



23rd Congress

***Legal Contributions to
International Peace and Security, and to
Enhancing Resilience
in Times of Increasing International Tensions***

**Vilnius, Lithuania
21 to 24 May 2024**

**Organized with the support of
the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania**

Programme for participants

Ref: ISMLLW 1162 N E 22

Tuesday 21 May 2024

Arrival of Participants

- 13.30 – 14.30 **Meeting of the Managing Board** (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Presidential Hall I - Managing Board members only)
- 14.45 – 17.30 **Meeting of the Board of Directors** (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Presidential Hall I - Members of the Board of Directors & representatives of the Lithuanian Organising Committee only)
- 14.45 – 16.45 *Registration (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Opera Boardroom)*
- 18.00 – 20.00 **Welcome Reception** (Vilnius Town Hall)
Address by:

H.E. Petro BESHTA, Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Lithuania

Wednesday 22 May 2024

Conference Moderator Day 1: Dr. Hanna BOURGEOIS, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium

08.00 – 09.00 *Registration (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Opera Boardroom)*

09.15 – 9.30 **Opening Ceremony (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**

Opening speech by:

Prof. (Em.) Dr. Wolff HEINTSCHEL VON HEINEGG, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) & President of the Society

9.30 – 10.00 **Keynote Speech (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**

The Crime of Aggression: Quo Vadis?

Chair:

Prof. (Em.) Dr. Wolff HEINTSCHEL VON HEINEGG, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) & President of the Society

Keynote speaker:

Dr. Gabija GRIGAITE – DAUGIRDE, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Justice, Lithuania
(A special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine: Why, how, and when?)

10.00 – 11.00 *Group photo & Coffee/tea*

11.00 – 12.30 **General Discussion (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**

The Notions of Proportionality in Jus Ad Bellum & Jus In Bello

Chair:

Dr. Camilla G. COOPER, Associate Professor of Operational Law, Norwegian Defence University College

Presenters:

Prof. (Em.) Dr. Terry D. GILL, University of Amsterdam

Dr. Alonso GURMENDI DUNKELBERG, Lecturer in International Relations, King's College London (Recorded presentation)

12.30 – 13.00 **Special Presentation (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**

Update on Legal Aspects of the Russian-Ukrainian War

Presenter:

Colonel Viktor MASLIUK, Legal Department, Ministry of National Defence, Ukraine

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30

General Discussion (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)

Exploring New Domains related to the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations

Chair:

Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Senior Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence;
Corvette Captain (Res.), Belgian Navy & Assistant Secretary-General of the Society

Presenters:

Verena JACKSON, Lawyer & Researcher, Center for Intelligence and Security Studies,
University of the German Armed Forces
(Legal aspects of cyber activities during peace operations)

Prof. Dr. Marten ZWANENBURG, Professor of Military Law, University of Amsterdam &
Netherlands Defence Academy
(Protection of personal data in military operations, including peace operations)

Dr. Vigilencia ABAZI, Assistant Professor, Maastricht University
(Whistleblowing in peace operations)

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee/tea

16.45

Meeting up at the visitors' entrance of the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania

16.45 – 18.00

Guided tour in the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania

18.20 – 21.20

Official dinner in the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania

Thursday 23 May 2024

Conference Moderator Day 2: Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Senior Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence; Corvette Captain (Res.), Belgian Navy & Assistant Secretary-General of the Society

08.30 – 10.00 **General Discussion (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**
Covert and Hybrid Activities and the Law

Chair:

Gabija DAMALAKAITE, Senior Advisor, International Relations and Operations Group, Ministry of National Defence, Lithuania

Presenters:

Major Kevin COBLE, Army Judge Advocate, U.S. Naval War College
(Sabotage in international law)

Dr. Alexander LOTT, Marie Curie Research Fellow, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, University of Tromsø
(Increasing legal resilience in the face of repeated attacks against Europe's offshore infrastructure)

Dr. Aurel SARI, Associate Professor of Public International Law, University of Exeter & Fellow, SHAPE Office of Legal Affairs
(Legal operations – Lessons from Gaza)

10.00 – 10.30 *Coffee/tea*

10.30 – 12.30 **Committee for Criminal and Disciplinary Law (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**
Accountability for Atrocities under International Criminal Law

Chair:

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Franklin ROSENBLATT, Assistant Professor of Law, Mississippi College of Law & President, National Institute of Military Justice

Moderator:

Brigadier General (Ret.) Jan Peter SPIJK, Honorary President of the Society

Presenters:

Dr. Rogier BARTELS, Legal Officer (Chambers), International Criminal Court
(Protected objects under international criminal law)

Thomas KÖRNER, Senior Advisor on the Prosecution of International Crimes, European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) Ukraine
(Prosecution of international crimes)

Brigadier (Ret.) James JOHNSTON, Formerly Director of the Military Department of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law
(Prosecution of international crimes)

