



ROYAL HIGHER INSTITUTE *for* DEFENCE



ENHANCING MARITIME SECURITY AT THE EDGES OF EUROPE

FOUR SEAS, FOUR CHALLENGES:
North Sea – Mediterranean Sea
Black Sea – Gulf of Guinea



INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union (BE EU Presidency), the **Royal Higher Institute for Defence** (RHID) and the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** (CSDS) organise a seminar that will delve into maritime security in four major areas of interest for European countries: the North Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea at the periphery of the continent, as well as the Gulf of Guinea. The analysis of each of these areas will focus on a prevailing regional issue with a view to inspiring us on measures to be taken.

At an historical turning point in the current, increasingly challenging and rapidly evolving international order, European countries are compelled to urgently adapt their security policies and strengthen their defence capacities, including in the maritime domain. These matters require objective visions and guidelines, regional and transregional cooperation, national efforts as well as resources, all at the same time. To this purpose, experts will share their thoughts on critical infrastructures in the North Sea, on immigration and transnational crime in the Mediterranean Sea, on the Black Sea as a vital crossroad of straits and estuaries and, finally, on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. These four geographical areas will be treated from several angles: geopolitics, strategy, diplomacy, economy, law, intelligence, military and human domain, vulnerabilities, hybrid threats, resilience and technology.

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024 AM

08:30 – 09:00

Arrival and registration

09:00 – 09:20

Welcome address

Air Force Major General Filip BORREMANS (Director-General RHID)

Paul VAN TIGCHELT (Minister of Justice and the North Sea)

09:20 – 09:30

Scene-setter

Commander Philip VON EBERHARDT (German Navy – Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters)



Paul VAN TIGCHELT has a prominent career in the Belgian justice and federal government. In 1998, he started working as a public prosecutor at the Antwerp Public Prosecutor Office. In 2003, he became Deputy Public Prosecutor. Simultaneously, he was part of the cabinet of the deputy prime minister and minister of the Interior as an adviser, then Deputy Head of Cabinet and Spokesman. Afterwards, he rose to Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Antwerp in 2010, from 2014 to Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Antwerp Public Prosecutor Office, where he worked on cases against organised drug traffic, and to Spokesman for the Antwerp Public Prosecutor Office. In January 2016, he took on the position of Director of the Coordination Unit for Threat Analysis (CUTA)

until October 2020, when he was assigned to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and the North Sea. In October 2023, he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and the North Sea.



Air Force Major General Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng, is Director-General of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence (RHID). During the first part of his career, he mainly served in operational and technical management functions. He occupied several management functions at the Systems Division within the Defence Staff Directorate General Material Resources, became Commanding Officer of the Competence Centre for Support Materials and Products, and – after completion of the High Studies for Security and Defence at the RHID in 2016 –, he was appointed to the Governance and Policy Section at the cabinet of the Chief of Defence, in order to work on the further development, implementation

and follow-up of the Strategic Vision for Defence. In this context, he also worked on the new structure and functioning of the Defence Staff. In October 2018, he became the head of the newly created Governance Support Section within the cabinet of the Chief of Defence, until his appointment as Director-General of the RHID in October 2019. In March 2023, he was promoted to the rank of major general.

