



***International Society for Military Law and the Law of War***  
***‘Société Internationale de Droit Militaire et de Droit de la Guerre’***

**THE ‘SILENT LEGES INTER ARMA?’ CONFERENCE VI**

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

**PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup>**

Ref.: ISMLLW 1126 N E 19

**Grand Hotel Casselbergh, Bruges**  
**19-22 September 2023**



**Tuesday 19 September 2023**

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 & opening reception hosted by the City of Bruges at the City Hall (Gothic room and parlours)

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<sup>1</sup> Sessions or parts of sessions will be conducted online to the extent caused by any pandemic situation, and social events and visits may be cancelled if required by such situation.

**Wednesday 20 September 2023**

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: NATO's Challenges after the Vilnius Summit

Speaker: H.E. Mrs. Ariadne Petridis, Ambassador, Head of the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to NATO

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

Conference moderator: Alfons Vanheusden, Assistant Secretary-General of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

10:45 – 12:15                      Session I – Post-conflict Accountability for Violations of International Humanitarian Law, in Historical and Contemporary Contexts

Chair: Prof. Dr. Steven Dewulf, Professor of International Law, Chair of Law, Royal Military Academy, Belgium

Speakers:

Second Lieutenant Ruben Ritsema, Belgian Air Force  
*The Leipzig war crimes trials*

Sabrina Rewald, Research and Teaching Associate, International Humanitarian Law Clinic, Kalshoven-Gieskes Forum, University of Leiden  
*Digitally derived evidence to prosecute perpetrators of international crimes*

12:15 – 13:15                      Lunch buffet

13:45 – 18:30                      Social-cultural programme

**Thursday 21 September 2023**

08:45 – 10:30

Session 2 – Evolutions in the Cyber Domain

Chair: Major-General Michel Van Strythem, Commander, Belgian Cyber Command

Speakers:

Geert Baudewijns, General Director, Secutec  
*Current trends*

Sarah Wiedemar, Researcher, Cyber Defence Project, Risk and Resilience Team, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich  
*Cyber Defence and Art. 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty*

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  
*Cyber operations and the war in Ukraine*

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee/Tea

11:00– 13:00

Session 3 – Military Activities and Presence in Outer Space

Chair: Prof. Dr. Valeria Eboli, Italian Naval Academy

Speakers:

Jean-François Mayence, LLM, Legal Unit ‘International Relations’, Federal Science Policy, Belgium  
*The space law framework and current concerns*

Major (Air Force) Jérémie Ajadi, Legal Advisor, Joint Space Command, Ministry of Defence, France (TBC)  
*The MILAMOS project*

Major General (Air Force) Hongbo Xing, Academy of Military Sciences, PLA, China  
*A Chinese perspective*

Pauline Warnotte, Senior Legal Advisor, ICRC delegation to the EU, NATO and the Kingdom of Belgium; Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Namur  
*The ICRC's perspective*

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch buffet

14:00 – 16:00

*Session 4 – International Humanitarian Law vs. Counter-terrorism Legislation*

Chair: Gert Jan van Hegelsom, Former Head of the Legal Service of the European External Action Service

Speakers:

Jelena Pejic, Former ICRC Senior Legal Advisor

Thomas Van Poecke, PhD Fellow, Research Foundation Flanders

Liesbet Masschelein, Federal Magistrate, IHL Section, Office of the Federal Prosecutor, Belgium

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee/Tea

16:30 – 18:00

*Session 5 – The Right to Life of a Soldier in Combat*

Chair: Emmanuel Jacob, President, EUROMIL

Speakers:

Dr. Jan Arno Hessbruegge, Visiting Professor, University for Peace, Costa Rica & Human Rights Officer, United Nations

Prof. Dr. Valeria Eboli, Italian Naval Academy

Free evening

**Friday 22 September 2023**

08:45 – 10:00

*Session 6 – Hybrid Threats*

Chair: Mr. Olavi Jänes, Legal Advisor, Baltic Defence College

Speakers:

Eto Buziashvili, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council  
*Russian disinformation and influence operations*

Brigadier Keith Eble, Head Operational Law, British Army  
*A British military-legal perspective on hybrid threats*

Andres Munoz Mosquera, Director, Office of Legal Affairs, ACO, NATO  
*Lawfare – SHAPE OLA's approach*

10:00 – 10:30

Coffee/Tea

10:30 – 11:45

Continuation of session 6 – Hybrid Threats

Chair: Mr. Olavi Jänes, Legal Advisor, Baltic Defence College

Speakers:

Eto Buziashvili, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council  
*Russian disinformation and influence operations*

Brigadier Keith Eble, Head Operational Law, British Army  
*A British military-legal perspective on hybrid threats*

Andres Munoz Mosquera, Director, Office of Legal Affairs, ACO, NATO  
*Lawfare – SHAPE OLA's approach*

11:45 – 11:55

Award ceremony

Chair: Andres Munoz Mosquera, Director, Office of Legal Affairs, ACO, NATO  
*Lawfare – SHAPE OLA's approach*

11:55 – 12:40

Special presentation

Representative of the Legal Department of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces (TBC)  
*Ukrainian legal advisors of the armed forces in times of invasion*

12:40 – 12:45

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:**

Baltic Defence College

Kalshoven-Gieskes Forum on International Humanitarian Law, Leiden University, the Netherlands

Lieber Institute for Law and Warfare, West Point, USA