

Personal statement – Giovanni Zarra

I am professor of international law and international litigation at the Federico II University of Naples that I joined, after various experiences in law-firms, in 2016. In my experience I had the opportunity to analyze in depth subjects related to ISDS (including the reforms under discussion) and to write a book on "Parallel proceedings in investment arbitration". In the ISDS academic forum I co-authored concept paper 2019/9 on "Reforming Shareholder Claims in ISDS" (<https://www.jus.uio.no/pluricourts/english/projects/leginvest/academic-forum/papers/papers/arato-reforming-shareholder-claims-isds-af-9-2019.pdf>) and took part to a study group on authentic interpretation of IIAs, after which four blogs on "EJIL Talk!" were published (<https://www.ejiltalk.org/uses-and-abuses-of-authentic-interpretations-of-international-investment-agreements-reflections-on-the-role-of-arbitral-tribunals-as-masters-of-the-judicial-function/>).

In my University, the oldest State-university in the world, I worked in order to diffuse the culture of international arbitration. This was apparently not an easy task, considering the current underdevelopment in the field which characterizes an environment such as southern Italy, where sometimes academia is even now anchored to traditional subjects and to a very traditional way of teaching. My attempt immediately proved successful: as of today, many students ask to me to write their dissertation in international investment law and all my students in international law are required to familiarize with this fundamental area of international law.

My effort to increase the culture of ISDS in Italy is also testified by my efforts as founder and co-chair of AIA-ArBIT 40, the Italian below-40 arbitration association. In this regard, much is being done in order to promote the knowledge of ISDS in my country and to encourage the reflection on the issues concerning the field.

My active role in Italian academia in promoting ISDS is also testified by my participation to the board of "Diritto del commercio internazionale" (the main Italian review in the field) and by the many occasions in which the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited me to take part to expert panels aimed at giving advice on the position to be assumed in crucial matters such as the amendments of ICSID rules, the UNCITRAL discussions on ISDS reforms and the Italian Model BIT. For all the above reasons, jointly with my natural attitude to teamwork and to my openness towards different opinions and cultures, I am sincerely convinced to be potentially able to constitute an asset for the ISDS Academic Forum's Steering Committee, in order to promote an efficient and open debate on the future of ISDS.