



## **ROLF EINAR FIFE**

Candidate of Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden  
for the United Nations International Law Commission for the  
period 2023–2027

***«I believe the broad composition and diversity of the ILC, with experts from all regions and legal systems, puts it in a unique position to contribute to strengthening international law in a time of momentous challenges and opportunities.»***

The Nordic countries are proud to present the candidature of Ambassador Rolf Einar Fife for election to the International Law Commission (ILC) for the term 2023-2027, at the elections to be held during the 76th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2021.

Defending and strengthening the rule of law and international legal institutions are core Nordic priorities. The five Nordic countries share a common legal tradition and culture, distinct from the major legal systems of the world. They have a proven record of constructive engagement and open dialogue at the United Nations, which is reflected by contributions to the codification and progressive development of international law from distinguished Nordic practitioners and scholars.

Ambassador Rolf Einar Fife has an extensive experience in international law. Fife's broad based experience, personal integrity, professionalism and commitment to the international rule of law make him an outstanding candidate for the Commission. The Nordic countries are convinced that he would make a valuable contribution to its work.

Ambassador Fife served as Director General for Legal Affairs and chief legal adviser of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from January 2002 to August 2014. Throughout a distinguished legal and diplomatic career, which has included serving as Ambassador of Norway to France and Monaco (2014-2019) and since 2019 as Ambassador to the European Union, Fife has been entrusted with particular legal missions and assignments.





He has participated actively in the development of a number of legal instruments in fields relevant to the work of the ILC. He has chaired multilateral treaty negotiations at the United Nations including on the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court, and participated in international dispute settlement, including before the International Court of Justice and as arbitrator.

Fife was also elected Chair of the Committee of Advisers on International Law (CAHDI) of the Council of Europe (2009-2010). He is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration since 2004. In 2017 he was elected associate member of the Institut de droit international.

Fife has published more than 60 academic contributions in the fields of the Arctic and polar issues, law of the sea, international criminal law, international criminal courts and tribunals, United Nations law and general international law. For extended periods of time he has also taught international law, including at the University of Oslo and the Norwegian Defence University College, and has been invited to lecture at the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, Paris, and other key institutions. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at Cambridge University 2009-2010. In 2020, he was appointed member of the International Advisory Body of the Centre for Geopolitics of the University of Cambridge.

He was Chair of the Norwegian Branch of the International Law Association (2002-2014), and member of the Editorial Board of the Nordic Journal of International Law.

Fife is fluent in several languages and takes a particular interest in comparative legal systems, and the interaction between differing legal cultures and international law, both in the development of practice and of doctrine. Moreover, he maintains a keen interest in the interaction between international law and its political, economic and technological context and developments, in times of momentous challenges related to climate change, digital transformations and the COVID-19 crisis.

# Curriculum Vitae

Date of birth: 18 October 1961, Married, 1 child

Rolf Einar FIFE is since January 2019 Ambassador of Norway to the European Union.

## Previous positions

2014 – 2019	Ambassador of Norway to France and Monaco
2002 – 2014	Director General for Legal Affairs and Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2009 – 2010	Chair, Council of Europe Committee of Advisers on International Law (CAHDI)
2003 – 2010	Head of Delegation, maritime delimitation Norway/the Russian Federation
2004 – 2009	Focal Point, Assembly of States Parties for preparations for the ICC Review Conference
1999 – 2014	Coordinator for submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
1995 – 2009	Head of Delegation, negotiations on the International Criminal Court
1993 – 2002	Head of various units in the Legal Department, MFA
1990 – 1993	First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN, New York
1988 – 1990	Second Secretary, Embassy of Norway, Riyadh
1986 – 1988	Diplomat-trainee, MFA
1985 – 1986	Lawyer, Legal Department, MFA
1984 – 1985	Lawyer, Department for Polar Affairs, Ministry of Justice

## Education and research

2009 – 2010	Visiting Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge
1978 – 1984	Candidatus juris, Law Faculty, University of Oslo
1986 – 1988	Arabic language studies (cand.mag.), University of Oslo
1978	French baccalauréat, after primary and secondary schooling successively in Italy and France

## Selected other activities

Associate Member, Institut de droit international (IID); Member, Permanent Court of Arbitration; Former Chairman of the Norwegian Society of International Law (Norwegian Branch of the International Law Association); Member of the Arbitral Tribunal between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia (Land and Maritime Boundary) 2015-2017; various teaching activities.

## Selected recent publications

“Dispute Settlement in the Arctic : Continuity and Change”, in H. Ruiz Fabri, E. Franckx & T. Meshel (eds), *A Bridge over Troubled Waters – Dispute Resolution in the Law of International Watercourses and the Law of the Sea*, Brill Nijhoff, Leiden/Boston, 2020, pp. 398-411 / “Creative Forces and Institution Building in International Law” in A. Ciampi (ed.), *History and International Law – An Intertwined Relationship*, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham UK/Northampton MA USA, 2019, pp. 2-21 / “Obligations of ‘Due Regard’ in the Exclusive Economic Zone. Their Context, Purpose and State Practice” in *The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law*, 34 2019, pp. 43-55 / “L’Arctique et l’Antarctique”, in G. Guillaume (ed.), *La vie internationale et le droit*, Editions Hermann, Paris, 2018, p. 391-404 / “Legal status of Eastern Greenland (PCIJ, 1933)”, in E. Bjorge & C. Miles (eds.), *Landmark Cases in Public International Law*, Hart Publishing, Oxford, 2017, p.133-157 / « Les régions polaires », in M. Forteau, D. Müller, A. Pellet & J.M.Thouvenin (eds), *Traité de droit international de la mer*, Eds A. Pedone, Paris, 2017, 15 p / “Actes unilatéraux – Arroseur arrosé”, in *Dictionnaire des idées reçues en droit international*, Editions Pedone, Paris, 2017, pp. 23-28 / “A Perspective on Development and the Law of the Sea – How to provide support for the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf” in J.C. Sainz-Borgo (ed.), *Liber Amicorum Gudmundur Eiriksson*, San José, University for Peace Press, 2017, 12 p / « Svalbard og traktaten av 1920: myter og virkelighet » (Svalbard and the Treaty of 1920: myths and reality), in H.C.Bugge, H. Indreberg, A.Syde & A.Tverberg (eds.), *Lov, Liv og Lære – Inge Lorange Backer 70 år*, Oslo, Universitetsforlaget, 2016, pp. 201-219 / « Quand dire c’est faire – Le praticien face au Guide de la pratique de la CDI », in *Société française pour le droit international, Actualités des réserves aux traités*, Paris, Editions A. Pedone, 2014, pp. 171-178 / “Norway”, in C. Kress & S. Barriga (eds), *The Crime of Aggression: A Commentary*, Cambridge University Press, 2017, p. 1242-1263.

## Languages

Fluency in English, French, Italian and Norwegian. Working knowledge of Spanish, German and Arabic.