



Our Ref: ISMLLW 906 N E 4

Brussels, 13 December 2017

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the *XXIst Congress* of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War*. This Congress will be held at the *Altis Grand Hotel* in Lisbon (Portugal) from 15 to 18 May 2018. The central theme is:

War, Peace and the Rule of Law

As always, we will offer a highly interesting and diverse program, featuring internationally renowned experts. Our central theme closely connects to the publication of the Society's *Leuven Manual on the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations* with *Cambridge University Press* later this month of December. The *Leuven Manual* reflects the current status of the law and associated best practices, and will support senior level commanders and legal advisors in planning and executing peace operations. A copy of the *Leuven Manual* will be given to all participants during the Congress as part of the package covered by the registration fee.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Portuguese Republic's High Authorities in organizing this Congress.

Herewith you will find the draft outline of the Congress program, as well as the necessary documents for registration. We advise you to take due notice of the reduced rate for the *Altis Grand Hotel* in Lisbon, the reduced participation fee for members, and the relevant early registration discount. A membership application form is attached to this invitation and can also be found at www.ismllw.org, under the 'Members' section. The program will be completed and updated in the coming weeks and can also be found in its most current version on our website, under the 'Events' section.

We strongly advise you to reserve your room at the *Altis Grand Hotel* before 1 February 2018 – as after that date our pre-reserved rooms may be given to regular hotel guests and room rates may rise significantly. The *Altis Grand Hotel* is strategically situated in Lisbon's wonderful city centre, close to the 'Avenida de Liberdade'. Excellent metro connections, also to the international airport of Lisbon, are within walking distance.

As soon as we have received the completed Congress participation form and fee, a confirmation of registration will be sent by e-mail.

Please note that travel to Portugal is an individual responsibility. Visa requirements may apply; you are advised to verify these timely.

We will be delighted to welcome you and other representatives of your country or organisation at the Altis Grand Hotel in Lisbon, and we are looking forward to a vibrant and international exchange of ideas on today's challenging issues in the context of *War, Peace and the Rule of Law*.

Yours sincerely,

The Secretary-General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ludwig Van der Veken', enclosed within a blue ink scribble.

Ludwig VAN DER VEKEN

The President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan Peter Spijk', enclosed within a blue ink scribble.

Jan Peter SPIJK
Brigadier General (ret'd)