



**Afternoon conference  
organised by the Belgian Group of  
the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War**

*Protecting critical infrastructure at sea  
in accordance with international law*

**20-03-2025**

**Grand Hotel Casselbergh  
Bruges**

- 13.30 – 13.40 **Opening of the 2025 conference series of the Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War**  
Ludwig VAN DER VEKEN, President of the Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
- 13.40 – 13.50 **Opening of the conference**  
Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Session Director of the Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
- 13.50 – 14.10 **Updating security policies regarding critical infrastructure at sea**  
Thomas LAMBERT, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OSCE & Reserve officer of the Belgian Navy (OF-3)
- 14.10 – 14.30 **Combating sabotage of submarine cables and pipelines beneath the high seas/Exclusive Economic Zones**  
Thea COVENTRY, PhD Candidate in Public International Law, Leiden University & Researcher, T.M.C. Asser institute
- 14.30 – 14.50 **Combating sabotage of submarine cables and pipelines at sea, in a context of grey zone conflict**  
Frederik ROGIERS, PhD Candidate, Ghent Maritime Institute, Ghent University
- 14.50 – 15.10 Short break
- 15.10 – 15.30 **A practitioner's view on the threats, challenges, and opportunities**  
Captain (Navy – OF-5) Kristof VAN BELLEGHEM, Chief of Staff, Belgian Navy & Commander (Navy – OF 4) Ilja VAN HESPEN, Deputy Director of the Naval Policy Staff, Belgian Navy (TBC)
- 15.30 – 16.15 **Panel debate featuring the five presenters**  
Chair: Prof. Dr. Louis LE HARDY DE BEAULIEU, Université Catholique de Louvain
- 16.15 – 16.20 **Closing of the conference**  
Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Session Director of the Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
- 16.20 **Drink offered to all participants**

**Postadres & Hoofdzetel/Adresse de correspondance & Siège:**

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