



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

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

**PROGRAMME**

Ref.: ISMLLW 1191 NE 5

**Grand Hotel Casselbergh, Bruges**  
**17-20 September 2024**



**Tuesday 17 September 2024**

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

**Wednesday 18 September 2024**

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

Speaker: General Frederik Vansina, Chief of Defence, Belgian Defence

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

Conference moderator Day 1: First Lieutenant Jan De Gols, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

10:45 – 12:45 Session 1 – Protecting Civilians against Digital Threats

Chair: Prof. Vaios Koutroulis, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Speakers:

Philippe Stoll, Senior Techplomacy Delegate, ICRC

TBD

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

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch buffet

14:15 – 18:30 Social-cultural Programme

Boat trip on the canals of Bruges

&

Subsequent visit to the Choco-Story chocolate museum (option 1) or the Halve Maan brewery (option 2)

**Thursday 19 September 2024**

Conference moderator Day 2 AM: First Lieutenant Jan De Gols, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

08:45 – 10:30 Session 2 – Topical Legal Issues related to Maritime Operations

Chair: Captain (Navy) Dr. Martin Fink, Associate Professor Military Law, Netherlands Defence Academy

Speakers:

Commander Caroline Tuckett, Legal Adviser, Royal Navy, United Kingdom

Dr. Matteo Tondini, Chief Financial Officer, Naval Staff College, Italy

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/Tea

11:00– 13:00 Session 3 – Current Trends and Legal Debates in the Cyber Domain

Chair: Dr. Tom Ruys, Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Legal Affairs, NATO Headquarters

Speakers:

Geert Baudewijns, General Director, Secutec

Angela Morello, Academic Assistant, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

Karen De Vos, Doctoral Researcher and Teaching Assistant, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch buffet

Conference moderator Day 2 PM: Dr. Hanna Bourgeois, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

14:00 – 15:30 Session 4 – IHL v. Human Rights: Systemic Integration and Lex Specialis

Chair: Ratislav Spac, Legal Advisor, European External Action Service

Speakers:

Jens Claerman, Synthesis Officer, Discipline subsection, DG Human Resources, Belgian Defence

Prof. Raphael Van Steenberghe, Université catholique de Louvain; Research Associate, Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee/Tea

16:00 – 17:30

*Session 5 – The Right to Freedom of Speech of a Soldier*

Chair: Emmanuel Jacob, President, EUROMIL

Speakers:

Mariette Hughes, Ombudsman at the Service Complaints Ombudsman for the Armed Forces (SCOAF), United Kingdom

First Lieutenant Yoren Beyens, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

Free evening

**Friday 20 September 2024**

Conference moderator Day 3: Dr. Hanna Bourgeois, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

08:30 – 10:00

*Session 6 – Disinformation*

Chair: Borja Montes Toscano, Office of Legal Affairs, ACO, NATO

Speakers:

Eto Buziashvili, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council

Colonel Dr. Peter B.M.J. Pijpers, Co-Chair Department of War Studies, Netherlands Defence Academy; Associate Professor Cyber Operations, Netherlands Defence Academy; Researcher LACMO, Amsterdam Center for International Law, University of Amsterdam

10:00 – 10:30

Coffee/Tea

10:30 – 12:00

*Session 7- The Internationalisation of Non-International Armed Conflicts*

Chair: TBD

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Kubo Mačák, University of Exeter

Michael Meier, Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown Law; Former Special Assistant to the Army Judge Advocate General for Law of War Matters (TBC)

12:00 – 12:05

*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:**

The Netherlands Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

Lieber Institute for Law and Warfare, West Point, USA

U.S. Naval War College