



Ludwig Van Der Veken (born in Aalst on 8 June 1961) graduated from the 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 private office of the Minister of Defence as an adviser. 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 private office.

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 rank of Director-General.

From December 2007 to October 2014 Mr. Van Der Veken served as Director, head of private office of the Belgian Minister of Defence. Subsequently, he served as head of the private office of the Belgian Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, until he became the head of the private office of the Belgian Minister for Security and of the Interior in December 2018. He served in this position until October 2020. During the latter period, he was also the Government Commissioner to A.S.T.R.I.D. (S.A.). In October 2020, he returned to the Ministry of Defence where he currently holds the rank of Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence. On 1 April 2021, he took up the position of Director General for Legal Support of the Ministry of Defence.

Mr. Van Der Veken has also been a lecturer of public international law at the Royal Higher Institute for Defence, as well as a lecturer of administrative and constitutional law at the Belgian School for Military Administrators. Furthermore Mr. Van Der Veken is the Secretary-General of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War (A.I.S.B.L.), as well as the President of the Belgian Group of this Society (Centre d'étude de Droit militaire et de Droit de la Guerre (A.S.B.L.)). The objectives of these associations include the study and dissemination of international humanitarian law and the law of peace operations.