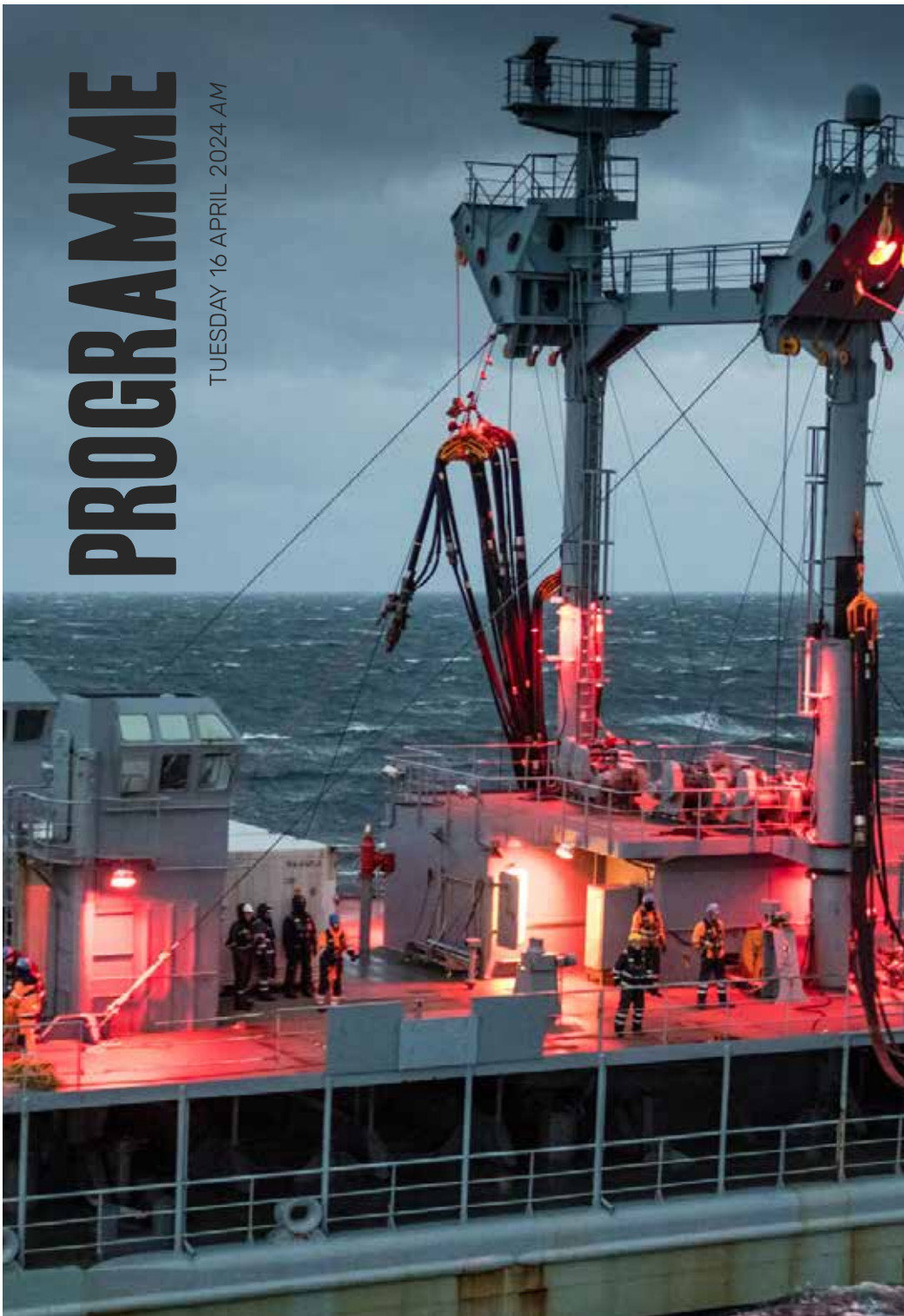


Commander Philip VON EBERHARDT, German Navy, has been Staff Officer Concepts and Doctrine for cross-border maritime operations at the NATO Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters (CoE CSW) since 2022. The CoE CSW is a research facility and NATO think tank in Kiel (Germany), which specialises in maritime operations in marginal seas and littoral waters, develops practical military operational principles and procedures for shallow and confined sea areas and tests them in manoeuvres. At the same time, Commander von Eberhardt is based in Brussels, where he works on the OPS-governance cross-border critical maritime infrastructure protection within the NATO-EU Structured Dialogue.

In this context, he designs and conducts cross-border exercises in cooperation with the European Defence Agency (EDA). Serving at the German Naval HQ from 2015 until 2022, he worked on public-private cooperation models for port operations and on the development of maintenance and repair capabilities and procedures for the German navy fleet. He participated in the annual military Baltic operations (BaltOps) exercise and in the conduct of several critical maritime infrastructure protection exercises in the North and Baltic Sea.

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024 AM



PANEL 1:

North Sea and Critical Infrastructures

09:30 – 11:00

Introduction of speakers by Mr Alain DE NEVE (Researcher, CSDS)

Speakers:

- Dr Christian BUEGER (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
What is Maritime Security?
- Navy Captain (Retired) Jukka SAVOLAINEN (Hybrid Centre of Excellence, Finland)
Vulnerabilities and Resilience in the Maritime Domain
- Mr Frederik MERTENS (The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, The Netherlands)
The High Value of the North Sea
- Dr Iglia YAKOVA (Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission)
Sea -Basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security
- Discussion moderated by Prof. Dr Louis LE HARDÿ DE BEAULIEU (UCLouvain, Belgium)

11:00-11:20

Coffee break



Dr Christian BUEGER is Professor of international relations at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, where he leads the Ocean Infrastructure Research Group. He is one of the directors of SafeSeas – the research network for maritime security – and Honorary Professor at the University of Seychelles. Prof. Bueger is a leading scholar on maritime security and global ocean politics. Across over 180 publications, he has investigated issues such as maritime strategy, law of the sea, maritime domain awareness, blue crimes, operational coordination and capacity building. His current research develops guidelines for critical maritime infrastructure protection, including subsea data cables, and offshore wind energy. Prof. Bueger holds a PhD from the European University Institute.

Throughout his career, he held positions including at Cardiff University, the Greenwich Maritime Institute, University of Malta and the National University of Singapore. He has worked as a consultant and advisor to the European Parliament, the European Council, the International Maritime Organisation, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the Indian Ocean Commission.



