



THE ‘SILENT LEGES INTER ARMA?’ CONFERENCE VII

By the *Belgian Group* under the Auspices of the
International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

PROGRAMME

Ref.: ISMLLW 1191 NE 13

Grand Hotel Casselbergh, Bruges
17-20 September 2024



Tuesday 17 September 2024

	Arrival of the participants
14:30 – 17:15	Registration
15:00 – 17:15	Joint meeting of the Managing Board and the Board of Directors of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War (separate invitations sent to the board members)
18:00 – 20:00	Official welcome by the Alderman Jasper Pillen & opening drink hosted by the City of Bruges at the City Hall (Gothic room and parlours)

Wednesday 18 September 2024

08:30 – 09:15 Registration

09:30 – 09:40 Opening of the Conference

Chair: Ludwig Van Der Veken, President of the Belgian Group & Secretary-General of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

09:40 – 10:00 Keynote Speech

Speaker: General Frederik Vansina, Chief of Defence, Belgian Defence

10:00 – 10:45 Group photo & Coffee/Tea

Conference moderator Day 1: First Lieutenant Jan De Gols, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

10:45 – 12:30 Session 1 – Protecting Civilians against Digital Threats

Chair: Prof. Vaios Koutroulis, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Speakers:

Philippe Stoll, Senior Techplomacy Delegate, ICRC

Prof. Michael Schmitt, Professor of International Law, University of Reading; G. Norman Lieber Distinguished Scholar, Lieber Institute, U.S. Military Academy, West Point; Charles H. Stockton Distinguished Scholar in Residence, U.S. Naval War College

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch buffet

14:15 – 18:30 Social-cultural Programme

Boat trip on the canals of Bruges

&

Subsequent visit to the Choco-Story chocolate museum (option 1) or the Halve Maan brewery (option 2)

Thursday 19 September 2024

Conference moderator Day 2 AM: First Lieutenant Jan De Gols, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

08:45 – 10:30 *Session 2 – Topical Legal Issues related to Maritime Operations*

Chair: Captain (Navy) Dr. Martin Fink, Associate Professor Military Law, Netherlands Defence Academy

Speakers:

Dr. Matteo Tondini, Chief Financial Officer, Naval Staff College, Italy

Commander Caroline Tuckett, Legal Adviser, Royal Navy, United Kingdom

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/Tea

11:00– 13:00 *Session 3 – Current Trends and Legal Debates in the Cyber Domain*

Chair: Dr. Tom Ruys, Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Legal Affairs, NATO Headquarters

Speakers:

Karen De Vos, Doctoral Researcher and Teaching Assistant, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven

Geert Baudewijns, General Director, Secutec

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch buffet

Conference moderator Day 2 PM: Dr. Hanna Bourgeois, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

14:00 – 15:30 *Session 4 – IHL v. Human Rights: Systemic Integration and Lex Specialis*

Chair: Ratislav Spac, Legal Advisor, European External Action Service

Speakers:

Prof. Raphael Van Steenberghe, Université catholique de Louvain; Research Associate, Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research

Jens Claerman, Synthesis Officer, Discipline subsection, DG Human Resources, Belgian Defence

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee/Tea

16:00 – 17:30

Session 5 – The Right to Freedom of Speech of a Soldier

Chair: Emmanuel Jacob, President, EUROMIL

Speakers:

Mariette Hughes, Ombudsman at the Service Complaints Ombudsman for the Armed Forces (SCOAF), United Kingdom

First Lieutenant Yoren Beyens, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

Free evening

Friday 20 September 2024

Conference moderator Day 3:

Dr. Hanna Bourgeois, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

08:30 – 10:00

Session 6 – Disinformation

Chair: Borja Montes Toscano, Office of Legal Affairs, ACO, NATO

Speakers:

Colonel Dr. Peter B.M.J. Pijpers, Co-Chair Department of War Studies, Netherlands Defence Academy; Associate Professor Cyber Operations, Netherlands Defence Academy; Researcher LACMO, Amsterdam Center for International Law, University of Amsterdam

10:00 – 10:30

Coffee/Tea

10:30 – 12:00

Session 7- The Internationalisation of Non-International Armed Conflicts

Chair: Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Rachel E. Vanlandingham, Professor of Law, Southwestern Law School

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Kubo Mačák, University of Exeter

Dr. Katharine Fortin, Associate Professor of Public International Law and Human Rights, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht University

12:00 – 12:10

Special presentation: The Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Action Plan of the U.S. Department of Defense

Mrs. Carrie F. Ricci, General Counsel, U.S. Army

12:10 – 12:15

Closing ceremony

Ludwig Van Der Veken, President of the Belgian Group & Secretary-General of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

Supporting Partners:

- The Netherlands Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
- Lieber Institute for Law and Warfare, West Point, USA
- U.S. Naval War College