

Ludwig Van Der Veken



Ludwig Van Der Veken graduated from the *State University of Ghent* with a degree in law in 1984.

After his military service, he started his career, as legal advisor of the Belgian Ministry of Defence in January 1986. He was initially responsible for the follow-up and co-ordination of legal disputes of the Ministry. After receiving a permanent appointment in January 1987, he represented the Ministry of Defence before the Belgian Council of State in disputes related to defence procurement and to civilian personnel. At the end of 1988, he was assigned to the international affairs section of the Ministry's legal department and in that capacity he was a member of the Belgian delegation that took part in the re-negotiations, after the German reunification, of the NATO Agreement on the status of forces stationed in Germany.

In March 1992 he was seconded to the Office of the Minister of Defence as an advisor. In this capacity he covered the domains of legal affairs and defence procurement with four successive Ministers of Defence. In April 1997 he was appointed deputy head of the Office of the Minister of Defence.

After more than 7 years at the private office, he returned to the Ministry to become the head of its legal department, and in October 2001 he was promoted to the civilian rank of Director-General.

From December 2007 to October 2014 Mr. Van Der Veken served as the head of the Office of the Belgian Minister of Defence. Mr. Van Der Veken currently holds the civilian rank of Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence. Since October 2014 he has been the head of the Office of the Secretary of State for Foreign Trade.

Mr. Van Der Veken was also a guest lecturer of public international law at the Belgian Royal Higher Institute for Defence, as well as a lecturer of administrative and constitutional law at the Belgian School for Military Administrators. Furthermore, since 2003 Mr. Van Der Veken has been the Secretary-General of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War*, as well as the President of the Belgian Group of the *Society*.