



International Bar Association

A G E N D A

Bar Issues Commission

**Bar Leaders' Open Forum
Meeting**

Tuesday 6 October 2026

1400 – 1600 CEST

Room: B5 7, Level 0

Bella Center Copenhagen,

Denmark, Copenhagen

**BIC Bar Leaders' Open Forum
AGENDA**

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1	1400 -1410	Welcome with update on BIC plans and recent activity • Steven Richman, BIC Chair • Berit Reiss-Andersen, BIC Vice-Chair • Tshepo Shabangu, BIC Vice-Chair
2	1410- 1420	IBA presidential priorities for 2026 • Claudio Visco, IBA President
3	1420- 1435	BIC Working Groups Update • Steven Richman, BIC Chair ○ AI Working Group ○ Anti-Corruption Working Group ○ Crimes Against Humanity Working Group ○ Climate Change Working Group ○ Global South Working Group
4	1435-1445	European Law Institute (ELI) and IBA • Teresa Rodriguez de las Heras Ballel, President, ELI • Vanessa Wilcox, Secretary General, ELI
5	1445-1455	IBAHRI: transnational repression and the protection of lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders • Mark Stephens, Co-Chair, IBAHRI ○ Understanding how authoritarian practices increasingly extend beyond national borders. ○ Practical measures bars can take to support threatened practitioners and civil society
6	1455-1505	The role of an independent bar in a resilient democracy: perspectives, practices, and lessons from Taiwan • Lee Lin-Lin, President, Taiwan Bar Association
7	1505- 1515	Research on the economic value of the rule of law • Brett Dixon, Vice-President, Law Society of England and Wales

8	1515-1525	Jurisdictional update and improvement of IBA D&I Toolkit for law firms • Antonia Verna, D&I Council Member, D&I Toolkit Working Group
9	1525-1535	SPPI AI Working Group • Sönke Lund, SPPI Advisory Board Member
10	1535-1545	The Taipei Bar Association's role in strengthening the rule of law • Chun-Hung Lin, President, Taipei Bar Association
11	1545-1550	Kimitoshi Yabuki, Honorary Life Member, International Bar Association
12	1550- 1600	Open Discussion