Mr Frederik MERTENS, graduated in history at Leiden and is a military historian with a focus on the 20th century and beyond. In recent years, he also studied modern technologies such as unmanned systems, robots and AI. He writes both about military history and modern warfare, but as a generalist, his interests and knowledge stretch much wider. It is this combination of historical knowledge and modern technical understanding that gives him insight in the complex world of geopolitics and international security. Before joining The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS), Mertens worked as a scientific researcher and consultant as founder of Distant Visions. He also writes articles for, among others, Mars et Historia and the Marineblad.



Navy Captain (Rtd.) Jukka SAVOLAINEN is a general staff officer of the Finnish Border Guard, serving as Commander of the West Finland Coast Guard District from 2012 to 2017. His international experience includes serving as Head of the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan from 2010 to 2012. He spent his time in Brussels from 2002 to 2006, working firstly as a counsellor for border security at the Finnish Permanent Representation to the EU, and later as a national expert at DG HOME of the Council. At that time, he conducted numerous evaluation missions in EU member and candidate states and contributed significantly to developing the Integrated Border Management concept and the Common Integrated Risk Analysis for border security. His current team's

work concentrates on hybrid threats to critical systems supporting modern Western societies.





Dr Iglia YAKOVA is Deputy Head of Unit A3, with responsibility for sea basin strategies, maritime regional cooperation and maritime security, at the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission. For the past 15 years she has been working for the European Commission in Brussels and abroad with experience in international trade, fisheries and maritime affairs. Iglia Yakova holds a PhD in political science from Science Po in Paris.



Prof. Dr Louis LE HARDY DE BEAULIEU has a doctorate in political and social sciences, a law degree and a special degree in international and European law. He teaches at the Catholic University of Louvain (UCLouvain) and the University of Namur. His research and teaching focus mainly on European and international law. He is also currently president of the Académie Royale de Marine de Belgique. He is the author of numerous publications, including *Du déficit démocratique à l'Europe des citoyens* and *Criminalité et trafics maritimes : des enjeux politiques aux conséquences juridiques*.



PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024 PM



PANEL 2:

Mediterranean Sea and Immigration

11:20-12:50

Introduction of speakers by Captain Xavier BARA, PhD (Researcher, CSDS)

Speakers:

- Dr Daniel FIOTT (Brussels School of Governance, VUB)
Flows and Fears: Migration and Security in the Mediterranean
- Ms Tasnim ABDERRAHIM (Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Malta)
Understanding the Rise in Irregular Migration to Europe via Tunisia
- Rear Admiral Guillaume FONTARENSKY (French Navy, Deputy Commander Operation IRINI).
IRINI: State of Play
- Col (res.) Walter DAVID (Ronin Institute)
Mitigating Security Challenges in the Mediterranean Sea: Leveraging Space Technology for Effective Solutions

Discussion moderated by Lieutenant Commander Ilja VAN HESPEN (Belgian Naval Component)

12:50 - 13:50

Lunch break



Dr Daniel FIOTT has been educated at the University of Cambridge (Great Britain) and the VUB (Belgium) and is Head of the Defence and Statecraft Programme at the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) of the Brussels School of Governance (BSoG-VUB). He is also a non-resident fellow at the Madrid-based Elcano Royal Institute, where he analyses defence industrial issues. He earned his PhD on European defence-industrial cooperation at the Brussels School of Governance in 2017 and conducted research between 2012 and 2016 on European defence policy and defence industrial matters. His expertise also covers geopolitics and security policy in the Mediterranean area. His other background positions are Fellow of the Research

Foundation - Flanders (FWO) from 2014 to 2016, Security and Defence Editor at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) from 2016 to 2022 and Visiting Lecturer at the Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS), University of Kent, from 2017 to 2022.



Ms Tasnim ABDERRAHIM is an analyst at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime's North Africa and Sahel Observatory headquartered in Malta. In addition, she is a non-resident scholar at the Middle East Institute (MEI) and a visiting fellow with the Middle East and North Africa Programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). Prior to her current positions, she was associated with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) (Maastricht, the Netherlands) and with the University of Gabès (Tunisia). Her work is dedicated to human smuggling and trafficking dynamics in Tunisia and Morocco and on EU-North Africa cooperation on migration.

She holds a master's degree in English cultural studies from the University of Tunis.



Rear Admiral Guillaume FONTARENSKY, French Navy, graduated at the Naval Academy in Lanvéoc-Poulmic (Brest) and War College in Paris. He is specialised as Gunnery Officer, as well as in anti-surface warfare (ASuW) and anti-aircraft warfare (AAW). He did an impressive service at sea, mostly in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean, and in operations in the Yugoslavian, Iraqi, Red Sea and Afghan theatres. He was assigned to the position of weapons officer in 1993 (until 2000), AAW in 2001-04 and Executive Officer in 2009. He also commanded three warships: the patrol boat *La Moqueuse* (2000-2001) in New Caledonia (South Pacific Ocean), the frigate *Nivôse* (2009-2010) in the Reunion Island (Indian Ocean) and the anti-submarine

warfare destroyer *Montcalm* (2012-2014), also in the Indian Ocean to support operation ENDURING FREEDOM. In 2004, he received an instructor position at the Saint-Mandrier Navy Training Centre. The second part of his career mainly included staff positions: at the French Joint Staff (2006-2008), the EU Military Staff (2008), where he contributed to launching operation ATALANTA, the French Naval Operations Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (2010-2012), then as Head of the Surface Ships Training Department (2014-2017), back to the French Naval Operations Centre for the Mediterranean Sea as its commander (2017-2019), second-in-command of the French Surface Fleet (2019-2022) and chief of staff of the French Rapid Reaction Headquarters in Toulon (2022-2023). In July 2023, he became Deputy Commander of the EU operation IRINI in Rome.





Col (res.) Walter DAVID is Space Branch Representative of the Allied Command Transformation (ACT, NATO), (Ronin Institute) Research Scholar and colonel (reserve) in the Italian army. He is a modelling, simulation and geospatial expert. His studies and training include computer science, geospatial sciences, artificial intelligence, robotics, geopolitics, interagency and civil-military coordination, decision-making, crisis and disaster management, humanitarian action, preparedness and response effectiveness. Throughout his career, he has been deployed as chief geospatial officer in NATO missions and later as CIS information integration services officer. Moreover, he is a conference lecturer and member of the

US Cartography and Geographic Information Society as well as a member of several partnership networks and groups supporting the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva (Switzerland).



Lieutenant Commander Dr Ilja VAN HESPEN, Belgian Navy, is Head of the section Governance of the Operational Command's Naval Policy Staff and a doctoral researcher at Ghent University (UGent). He started his military career in 1990. His professional experience includes a period as deck officer on board mine hunters and on board the Belgian frigate *Wandelaar*. In 2003, he participated in the counterdrugs operation WEST SHARK in the Caribbean. In 2010, he contributed to the fight against maritime piracy in the Horn of Africa as Information Operations Officer for the European Union in the Operational Headquarters of the European Union Naval Forces (EUNAVFOR) in Northwood (Great Britain). From 2012 to

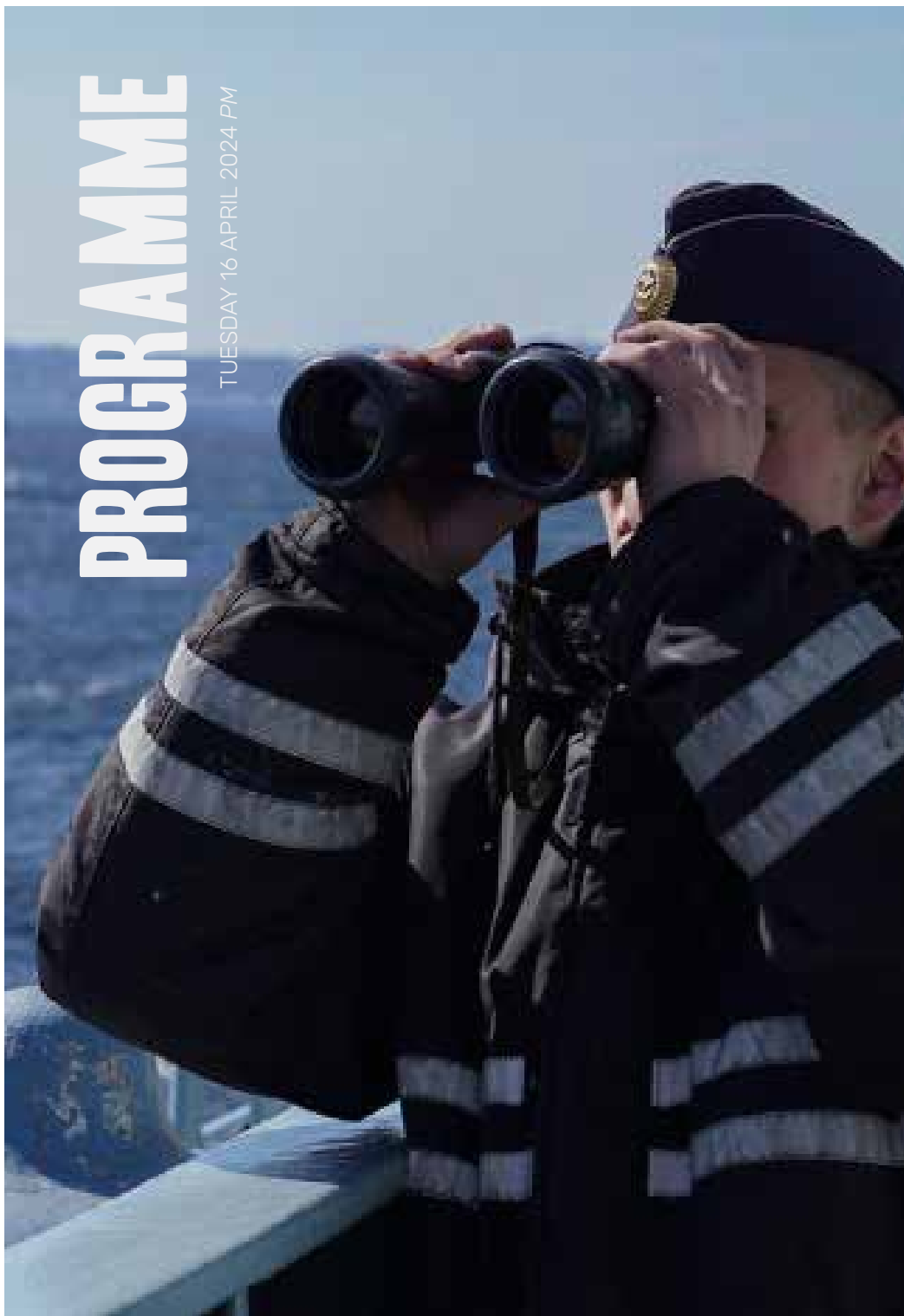
2019, he was a faculty member of the chair of law of the Department of Behavioural Sciences Department within the Faculty of Social and Military Sciences (Belgian Royal Military Academy), teaching classes in the fields of criminal law, public international law, international humanitarian law and maritime law. His research focuses on legal issues related to all violent acts in the maritime domain, such as maritime piracy, drugs trafficking or maritime terrorism.





PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024 PM



PANEL 3:

Black Sea and Maritime Roads

13:50 - 15:20

Introduction of speakers by Captain Xavier BARA, PhD (Researcher, CSDS)

Speakers:

- Dr Bernard SIMAN (Egmont Institute, Belgium)
Elements of a New EU Black Sea Strategy
- Dr Dorothée SCHMID (French Institute of International Relations, France)
The Turkish Moment in the Black Sea: Stakes and Calculations
- Dr Igor DELANOË (Deputy Director of the Franco-Russian Observatory, France)
Russia in the Black Sea, between Entrenchment and Projection of Influence – Consequences of the ‘Special Military Operation’ for the ‘Greater Russian South’
- Vice Admiral Mihai PANAIT (Chief of the Romanian Naval Forces, Romania)
Romania’s Endeavour in Providing Freedom of Navigation in the Black Sea

Discussion moderated by Captain (N) Kurt ENGELEN
(Defence Counsellor to the Belgian PSC Ambassador)

15:20 - 15:40

Coffee break



Dr Bernard SIMAN, senior fellow associate at Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations, is Head of Financial Diplomacy and FinTech at the Brussels Diplomatic Academy of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), where he teaches international monetary policy & financial architecture. He serves on the advisory council of the London Institute of Banking and Finance, the oldest banking institute in the world. He also teaches at the Belgian Royal Military Academy. In addition to financial services, he specialises in hybrid warfare and southern European geopolitics, is a member of both Chatham House and the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), and is an advisor within Berlin Global Advisors focusing on strategic foresight, risk assessment, hybrid

threats and global geopolitics, advising both governments and corporates. Moreover, he was the UK special representative to the UAE for financial and professional services, and Co-Chair of the bilateral Financial and Professional Services Working Group and the Shipping and Maritime Task Force, advising both governments on market access and opportunities. He has also worked in financial services in London, Tokyo, Türkiye, the Mediterranean region and the Arabian Gulf.



Dr Dorothée SCHMID, Head of the Turkey and Middle East Programme at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), is a graduate of Science-Po Paris, holds a postgraduate degree in applied economics and a doctorate in political science from the University of Paris-II Panthéon-Sorbonne. She joined IFRI in 2002 after working as a country risk analyst for Crédit Agricole-Indosuez bank and carrying out consulting assignments with public institutions (European Commission, French Ministry of the Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), as well as NGOs (Cités-Unies France) and private companies. Her early work focused on European and French policies in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, the political conditionality of economic aid and democratisation processes,

and the institutional configurations of power. In 2008, she created the Contemporary Turkey Programme of IFRI to monitor the transformations of the Turkish regime and the strengthening of its foreign policy in the neighbourhood and beyond. Her current research is related to the dynamics of political reform in the Middle East, the future of rentier states, post-conflict reorganisations and the struggle for influence between regional powers.





Dr Igor DELANOË is Deputy Director of the Franco-Russian Observatory, a think-tank attached to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) France-Russia, and Doctor in history from the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis (France). His expertise focuses on Russian geopolitics, presence and interests in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, and on Russian security and defence issues, in particular concerning the naval power. In 2013, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Harvard University, USA), within the National Security Program. He is an associate researcher at the Centre for International and European Studies (Kadir Has University, Istanbul), the

Centre for the Modern and Contemporary Mediterranean (CMMC) and the Laboratory of International and European Law (LADIE) of the University of Côte d'Azur (Nice). He is a consultant for the French ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the French ministry of the Armed Forces, the DCAF (Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance) and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Geneva). He also currently teaches and gives conferences at the École de Guerre (War College) of the French Armed Forces (Paris).





Vice Admiral Mihai PANAIT, has been Chief of the Romanian Naval Forces since 2020. Commissioned from the “Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Institute in 1991 and a surface warfare officer by trade, his first assignments on-board a ship were Department Head of minesweeping operations and Executive Officer. At squadron and brigade levels, he served as Operations Officer. After graduation from the National Defence University, he was appointed Commanding Officer of minelayer *Ioan Murgescu*, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of mine-countermeasure (MCM) squadron. Between 2009 and 2013, he was deployed as Commanding Officer of frigate *Regele Ferdinand* in various NATO and EU operations such as ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR (2010),

UNIFIED PROTECTOR (2011) and ATALANTA (2012). He was also Romanian Task Group Commander during the first missions of the Task Group in 2013, 2014 and 2016. Moreover, he performed the staff officer duties of head of EOD and Force Protection operations to the Naval Operational Component Command and Deputy Chief of Staff for training to Fleet Command. His naval education includes prestigious courses in Romania and abroad, among which Command Team Training Programme in Den Helder (the Netherlands), Naval Command College in Newport (Rhode Island, USA), Joint Strategic Leadership Course in National Defence University Carol I (Bucharest) and Combined Force Maritime Component Commanders Flag Course in Naples (Italy).



Navy Captain Kurt ENGELEN is a Belgian navy officer with a combined military, industry and academic background in international politics, European affairs and conflict studies. He holds a master’s degree in applied linguistics from the Brussels Higher Institute for Translators and Interpreters, a master’s degree in international politics from the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), a General Management Certificate from the Cambridge University Judge Business School and a certificate in disruptive innovation management from M.I.T. Sloane School of Management. He completed the CSDP High-Level Course and the advanced course on Strategy and Defence at the European Security and Defence College. During

his latest military assignments, he was a staff officer in charge of cooperative security and crisis management at the Belgian Military Representation to NATO, Head of the EU section at the Belgian defence staff strategy department, and Belgian delegate to the Political Military Group. Since June 2022, he is Defence Counsellor to the Belgian PSC ambassador. During his tenure at the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU, he also held the positions of deputy MILREP and, from March until June 2023, acting MILREP to the EU Military Committee. On the academic side, he teaches international politics, world conflicts and security at the Riga Graduate School of Law in Latvia and European affairs and crisis management at the Belgian Royal Military Academy. Besides European affairs, his research fields include Russian and Chinese foreign policies, the Arctic and strategic foresight analysis.





PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024 AM



PANEL 4:

Gulf of Guinea and Piracy

15:40 – 17:10

Introduction of speakers by Mr Alain DE NEVE (Researcher, CSDS)

Speakers:

- Dr Katja LINDSKOV JACOBSEN (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
Piracy Studies Coming of Age: A Window on the Making of Maritime Intervention Actors
- Ms Morgane CARRÉ (European External Action Service)
The EU's Contribution to Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea
- Commander Lane M. MUNROE (U.S. Coast Guard, United States Africa Command)
The U.S. AFRICOM Approach to Reinforcing Maritime Governance in the Gulf of Guinea
- Mr Chris TRELAWNY (INTERPORTPOLICE, United Kingdom)
Port Security in the Gulf of Guinea: Getting to the Heart of the Issues

Discussion moderated by Senior Analyst Dr Dirk Siebels (Risk Intelligence)

17:10 – 17:25

European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH)

Key-note speech by Commodore Hans HUYGENS

(Belgian Navy – European Union Military Staff)

17:25 – 17:40

Closure address by Rear Admiral Tanguy BOTMAN

(Belgian Naval Component Commander)

17:40 – 19:00

Reception offered by the Royal Higher Institute for Defence



Dr Katja LINDSKOV JACOBSEN focuses her research on security and intervention. Thematically, she has explored various UN interventions, the use of humanitarian technology as a means of intervention and the practices of maritime and institutional capacity building of regional security actors. One of the issues that intrigues her about this broad range of contemporary security practices is the question of how such interventions influence the global distribution of security/insecurity. Geographically, a significant portion of her research focused on Africa (maritime security challenges in the Gulf of Guinea, various UN interventions on the continent and regional security organisations in East Africa). In many of her research projects,

the issue of Danish security policies and practices, for instance in relation to UN peace operations or maritime security, has been an important dimension. She holds a PhD in international relations from Lancaster University (UK) and an MSc in global politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Theoretically, her research is informed by the work of Michel Foucault, post-structuralism, and insights and concepts from science & technology studies.



