



In December 2016, after nearly 9 years as a Cabinet Advisor, Alfons Vanheusden joined the *DG Legal Support & Mediation* of the Belgian Ministry of Defence as '*Adviseur-generaal / Conseiller general - Legal Advisory Division*'. He has also been the *Assistant Secretary-General* of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* (ISMILLW) since 2003. Furthermore, he is one of the co-editors of the forthcoming *Leuven Manual on International Law Applicable to Peace Operations* (publication expected in 2017).

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, as well as Belgium's Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council.

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.

From August 1999 to January 2008 Mr. Vanheusden was a *Legal Advisor* for international affairs at the Belgian Ministry of Defence. In November 2006 he was appointed '*Adviseur/Conseiller - Humanitarian and International Law Section*' of the Ministry's *DG Legal Support & Mediation*. 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), first at the Belgian *Royal Higher Institute for Defence* (2004-2006) and later at the *Royal Military Academy* in Brussels (2007-2013).

Mr. Vanheusden studied law at *K.U. Leuven* in Flanders, Belgium, and at *University College Galway* in the West of 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 - Belgian *Royal Higher Institute for Defence* and *Egmont - Royal Institute for International Relations*). He was awarded the *NATO Non-Article 5 Medal* (for his tour in Afghanistan), the Colombian *Fe en la Causa* Medal (for the ISMILLW's work on transitional justice), and the title of *Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Mérite* of the Republic of Cameroon (for his work as coordinator of the project management team set up for the ISMILLW research project on peace operations).