



International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
‘Société Internationale de Droit Militaire et de Droit de la Guerre’

THE ‘SILENT LEGES INTER ARMA?’ CONFERENCE VIII

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

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Ref.: ISMLLW 1214 N E 6

Grand Hotel Casselbergh, Bruges
16-19 September 2025



Tuesday 16 September 2025

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

Icebreaker

Wednesday 17 September 2025

08:30 – 09:15 Registration

09:30 – 09:40 Opening of the Conference

Ludwig VAN DER VEKEN, President, Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

09:40 – 10:00 Keynote Speech - A New Approach to Defence in the European Union? (TBC)

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

Conference Moderator:

Dr. Hanna BOURGEOIS, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Belgian Defence

10:45 – 12:30 Session 1 – Defending Territorial Integrity in case of Aerial Incursions, Unauthorized Border Crossings by Armed Personnel, Non-Innocent Passage etc.

Chair: Brigadier (Ret.) Darren STEWART OBE, Senior Vice-President of the Society

Presenters :

The aerial dimension

TBD

The land dimension

TBD

The naval dimension

Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Assistant Secretary General of the Society

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch buffet

13:45 – 18:30 Social-cultural Programme

Thursday 18 September 2025

08:45 – 10:30

Session 2 – The Law of Occupation and Current State Practice

Chair:

Dr. Hanne CUYCKENS, Associate Professor of Military Law,
Netherlands Defence Academy

Presenters:

Sophie SCHUBERTH, Research Fellow and PhD Candidate, Freie
Universität Berlin

Prof. Dr. Natia KALANDARISHVILI-MUELLER, Professor of
International Law, Faculty of Law, Tbilisi State University

Dr. Nele VERLINDEN, Senior Legal Advisor, ICRC Delegation to the
EU, NATO and the Kingdom of Belgium

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee/Tea

11:00– 12:40

Session 3 – Current Debates in the Cyber and Quantum Domain

Chair:

TBD, Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium

Presenters:

Petra FLORIZOONE, Director, IBM Quantum Global Partnerships &
Business Development

Lieutenant-Colonel Eric POUW, Assistant Professor, Amsterdam Center
for International Law, University of Amsterdam

12:40 – 13:40

Lunch buffet

13:40 – 15:40

Session 4 – Military Objectives in the Modern World

Chair:

Dr. David TURNS, Senior Lecturer, Swedish Defence University (TBC)

Presenters:

Arjen VERMEER, Assistant Professor of Military Law, Netherlands Defence Academy

Dr. Luigi DANIELE, Senior Lecturer and Module Leader, Nottingham Law School

Dr. Eirini GIORGOU, Legal Advisor, Arms & Conduct of Hostilities Unit, ICRC

15:40 – 16:15

Coffee/Tea

16:15 – 17:45

Session 5 – The Right to Privacy in Military Operations

Chair:

Emmanuel JACOB, President, Euromil

Presenters:

Dr. Brian L. COX, Adjunct Professor of Law, Cornell Law School

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

Mrs. Ann VÄLJATAGA, PhD Researcher, Berlin Graduate School of Social Science, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Free evening

Friday 19 September 2025

08:45 – 10:00

Session 6 – Selected Current Topics in International Criminal Law

Chair:

Dr. Maurizio BLOCK, Military Prosecutor-General, Supreme Court of Italy

Immunities and international criminal law

Presenter:

TBD

Ecocide

Presenter:

Prof. Dr. Steven DEWULF, Professor of International Law, Chair of Law, Royal Military Academy, Belgium

10:00 – 10:30

Coffee/Tea

10:30 – 11:45

Session 7 – Long Distance Warfare in Practice and from an Ethical and an International Humanitarian Law Perspective

Chair:

Prof. Dr. Vaios KOUTROULIS, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Presenters:

Dr. Alex LEVERINGHAUS, Co-Director, Centre for International Intervention, University of Surrey

TBD

11:45 – 12:10

Special Presentation on the Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law (CIHOL) established by the Faculty of Law of the Palacký University, and the Czech Armed Forces

Presenter:

Dr. Martin FAIX, Head, Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law & Vice-Dean for International Affairs, Faculty of Law, Palacký University

12:10 – 12:15

Closing ceremony

Ludwig VAN DER VEKEN, President, Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

Supporting Partners

Netherlands Defence Academy

Centre for International Humanitarian and Operational Law (CIHOL), Faculty of Law, Palacký University