Mrs Morgane CARRÉ is building a career with a focus on maritime affairs, dedicating the past six years to enhancing maritime security and addressing maritime security issues on a global scale. Her work revolves around informing, coordinating and enabling actions within the realm of maritime domain awareness and diplomacy. Currently serving at the EEAS within the Managing Directorate Peace, Security, and Defence since September 2022, she holds the position of Maritime Security Policy Officer. In this role, she advises the Senior Coordinator on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG). Her responsibilities include coordinating the EU's actions in maritime security, underscoring interservice teamwork and coordination with Member States, and following up on the EU's strategy in the GoG as well as the broader EU Maritime Security Strategy. She plays a particular

pivotal role in implementing the political layer of the EU Coordinated Maritime Presences in the GoG. Before joining the EEAS, she worked at the French Ministry of the Armed Forces from February 2018 to July 2022 as the Deputy to the Ministerial Coordinator for maritime security. In this capacity, she was involved in ministerial coordination, inter-ministerial relations and setting regional priorities across several critical maritime regions including the GoG, Indo-Pacific, Mediterranean/Black Sea, Red Sea and Mozambique Channel.



Commander Lane MUNROE serves as the Law Enforcement at Sea, Branch Chief, for the J59 Counter-Narcotics & Transnational Threats Program at United States Africa Command. He leverages strategy, engagement and programmes to work with partners to counter transnational threats and malign actors, to strengthen security forces, and to respond to crisis in order to promote regional security, stability and prosperity. Commander Munroe graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. During his commissioned service, he has served tours in Washington State, Alaska, Iraq and North Carolina, deployed to five continents and served in support of operation NEPTUNE SHIELD, operation

IRAQI FREEDOM, operation ENDURING FREEDOM and operation AEGIS. His staff experience includes assignment to the Rescue Coordination Center Juneau and the Seventeenth Coast Guard District's Chief, International Fisheries Enforcement. Commander Munroe's previous assignment consisted in serving as the Executive Officer for Maritime Force Protection Unit - Bangor, where he worked under the U.S. Navy's Strategic Systems Program to lead a specially trained and equipped Coast Guard team to ensure Nuclear Weapons Security for Ballistic Missile Submarines transiting the surface waters of the Pacific Northwest.





Mr Chris TRELAWNY is Deputy Secretary-General of the International Organisation of Airport and Seaport Police (InterPortPolice) since January 2022. Before his appointment, he had been serving the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) since 2003 as a maritime security specialist, more precisely as Head of Section, Senior Deputy Director and, in November 2014, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on maritime security and facilitation. In 2018, he was appointed Chief of the sub-division Maritime Development within the Technical Cooperation Division (TCD) and became Acting Director of TCD in 2020. He retired from the IMO in December 2021. Before the IMO, Chris spent six years with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), four years with the UK Government in aviation security roles and eight years with HM Customs in law enforcement roles. He also served 30 years as an officer in the British Royal Naval Reserve and is a Younger Brother of Trinity House.



Dr Dirk SIEBELS is a senior analyst at Risk Intelligence, a Denmark-based security intelligence company where he is responsible for analysis on countries in sub-Saharan Africa. He holds a PhD from the University of Greenwich (London). His research largely concentrates on maritime security issues in sub-Saharan Africa, including the role of ports and maritime trade, IUU fishing, offshore energy production and the evolution of private maritime security providers. Dirk has contributed to several research projects, including the annual State of Piracy report published by Oceans Beyond Piracy (now renamed Stable Seas). He is an academic advisor to the Turkish Navy's Maritime Security Centre of Excellence in Istanbul and part of the expert network for CEMLAWS Africa, a think tank based in Accra (Ghana). In addition to his day-to-day work, Dirk has published a book about maritime security issues in East and West Africa. He is also a regular contributor of articles and op-eds on related topics.



Commodore Hans HUYGENS, Belgian Navy, graduated at the Royal Military Academy in Brussels and attended several courses on crisis management, operations planning and maritime warfare. He is an alumnus of the Belgian senior staff course, the senior course at the NATO Defence College (Rome) and of SERA (Paris). He is specialised in navigation and operations and has a long operational experience under national, EU (including the counter-piracy operation ATALANTA), NATO and UN flags. During his sea service, he also commanded warships, among which the minehunter *Narcis* (1999) and the frigate *Louise-Marie* (2011). The other pillar of his career consists of his politico-military positions such as Strategic Operations Planner at the EU Military Staff

(EUMS), or Head of the EU Section and later of the Defence Policy Division for the Belgian Assistant chief of staff for Strategy. In 2019, he was appointed at the EUMS to successively lead a strategic military assessment team, to plan operations in Ukraine, West-Africa and the Sahel, to help to launch coordinated maritime presences (CMP) in the Gulf of Guinea and finally, to become Head of Foresight, Assessment and Planning. Since 2023 until presently, he has held the position of senior advisor on operations for the EUMS. Moreover, between late 2023 and March 2024, he is appointed Force Commander for the European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH), operation AGENOR.

