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From October 2014 to November 2016 he was the Multilateral Affairs & Human Rights Advisor to the Belgian Minister of Justice. This period included the Belgian presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (2014-2015), as well as Belgium's Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council (2016).

From February 2008 to October 2014 he was the Chief Advisor for legal affairs, security, organisational structure of the department, scientific & technological research, and think tank activities, at the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Defence. This period included the diplomatic Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, held in Kampala, Uganda (2010), as well as Belgium's presidency of the Council of the EU (2010) and membership of the UN Security Council (2008, the second year).

From August 1999 to January 2008 Mr. Vanheusden was a Legal Advisor for international affairs at the Belgian Ministry of Defence. This period included Belgium's membership of the UN Security Council (2007, i.e. the first year). In his capacity as Legal Advisor of the Ministry he was *inter alia* the Chairman of the Belgian Committee for Legal Review of New Weapons (2002-2008), and Alternate Member of the Belgian Interministerial Commission for Humanitarian Law (2004-2008). In the same period he also saw operational service as a (civilian) LEGAD (Legal Advisor) to the respective Belgian (and Luxembourgian) contingents in Lebanon (UNIFIL, 2007) and in Afghanistan (ISAF, 2005, when Belgium and Luxembourg were responsible for the protection of Kabul International Airport).

Earlier in his career, Mr. Vanheusden practised law at the Bar of Tongeren, the oldest city of Belgium, for about two years. As guest lecturer, Mr. Vanheusden taught public international law (2004-2012) and the law of neutrality (2011-2013) in Brussels, first at the Royal Higher Institute for Defence (2004-2006) and later at the Royal Military Academy (2007-2013).

Mr. Vanheusden studied law at K.U. Leuven, Belgium, and at University College Galway, Ireland. He graduated cum laude in 1997. Furthermore, he is a graduate of the National Security Law Institute (2014 - University of Virginia, VA, USA), and the 'Hautes Etudes de Sécurité et Défense' (2006 - Royal Higher Institute for Defence and Egmont - Royal Institute for International Relations). He was awarded the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal (for his service in Afghanistan), the Colombian 'Fe en la Causa' Medal (for his support to the work of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War in the field of comparative law on principles of administration of military justice), and the title of 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Mérite' of the Republic of Cameroon (for his research into the international law applicable to peace operations). Mr. Vanheusden holds the language certificate required to join the bilingual (French & Dutch) personnel group of the federal administration (article 12 of the Royal Decree of 8 March 2001).