


Evening conference

The challenges of Western military capabilities in the light of the Ukraine crisis



Evening conference



21 September 2022



17:00 – 18:30

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Wednesday 21 September 2022** by the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence.

Whereas, until recently, the war in former Yugoslavia went down in history as the most risky conflict on European soil since the Second World War, the Russian invasion of Ukraine – which took Europe and the world by surprise on 24 February 2022 – is on its way to become a new watershed with significant ramifications for European security and the world order.

After the Cold War, collective defence gradually faded into the background and the centre of gravity of Western defence shifted to collective security. While in the past few decades expeditionary operations outside EU and NATO territory started to become the new normal, the current Russian invasion of Ukraine proves that the importance of collective deterrence and defence must never be underestimated and should remain a constant feature of our policy. Considering the recent geopolitical shifts, European states – including Belgium – are compelled to significantly increase their contribution to EU and NATO deterrence and defence.

This requires in-depth research on the challenges and consequences for Western capabilities. Are our capabilities still sufficiently adequate and up to date to ensure collective deterrence and defence? Which areas allow for closer collaboration and which capabilities should remain a national responsibility? To what extent can we improve collaboration with the industry and to what degree can the latter play a greater role in developing the necessary capabilities?

In order to provide an answer to these questions, we will be honoured to welcome several prominent experts: Lieutenant General Marc Thys, MSc Eng (VCHOD Belgian Defence), Brigadier General Hans Damen, ret'd (Royal Netherlands Army), Mr François Michel, MSc Eng (CEO John Cockerill), Prof. Dr Alexander Mattelaer (Free University of Brussels, VUB) and Mr Nicolas Gosset (RHID). Jens Franssen (VRT) will moderate the panel discussion.

This conference will take place **in English, Dutch and French** on **Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 17:00 in the conference room at campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**) and will be **broadcasted online**. A simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Dutch will be provided in the conference room. We thank you in advance for registering via the following link: www.defence-institute.be. **Registration is compulsory and must be received by Sunday 18 September 2022 at the latest.** You will then receive a registration confirmation and a link to the conference.

(Signed)

Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng
Air Force Colonel GS
Director-General
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

16:30: Welcome
17:00: Conference and Q&A
18:30 – 19:00: Reception