



International Conference

The Law of Armed Conflict and Emerging Technologies: Legal, Ethical and Strategic Perspectives

Lucerne, Switzerland

10 to 13 March 2026

Swiss Armed Forces College

Organized with the support of
The Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, as well as
the Swiss Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

Programme

Ref: ISMLLW 1242 N E 6 a



(Photo courtesy of Kurt Stocker via Flickr)

Tuesday 10 March 2026

Arrival of Participants

- 13.00 – 14.30 *Registration (Lobby, Hotel Astoria)*
- 13.00 – 14.30 **Meeting of the Managing Board** (Hotel Astoria - Managing Board members, the Assistant Secretary General and a representative of the Organizing Committee of the Swiss Group only)
- 14.45 – 16.15 **Meeting of the Board of Directors** (Hotel Astoria - Members of the Board of Directors and specifically invited observers only)
- 16.30 – 18.15 **General Assembly** (Hotel Astoria - Members of the Society only)
- 18.30 – 20.00 **Icebreaker** offered by the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (Venue TBD)

Wednesday 11 March 2026

- 08.00 – 09.00 *Registration (Lobby, Swiss Armed Forces College)*
- 09.10 – 9.30 **Opening Ceremony** (Swiss Armed Forces College)
- Prof. (Em.) Dr. Wolff HEINTSCHEL VON HEINEGG, President of the Society & Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
- Colonel Christophe LEUENBERGER VERZASCONI, Co-President of the Swiss Group of the Society & Commander of the IHL Detachment, Swiss Armed Forces
- 9.30 – 10.15 **Keynote Speech** (Swiss Armed Forces College)
- Dr. Markus MÄDER, State Secretary, State Secretariat for Security Policy SEPOS, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport
- 10.15 – 11.00 *Group photo & Coffee/tea*
- 11.00 – 12.30 **Panel 1** (Swiss Armed Forces College)
Global Security in a Changing World Order
- Chair:
- Dr. Markus MÄDER, State Secretary, State Secretariat for Security Policy SEPOS, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport
- Panellists:
- Dr. Tobias VESTNER, Director of the Research and Policy Advice Department, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- TBD
- 12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch*
- 22 January 2026

14.00 – 15.30

Panel 2 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Is a Lower Threshold for the Application of International Humanitarian Law Emerging?

Chair:

Dr. Marco SASSÒLI, Honorary Professor, University of Geneva & Associate Professor,
Université du Québec à Montréal

Panellists:

Dr. Julia GRIGNON, Associate Professor, Paris-Pantéon-Assas

Dr. Antonio COCO, School of Law, University of Essex

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee/tea

16.00 – 17.30

Panel 3 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Cyber Warfare and International Humanitarian Law

Chair:

Ambassador Sandra LENDENMANN WINTERBERG, Vice-Rector, Directorate of
International Law, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Panellists:

Dr. Heather HARRISON DINNISS, Senior Lecturer, Centre for International and Operational
Law, Swedish Defence University

TBD

Free evening

Thursday 12 March 2026

08.30 – 10.15

Panel 4 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Autonomous Weapon Systems & Artificial Intelligence

Chair:

Reto WOLLENMANN, Deputy Head Section Arms Control, Disarmament and Cybersecurity,
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Panellists:

Joe BOUCHER, Research Assistant, Swiss Centre for Drones and Robotics, armasuisse Science
and Technology, Swiss Federal Office for Defence Procurement

Jessica DORSEY, Assistant Professor of International and European Law, Utrecht University

10.15 – 10.45

Coffee/tea

22 January 2026

10.45 – 12.30

Panel 5 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Maritime Warfare in the Digital Age

Chair:

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

Panellists:

Prof. Dr. Anna PETRIG, Chair of International and Public Law, University of Basel

Abby ZEITH, Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Panel 6 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Cloud, Data and Quantum Computing in Armed Conflict

Chair:

TBD

Panellists:

Massimo CITRO, e-Xpert Solutions SA

TBD

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee/tea

16.00 – 17.30

Panel 7 (Swiss Armed Forces College)

Roundtable: The Future of International Humanitarian Law in the Age of Disruptive Technologies

Chair:

Jessica DORSEY, Assistant Professor of International and European Law, Utrecht University

Panellists:

Heidi KANDIEL, Legal Advisor, Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit, Legal Division, International Committee of the Red Cross

Dr. Heather HARRISON DINNISS, Senior Lecturer, Centre for International and Operational Law, Swedish Defence University

Robert KOLB, Professor of Public International Law, Law Faculty, University of Geneva

Dr. Tobias VESTNER, Director of the Research and Policy Advice Department, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

17.30 – 17.45

Conclusions

Lieutenant Colonel Remo CADOSCH, Co-President of the Swiss Group of the Society & Deputy Head Law of Armed Conflict, Swiss Armed Forces

Free evening

Friday 13 March 2026

(Optional, not included in the participation fee, separate registration and payment required)

8.30 – 11.00

Choice A: Ship Cruise on Lake Lucerne

Choice B: Visit to Bourbaki Museum, Lucerne

11.00 - ...

Departure of Participants

Supporting Partner of the Seminar

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs