



Conference

New technologies: Robotics and autonomous weapons systems

**Organized on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Belgian MOD's
Commission for Legal Review of new weapons, means and methods of warfare**

**17 February 2023
Prince Albert Club
(Rue des Petits Carmes, 20, 1000 Brussels)**

- 09.00 – 09.30 Arrival & registration
- 09.30 – 09.40 *Launch of the 2023 session and introductory remarks* (in Dutch with slides in English)
Mr. Ludwig VAN DER VEKEN, Secretary-General, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium
- 09.40 – 10.00 *Keynote speech* (in English)
Lieutenant-General Marc THYS, Vice Chief of Defence, Belgium
- 10.00 – 10.30 *Setting the scene: New technologies and their impact on current and future conflicts* (in English)
Colonel (Res.) Johan DE LAERE, Former Strategic Foresight Analyst for Technology, Staff Department Strategy, Ministry of Defence, Belgium
- 10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 – 12.45 ***Panel 1: Robotics and autonomous weapons systems*** (in English)
Moderator: Mr. Nicolas LANGE, Head of the Legal Advisory Division, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium
- Remote-controlled, automated and autonomous weapon systems: differences, challenges and legal framework*
Major Dirk NAESSENS, Military advisor on arms control and disarmament, Staff Department Strategy &
Mrs. Sarah LETELLIER, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium
- Human involvement in the development and use of autonomous weapon systems: What does IHL require?*
Mr. Vincent BOULANIN, Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

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NATO responsible military use of artificial intelligence

Mr. Matthew Mc CORMACK, Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Legal Affairs,
NATO HQ

Q&A session

12.45 – 13.45 Lunch break (sandwiches and drinks offered by the Study Centre)

13.45 – 14.30 **Panel 2: Legal Review of new weapons technologies** (in French)
Moderator: TBD

*The Belgian MOD's Commission for the Legal Review of new weapons, means
and methods of warfare*

Mrs. Laurence DE GRAEVE, Head of the International Law Section, DG Legal
Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium

*The ICRC's updated Guide to the legal review of new weapons, means and
methods of warfare*

Mrs. Pauline WARNOTTE, Senior Legal Advisor, ICRC Delegation to the EU,
NATO and the Kingdom of Belgium

14.30 – 14.45 Coffee break

14.45 – 15.45 *Case study: Legal and ethical considerations with respect to the development and
use of military Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGV)* (in English with slides in Dutch)

Mr. Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Senior Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of
Defence, Belgium &

Senior Captain Dr. Michaël DEWYN, Academic Assistant, Department of
Behavioural Sciences, Chair of Philosophy, Royal Military School, Brussels

Q&A session

15.45 – 16.00 Wrap Up by the Conference Director, Mrs. Laurence DE GRAEVE

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