



## 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 11



(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 (Government Building of the Canton of Lucerne)

### **Welcome speech**

Major General René WELLINGER, Commander of the Swiss Army's Higher Officer Training, Commander of the Armed Forces College & Deputy Chief of Training and Education Command in the Grand Council Chamber (Legislative Power)

## **Wednesday 11 March 2026**

- 08.00 – 09.00      *Registration (Lobby, Swiss Armed Forces College)*
- 09.10 – 9.30      **Opening Ceremony** (Swiss Armed Forces College)
- Ms. Ylfete FANAJ, Member of the Government Council of the Canton of Lucerne, Head of the Department of Justice and Security
- 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

Dr. Gorana GRGIC, Senior researcher, Swiss Euro-Atlantic Security team, Centre for Security Studies, ETH Zurich

12.30 – 14.00

*Lunch*

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:

Luitenant-Colonel Nick WOBMA, Deputy Head, Law Branch, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

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

*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

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

10.15 – 10.45

*Coffee/tea*

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:

Ann VÄLJATAGA, International Law Researcher, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre  
of Excellence

Panellists:

Major David QUAYAT, Directorate of Cyber Operations Law, Office of the Judge Advocate  
General, Canada

Dr. Heike RIEL, IBM Fellow, Head Science and Technology, Lead IBM Research Quantum  
EMEA (TBC)

15.30 – 16.00

*Coffee/tea*

12 February 2026

16.00 – 17.30

**Panel 7 (Swiss Armed Forces College)**

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

Chair:

Dr. 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)**

9.30 – 11.00

**Visit to the Bourbaki Panorama Museum**

11.00 - ...

*Departure of Participants*

**Supporting Partners of the Seminar**

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence