



His Excellency Martin Kotthaus,  
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Belgium

Evening conference  
29 February 2024  
17:00 - 18:30

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Thursday 29 February 2024** from **17:00 until 18:30** by the **Royal Higher Institute for Defence**.

As a neighbouring continent, with which we are intricately connected by history, economy, politics and culture, Africa is one of our key partners in tackling future global challenges, ranging from climate change and poverty reduction to peace and security. We find ourselves in a global system competition that is also being played out on the African continent. Above all, we must listen to the needs of our African partners and then make the better offer. We are in a joint race with Africa and not in a race for Africa. German and EU Africa policy in the 21st century means making international policy **WITH** our African partners.

This partnership between Europe and Africa includes economic, environmental and socio-political cooperation. Targeted investments in green infrastructure and education alongside intensified collaboration in security and conflict prevention highlight the importance of African leadership. This approach not only fosters economic development, but also strengthens governance and resilience against instability, creating a foundation for a prosperous and stable partnership.

To address these questions, we are pleased to welcome His Excellency Martin Kotthaus, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Belgium. Alain De Neve, researcher at the Centre for Security and Defence Studies, will be moderating the debate.

This conference will take place in English on **Thursday 29 February 2024 at 17:00 in the conference room at the Renaissance campus** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**). Simultaneous interpretation in Dutch and French will be provided in the conference room. It will not be possible to follow the conference online. However, subject to the consent of the speaker, a recording of his presentation 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 Tuesday 27 February 2024 at the latest is compulsory.**

(Signed)

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

**Programme:**

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