

STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The ESIL Board and ESIL as a whole take very seriously concerns about organizing events in states which have engaged in serious violations of international law. However, the Board does not support academic boycotts of such countries as a general policy, and more importantly of our colleagues in such countries.

In accepting the proposal of the Hebrew University Faculty of Law to organize the Research Forum in Jerusalem on the premises of the Law School, the Board was and continues to be careful to ensure that the organisation of such an event **cannot be perceived as ESIL endorsing the Israeli occupation of Palestine or any violation of international law**. In particular, while taking into account the reputation of the local individual organizers as some of the foremost scholars of international law and human rights law in Israel, the Board decided that no Israeli government officials will take part in the event, and that no part of the event would take place in occupied territory.

The Mt. Scopus campus of the Hebrew University in which the Research Forum will take place is not occupied territory. On that basis, the University is eligible to receive research grants from the European Union, under the relevant EU policy. As the [European Commission explained](#), “The place of establishment of the Hebrew University is within the 1967 lines. Therefore, as long as the funded activity also takes place inside the 1967 lines ... the grant application will be considered eligible”. The ESIL Board felt that the same approach was warranted here, and that it could take the views of the EU on equivalent matters into account. The Board appreciates that there are those who argue for a total academic boycott of Israel, but again it felt that it would not be appropriate for the Society to adopt such a policy.

The whole matter of the organization of the Jerusalem Research Forum was debated at the ESIL General Assembly during the Naples conference in September 2017. At that meeting, the ESIL President explained to the membership the Board’s approach and conditions for holding the research forum in Jerusalem. The Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed this position.