René Värk* (University of Tartu; Estonian MFA)

- *Jean-Pierre Gauci* (British Institute of International and Comparative Law; London) „Current Research on Small States and International Law“
- *Jutta Brunnée* (University of Toronto) “The Role of Small Island States in Bringing Climate Cases to ITLOS and the ICJ”
- *Liliana Obregón Tarazona* (Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia) „Is the Concept of 'Small States' relevant for Latin American Countries in International Law?“

12:00-13:00 Lunch in the Estonian Academy of Sciences

13:00-14:30 Panel 3. “Security and Law of the Sea Issues in the Baltic Region: International Law Perspectives”

Chair: *Alexander Lott* (University of Tartu; the Arctic University of Norway)

- *Indrė Isokaitė* (University of Vilnius) “Between the Usual Sea Governance and the 'New Normal': Lithuania's Experience Facing Security Threats to the State's Critical Sea Infrastructure”
- *Kristi Land* (Estonian MFA) “State’s Perspective on Current Security and Law of the Sea Issues with regard to the Baltic Sea”
- *Vilenas Vadapalas* (EUROLEX law firm; Vilnius) „Lithuanian Experience in Maritime Delimitation and Baltic Security. Main Issues”

14:30-15:00 Coffee break

15:00-16:30 Panel 4. „International Law in the Baltic States: Current Research and Activities“

Chair: *Tiina Pajuste* (University of Tallinn)

- *Karolina Josefina Aksamitowska* (Tallinn University) „Research and Activities of International Law at Tallinn University“
- *Janis Grasis* (Riga Stradins University) „Martens and the Martens Clause in International Law“
- *Liina Lumiste* (University of Tartu) „The Application of International Law in Cyber Conflicts: New Research“
- *Arina Melse* (Riga Graduate School of Law; Baltic Human Rights Society), „Professional Human Rights Competence and the Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations: Research and Practice from the Baltics“

16:30-17:30 Discussion on Future Plans for the Baltic States' Branch of ILA. Election of the officers.

The conference is supported by the grant PRG3029 of the Estonian Research Council.