



23rd Congress

***Legal Contributions to
International Peace and Security, and to
Enhancing Resilience
in Times of Increasing International Tensions***

**Vilnius, Lithuania
21 to 24 May 2024**

**Organized with the support of
the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania**

Programme for participants

Ref: ISMLLW 1162 N E 11

Tuesday 21 May 2024

Arrival of Participants

- 13.30 – 14.30 **Meeting of the Managing Board** (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Opera Boardroom - Managing Board members & representatives of the Lithuanian Organising Committee only)
- 14.45 – 17.30 **Meeting of the Board of Directors** (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Opera Boardroom - Members of the Board of Directors only)
- 14.45 – 16.45 *Registration (Grand Hotel Kempinski)*
- 18.00 – 20.00 **Welcome Reception** (Vilnius Town Hall)

Wednesday 22 May 2024

Conference Moderator Day 1: Dr. Hanna BOURGEOIS, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium

08.00 – 09.00 *Registration (Grand Hotel Kempinski)*

09.10 – 9.40 **Opening Ceremony (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**

Opening speeches by:

Prof. (Em.) Dr. Wolff HEINTSCHEL VON HEINEGG, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) & President of the Society

High Representative of the Lithuanian National Defence

9.40 – 10.10 **Keynote Speech (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**

The Crime of Aggression: Quo Vadis?

Chair:

Prof. (Em.) Dr. Wolff HEINTSCHEL VON HEINEGG, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) & President of the Society

Keynote speaker:

Dr. Gabija GRIGAITE – DAUGIRDE, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Justice, Lithuania
(Accountability in the context of the aggression against Ukraine)

10.10 – 11.00 *Group photo & Coffee/tea*

11.00 – 12.30 **General Discussion (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**

The Notions of Proportionality in Jus Ad Bellum & Jus In Bello

Chair:

Dr. Camilla G. COOPER, Associate Professor of Operational Law, Norwegian Defence University College

Presenters:

Prof. (Em.) Dr. Terry D. GILL, University of Amsterdam

Presenter 2 to be confirmed.

12.30 – 13.30 *Lunch*

- 13.30 – 15.30 **General Discussion (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**
Exploring New Domains related to the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations
- Chair:
- Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Senior Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence;
Corvette Captain (Res.), Belgian Navy & Assistant Secretary-General of the Society
- Presenters:
- Verena JACKSON, Lawyer & Researcher, Center for Intelligence and Security Studies,
University of the German Armed Forces
(Legal aspects of cyber activities during peace operations)
- Prof. Dr. Marten ZWANENBURG, Professor of Military Law, University of Amsterdam &
Netherlands Defence Academy
(Protection of personal data in military operations, including peace operations)
- Dr. Vigjilenca ABAZI, Assistant Professor, Maastricht University
(Whistleblowing in peace operations)
- 15.30 – 16.00 *Coffee/tea*
- 17.00 *Departure to the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania*
- 17.15 – 18.45 **Guided tour in the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania**
- 19.00 – 22.00 **Official dinner in the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania**

Thursday 23 May 2024

Conference Moderator Day 2: Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Senior Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence; Corvette Captain (Res.), Belgian Navy & Assistant Secretary-General of the Society

08.30 – 10.00 **General Discussion (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**
Covert and Hybrid Activities and the Law

Chair:

Gabija DAMALAKAITE, Senior Advisor, International Relations and Operations Group,
Ministry of National Defence, Lithuania

Presenters:

Major Kevin COBLE, Army Judge Advocate, U.S. Naval War College
(Sabotage in international law)

Dr. Alexander LOTT, Marie Curie Research Fellow, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the
Sea, University of Tromsø
*(Increasing legal resilience in the face of repeated attacks against Europe's offshore
infrastructure)*

Dr. Aurel SARI, Associate Professor of Public International Law, University of Exeter
(Lawfare in the digital age – Smart phone, dumb arguments?)

10.00 – 10.30 *Coffee/tea*

- 10.30 – 12.30 **Committee for Criminal and Disciplinary Law (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**
- Part 1 - The Protection of Objects under International Criminal Law*
- Chair:
- Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Frank ROSENBLATT, Assistant Professor of Law, Mississippi College of Law & Former Deputy Chief U.S. Army Trial Defense Service
- Presenters:
- Presenter 1 to be confirmed.
- Dr. Rogier BARTELS, Legal Officer (Chambers), International Criminal Court
(Specifically protected objects)
- Part 2 – Military Operations and Accountability for Atrocities*
- Chair:
- Brigadier General (Ret.) Jan Peter SPIJK, Honorary President of the Society
- Presenter(s):
- To be confirmed.
- 12.30 – 13.30 *Lunch*
- 13.30 – 15.00 **Committee for History of Military Law and the Law of War (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**
- Learning From Legal History to Prepare the Future in the Domain of Technological Developments*
- Chair:
- Prof. Dr. and Brigadier General Paul DUCHEINE, University of Amsterdam and Netherlands Defence Academy & Vice-President, International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
- Presenters:
- Presenter 1 to be confirmed.
- Anna Rosalie GREIPL, PhD Candidate and Researcher, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
(Technological developments and legal reviews of new weapons, means and methods of warfare)
- 15.00 – 15.30 *Coffee/tea*

15.30 – 17.00

Committee for International Humanitarian Law (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)

The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts: What Can and Must Be Done?

Chair:

Dr. Hanna BOURGEOIS, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium

Presenters:

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
(Siege warfare and international humanitarian law)

Dr. Mara TIGNINO, Lead Legal Specialist, Geneva Water Hub
(The protection of water, water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure in armed conflicts)

Canadian JAG officer
(Protected zones in warfare)

Free evening

Friday 24 May 2024

Conference Moderator Day 3 AM: Dr. Hanna BOURGEOIS, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium

08.30 – 10.30

Committee for Defence Procurement Law (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)

Military Procurement Law and Considerations of National Security and Cooperations with Allies

Chair:

Roland TROPE, Adjunct Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, U.S. Military Academy; Partner, Trope and Schramm LLP, New York City

Presenters:

Air Vice Marshall (Ret.) John BLACKBURN, Formerly Deputy Chief of the Australian Air Force

Commodore Peter W. BOWERS, Royal Australian Navy

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee/tea

11.00 – 13.00

Committee for the Law of Maritime and Air Operations (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)

Topical Issues in the Domain of the Law of Maritime and Air Operations

Chair:

Captain (Italian Navy) Gianmatteo BREDA

Presenters:

Prof. James KRASKA, Chair and Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law, U.S. Naval War College

OR

Prof. Raul (Pete) A. F. PEDROZO, Howard S. Levie Professor of the Law of Armed Conflict and Professor of International Law, Stockton Center of International Law, U.S. Naval War College

(The Newport Manual on the Law of Naval Warfare & anachronisms in the law of naval warfare)

Dr. Alexander LOTT, Marie Curie Research Fellow, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, University of Tromsø University of Tromsø

&

Prof. Dr. Magne FROSTAD, Law Faculty, University of Tromsø

(The use of force against or defence of merchant ships and the regime of international straits applied in an operational context)

Presenter 4 to be confirmed.

Respondent to be confirmed.

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

General Assembly (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall – Members of the Society only)

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee/tea

Conference Moderator Day 3 PM: Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Senior Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence; Corvette Captain (Res.), Belgian Navy & Assistant Secretary-General of the Society

16.00 – 16.45 **General Discussion (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**
Energy Security of Resilient Societies: Legal Frameworks and the Role of Armed Forces and Ministries of Defence

Chair:

Prof. Dr. and Brigadier General Paul DUCHEINE, University of Amsterdam and Netherlands Defence Academy & Vice-President, International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

Presenters:

Lieutenant Commander (Lithuanian Navy) Jevgenij VIDIAJEV

Representative of the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence, Vilnius, Lithuania

16.45 – 17.00 **Closing Session (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**

Free Evening

Saturday 25 May 2024

11:00 – 15:00 *Optional tour to Trakai*

(Not included in the registration fee – offered by a local tour operator – separate registration will be required - more information will be provided to Congress participants in due course)

Departure of the Participants

Supporting institutional partners of this Congress:

Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania

City of Vilnius

Stockton Center of International Law, U.S. Naval War College

DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium

Geneva Water Hub

Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

08 March 2024