



## Summer Course on the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations

Łódź, Poland

19 to 25 July 2026

Organized with the support of  
the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Łódź

### Programme

Ref: ISMLLW 1239 N E 12

#### Sunday 19 July 2026

*Arrival of Participants & check-in at CSK Kopcińskiego*

#### Monday 20 July 2026

9.00 – 9.30

*Registration of Participants*

9.30 – 10.30

#### **Welcome & introduction to the scope, structure and approach of the Summer Course**

Dr. Mateusz PIATKOWSKI, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law and Administration,  
University of Łódź

&

Mr. Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Assistant Secretary General, International Society for Military  
Law and the Law of War

10.30 – 10.45

*Coffee break*

10.45 – 12.30

#### **The broader peace and security landscape – What does the UN Charter say?**

Dr. Marten ZWANENBURG, Professor of Military Law, Netherlands Defence Academy &  
University of Amsterdam

12.30 – 13.30

*Lunch break*

13.30 – 15.00

#### **History, facts & figures about UN peace operations**

Mr. Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Assistant Secretary General, International Society for Military  
Law and the Law of War

&

Mr. Marco BENATAR, Legal Officer, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

15.00 - 15.15

*Coffee break*

- 15.15 – 17.00      **The Mandate of a peace operation & Command and Control in peace operations**
- Colonel Richard BRENNAN, Director of the Irish Defence Forces Legal Service
- 19.00                *Group photo at Alfred Biedermann's Palace*
- 19.00 – 21.00      **Reception with finger food (Alfred Biedermann's Palace, Fireplace Room & Garden)**
- Speech by Dr. hab. Joanna POLATYNSKA, Associate Professor, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Łódź

**Tuesday 21 July 2026**

- 9.00 – 10.30      **Human rights in peace operations**
- Dr. Marten ZWANENBURG, Professor of Military Law, Netherlands Defence Academy & University of Amsterdam
- 10.30 – 10.45      *Coffee break*
- 10.45 – 12.30      **International humanitarian law in peace operations & the protection of UN peacekeepers**
- Dr. Marten ZWANENBURG, Professor of Military Law, Netherlands Defence Academy & University of Amsterdam
- 12.30 – 13.30      *Lunch break*
- 13.30 – 15.30      **Status-of-Forces and Status-of-Mission Agreements & Troop Contributing MOUs**
- Mr. Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Assistant Secretary General, International Society for Military Law and the Law of War  
&  
Mr. Marco BENATAR, Legal Officer, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- 15.30 – 16.00      *Coffee break*
- 16.00 – 17.00      **Host State law and Sending States law in peace operations**
- Colonel (Ret.) Ben KLAPPE, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands
- 19.00 – 22.00      **Non-hosted dinner (optional)**

**Wednesday 22 July 2026**

- 9.00 – 10.30      **Use of Force and Rules of Engagement in peace operations**
- Colonel Richard BRENNAN, Director of the Irish Defence Forces Legal Service
- 10.30 – 10.45      *Coffee break*
- 10.45 – 12.15      **Detention in peace operations**
- Colonel (Ret.) Ben KLAPPE, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands

- 12.15 – 13.30 *Lunch break*
- 13.30 – 15.00 **Protection of civilians in peace operations**  
 Dr. Hanna BOURGEOIS, Legal Officer, DG DEFIS, European Commission
- 15.00 – 15.15 *Coffee break*
- 15.15 – 16.15 **Women, Peace & Security, and gender mainstreaming in peace operations**  
 Dr. Barbara SONCZYK, Lecturer in International Law, The Hague University of Applied Sciences
- 16.15 – 16.30 *Coffee break*
- 16.30 – 17.30 **Cyber, AI, Privacy and Peace Operations**  
 Dr. Marten ZWANENBURG, Professor of Military Law, Netherlands Defence Academy & University of Amsterdam
- 19.00 – 22.00 **Non-hosted dinner (optional)**

**Thursday 23 July 2026**

- 9.00 – 10.30 **The aerial and maritime dimensions of peace operations**  
 Mr. Marco BENATAR, Legal Officer, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- 10.30 – 10.45 *Coffee break*
- 10.45 – 12.15 **Promotion of the Rule of Law in peace operations & demining and removing of explosive remnants of war**  
 Colonel (Ret.) Ben KLAPPE, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands
- 12.15 – 13.30 *Lunch break*
- 13.30 – 15.00 **Accountability and responsibility in peace operations**  
 Dr. Petra DITRICHOVA, Vice-President, International Society for Military Law and the Law of War  
 &  
 Dr. Barbara SONCZYK, Lecturer in International Law, The Hague University of Applied Sciences
- 15.00 – 15.15 *Coffee break*
- 15.15 – 16.45 **Third party claims in peace operations**  
 Colonel (Ret.) Ben KLAPPE, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands
- 19.00 – 22.00 **Non-hosted dinner (optional)**

**Friday 24 July 2026**

- 9.00 – 10.30      **Individual criminal responsibility and international criminal justice in relation to peace operations**
- Colonel (Ret.) Ben KLAPPE, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands
- 10.30 – 10.45      *Coffee break*
- 10.45 – 12.15      **Peace operations conducted by regional organizations and other arrangements**
- Dr. Petra DITRICHOVA, Vice-President, International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
- 12.15 – 13.30      *Lunch break*
- 13.30 – 14.30      **Combating sexual exploitation and abuse in peace operations & monitoring compliance in the field of conduct and discipline**
- Colonel (Ret.) Ben KLAPPE, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands
- 14.30 – 14.45      *Coffee break*
- 14.45 – 15.45      **The role of legal advisors in peace operations**
- Colonel Richard BRENNAN, Director of the Irish Defence Forces Legal Service  
&  
Dr. Piotr LUBINSKI, Assistant Professor, Chair of International Relations and Foreign Policy,  
Institute of Political Science and International Relations, Jagiellonian University
- 15.45 – 16.15      **Interactive exercise**
- 16.15 – 16.30      *Coffee break*
- 16:30 – 17:15      **The International Society for Military Law and the Law of War: presentation of the organization and its activities**
- Mr. Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Assistant Secretary General, International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
- 17.15 – 17.30      **Conclusions**
- Dr. Mateusz PIATKOWSKI, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law and Administration,  
University of Łódź
- 19.00 – 22.00      **Barbecue and bonfire at the Rogowska Centre**

**Saturday 25 July 2026**

*Free morning*

14.00 – 16.00      *Visit to the Poznanski Palace & award of the certificates*

*Free evening*

**Sunday 26 July 2026**

*Departure of the Participants*

**Supporting Partners**

Netherlands Defence Academy

Irish Defence Forces Legal Service

Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands