

## Why does Belgium need a Cyber Command?

Evening conference

2 March 2023

17:00 – 18:30

Major General Michel VAN STRYTHEM

(Cyber Command)

Prof. Dr Alexander MATTELAER

(VUB & Egmont Institute)



Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Thursday 2 March 2023** from **17:00 until 18:30** by the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence.

The constant evolution of cyber space — which NATO henceforth considers as a fully-fledged operational domain — and of the many challenges it presents drives Belgium to invest in its cyber infrastructure and security. In this context, the new Cyber Command of the Belgian Defence was established in October 2022 with a view to strengthening the security of its computer and communication systems, but also of our armed forces' cyber defence. Furthermore, the Cyber Command — i.e. the staff of the military's future fifth component — intends to become an important player in interdepartmental collaboration and to contribute to defining strategic orientations and normative frameworks within NATO and the EU.

Why is it important for Belgium to develop a Cyber Command? What are the structural and organisational characteristics of this new staff? What are the current and future challenges for its implementation? What role does the Cyber Command play in the national and international ecosystem?

In order to answer these questions, we have the pleasure of welcoming Major General Michel Van Strythem, commander of the Cyber Command, and Professor Dr Alexander Mattelaer (VUB and Egmont Institute), who will share their analyses on the cyber command's missions as well as on current and future challenges for its implementation.

This conference will take place **in Dutch and French** on **Thursday 2 March 2023 at 17:00 in the conference room at campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**). A simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Dutch will be provided in the conference room. It will not be possible to follow the conference online. However, with the consent of the speakers, the recordings of the presentations will be made available afterwards on our website.

We thank you in advance for registering via the following link: [www.defence-institute.be](http://www.defence-institute.be). **Registration by Monday 27 February 2023 at the latest is compulsory.**

(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 – 19:30: Reception