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 15.00

Committee for History of Military Law and the Law of War (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)

Learning From Legal History to Prepare the Future in the Domain of Technological Developments

Chair:

Prof. Dr. Stefan OETER, University of Hamburg, Germany

Presenters:

Anna Rosalie GREIPL, PhD Candidate and Researcher, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

(Technological developments and legal reviews of new weapons, means and methods of warfare)

Prof. Dr. and Brigadier General Paul DUCHEINE, University of Amsterdam and Netherlands Defence Academy & Vice-President, International Society for Military Law and the Law of War
(The cyber perspective)

15.00 – 15.30

Coffee/tea

15.30 – 17.00

Committee for International Humanitarian Law (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)

The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts: What Can and Must Be Done?

Chair:

Dr. Hanna BOURGEOIS, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium

Presenters:

Lieutenant Commander Amélie AUBUT, Deputy Director and Legal Officer, Directorate of International and Operational Law, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Canada
(Protected zones in warfare)

Dr. Mara TIGNINO, Lead Legal Specialist, Geneva Water Hub

(The protection of water, water infrastructure and water-related infrastructure in armed conflicts)

Prof. Michael SCHMITT, Professor of International Law, University of Reading; G. Norman Lieber Distinguished Scholar, Lieber Institute, U.S. Military Academy, West Point; Charles H. Stockton Distinguished Scholar in Residence, U.S. Naval War College
(Siege warfare and international humanitarian law)

Free evening

Friday 24 May 2024

Conference Moderator Day 3 AM: Dr. Hanna BOURGEOIS, Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence, Belgium

08.30 – 10.30

Committee for Defence Procurement Law (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)

Military Procurement Law and Considerations of National Security and Cooperations with Allies

Chair:

Roland TROPE, Adjunct Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, U.S. Military Academy; Partner, Trope and Schramm LLP, New York City

Presenters:

Air Vice Marshall (Ret.) John BLACKBURN, Formerly Deputy Chief of the Australian Air Force

Commodore Peter W. BOWERS, Royal Australian Navy

George WINBORNE, Lead-Communications, Knowledge and Performance Management, Intellectual Property Cadre, Office of the Under Secretary of Defence (Acquisition & Sustainment), Huntsville, Alabama (Recorded presentation)

Graham FARNSWORTH, Counsellor (Defence Legal), Defense Acquisition and Technology, British Defence Staff, British Embassy, Washington, DC (Recorded presentation)

Fern LAVALLEE, Partner, Jones Day, Washington, DC (Recorded presentation)

Scott A. FELDER, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP, Washington, DC (Recorded presentation)

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee/tea

11.00 – 13.00

Committee for the Law of Maritime and Air Operations (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)

Topical Issues in the Domain of the Law of Maritime Operations

Chair:

Marco BENATAR, Legal Officer, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea & Researcher, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

Presenters:

Prof. Raul (Pete) A. F. PEDROZO, Howard S. Levie Professor of the Law of Armed Conflict and Professor of International Law, Stockton Center of International Law, U.S. Naval War College
(The Newport Manual on the Law of Naval Warfare & anachronisms in the law of naval warfare)

Dr. Alexander LOTT, Marie Curie Research Fellow, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, University of Tromsø
&

14 May 2024

Prof. Dr. Magne FROSTAD, Law Faculty, University of Tromsø
(The use of force against or defence of merchant ships and the regime of international straits applied in an operational context)

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 **General Assembly (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall – Members of the Society only)**

15.30 - 15.50 *Coffee/tea*

Conference Moderator Day 3 PM: Alfons VANHEUSDEN, Senior Legal Advisor, DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence; Corvette Captain (Res.), Belgian Navy & Assistant Secretary-General of the Society

15.50 – 16.40 **General Discussion (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**
Energy Security of Resilient Societies: Legal Frameworks and the Role of Armed Forces and Ministries of Defence

Chair:

Prof. Dr. and Brigadier General Paul DUCHEINE, University of Amsterdam and Netherlands Defence Academy & Vice-President, International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

Presenters:

Lieutenant Commander (Lithuanian Navy) Jevgenij VIDIAJEV

Dr. Artūras PETKUS, Legal Advisor, NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence, Vilnius, Lithuania

16.40 – 17.00 **Closing Session (Grand Hotel Kempinski, Grand Dukes Hall)**

Closing speech by:

H.E. Dr. Laurynas KASCIUNAS, Minister of National Defence, Lithuania

Free Evening

Saturday 25 May 2024

11:00 – 15:00 *Optional tour to Trakai*

(Not included in the registration fee – offered by a local tour operator – separate registration will be required - more information will be provided to Congress participants in due course)

Departure of the Participants

Supporting institutional partners of this Congress:

Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania

City of Vilnius

Stockton Center of International Law, U.S. Naval War College

DG Legal Support, Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium

Geneva Water Hub

Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights