

Alfons Vanheusden is the Director of Legal Affairs and a Policy Advisor at the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Defence. Furthermore, he serves as a Naval Reserve Officer (Corvette Captain) and as the Assistant Secretary General of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War (ISMLLW).

Earlier in his career, Alfons served *inter alia* as:

- Deputy to the Director-General for Legal Support of the Belgian Ministry of Defence
- Director of Legal Affairs at the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of the Interior
- Director of the Legal Advisory Division of the DG Legal Support of the Belgian Ministry of Defence
- Multilateral Affairs & Human Rights Advisor at the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Justice

Alfons saw operational service in UN, NATO and European missions in Central Asia and the Middle East, in particular in Afghanistan, Lebanon and the Gulf region. He also visited other operational theatres, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Gulf of Aden. Furthermore, he participated in multinational exercises in Belgium, Germany and South Korea.

In January 2016, he represented the Minister of Justice as a member of the Belgian delegation during Belgium's Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council, and in 2014 and 2015, he was in charge of various activities organised in the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. In 2010, he was a member of the Belgian delegation to the diplomatic Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, held in Kampala, Uganda. Until early 2008, he also served as the first Chairperson of the Belgian Committee for Legal Review of New Weapons.

Alfons studied law at K.U. Leuven and at University College Galway. Furthermore, he is a graduate of the National Security Law Institute organised by the University of Virginia, and the *Hautes Etudes de Sécurité et Défense* organised by the Royal Higher Institute for Defence and Egmont - Royal Institute for International Relations.

He is one of the co-editors of the Leuven Manual on the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations (CUP, December 2017) and its French version, the *Manuel de Leuven sur le Droit International Applicable aux Opérations de Paix* (Bruylant, 2021). Alfons also authored various book chapters and articles for publications dedicated to international law. As guest lecturer, he regularly taught on various aspects of international law at the Royal Military Academy.

He was *inter alia* awarded the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal, the Colombian *Fe en la Causa* Medal, the title of *Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Mérite* of the Republic of Cameroon, SHAPE's Serge Lazareff Prize – Legal Services, and the *Médaille commémorative française – Ormuz*.

Alfons speaks Dutch (Native language), French (Certificate art. 12 Royal Decree of 8 March 2001), English (Fluent) and some Spanish (Threshold 2, CLT Leuven).