



Alfons Vanheusden is a Senior Legal Advisor (Conseiller général / Adviseur-generaal) at the *DG Legal Support* of the Belgian Ministry of Defence, as well as a Reserve Officer (Corvette Captain) of the Belgian Navy. He also serves as the Assistant Secretary-General of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* (based in Brussels, Belgium). Furthermore, he is one of the co-editors of the 'Leuven Manual on the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations' (Cambridge University Press, December 2017), and a Member of the OCCAR's Appeals Board (Bonn, Germany).

From October 2014 to November 2016, he was the Multilateral Affairs & Human Rights Advisor to the Belgian Minister of Justice. 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.

From February 2008 to October 2014, he was the Chief Advisor for legal affairs, security, organisational structure of the department, scientific & technological research, and think tank activities, at the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Defence. 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.

From August 1999 to January 2008 Mr. Vanheusden was a Legal Advisor for international affairs at the Belgian Ministry of Defence. In his capacity as Legal Advisor of the Ministry, he was *inter alia* the Chairman of the Belgian Committee for Legal Review of New Weapons (2002-2008) and Alternate Member of the Belgian Interministerial Commission for Humanitarian Law (2004-2008). In the same period, he also saw operational service as a LEGAD (Legal Advisor) in Lebanon (UNIFIL, 2007) and in Afghanistan (ISAF, 2005, when Belgium and Luxembourg were responsible for the protection of Kabul International Airport).

Earlier in his career, Mr. Vanheusden practised law at the Bar of Tongeren, the oldest city of Belgium, for about two years. As guest lecturer, Mr. Vanheusden taught public international law (2004-2012) and the law of neutrality (2011-2013) in Brussels, first at the Royal Higher Institute for Defence (2004-2006) and later at the Royal Military Academy (2007-2013).

Mr. Vanheusden studied law at K.U. Leuven, Belgium, and at University College Galway, Ireland. He graduated cum laude in 1997. Furthermore, he is a graduate of the National Security Law Institute (2014 - University of Virginia, VA, USA), and the 'Hautes Etudes de Sécurité et Défense' (2006 - Royal Higher Institute for Defence and Egmont - Royal Institute for International Relations). Mr. Vanheusden also holds the language certificate required to join the bilingual (French & Dutch) personnel group of the federal administration (article 12 of the Royal Decree of 8 March 2001).

He was awarded the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal (for his service in Afghanistan), the Colombian 'Fe en la Causa' Medal (for his support to the work of *the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* in the field of comparative law on principles of administration of military justice), and the title of 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Mérite' of the Republic of Cameroon (for his research into the international law applicable to peace operations). He participated as a presenter, chair or facilitator in many conferences, seminars, workshops etc., including in Argentina, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tunisia and Ukraine.