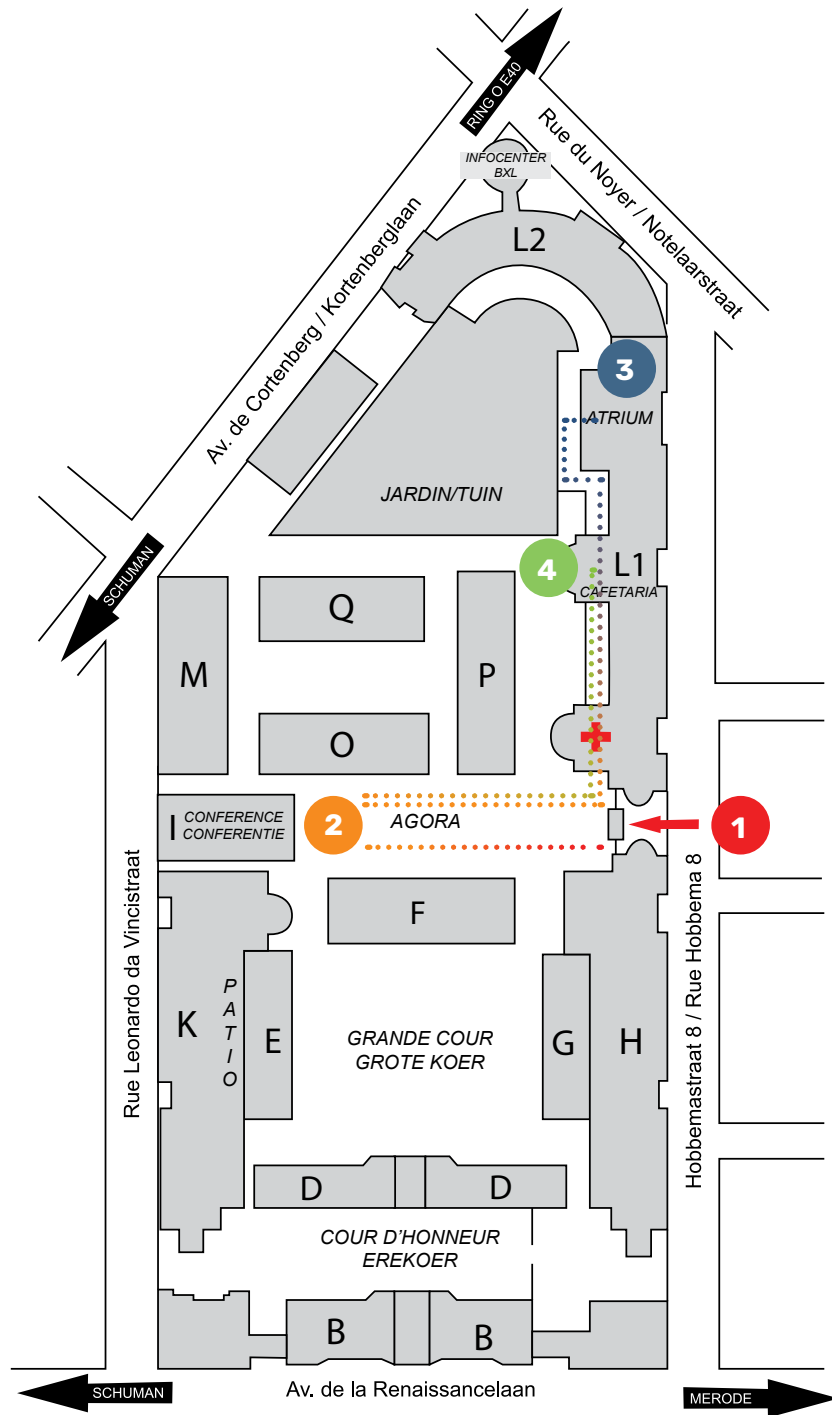


Rear Admiral Tanguy BOTMAN graduated from the Belgian Royal Military Academy in nautical and military sciences, served on several mine hunters, frigates and on board the French cruiser helicopter-carrier *Jeanne d'Arc*. After his graduation from the Royal Defence College (Brussels), he joined the bi-national staff of Admiral BENELUX in Den Helder (the Netherlands), where he took on the position of Staff Operations Officer for three years. In 2010, he served – also for three years – in the NATO Maritime Force Headquarter (HRF-M) in Toulon as a warfare staff officer, participating in several staff deployments in the Mediterranean Sea (Libya), the Indian Ocean (CTF 150) and within the French Carrier Strike Group. In 2013, he was posted as Commanding

Officer of the frigate *Leopold I*, with which he took part in the EU counter-piracy operation ATALANTA off the Horn of Africa and in the Indian Ocean and to the Maritime Capability Building in West Africa. In April 2015, captain by then, he was appointed to the Defence Staff within the Governance and Policy Support cell where he covered all issues related to navy, Medical and Competence Development for the implementation of the MoD Strategic Plan. In 2017, after six months in the NATO Defence College, he returned to Den Helder, where he became Director Operations of the Belgian Navy. In 2019, he worked as Director of the Navy Policy Staff, responsible for the long-term development of the Navy, until 2020 when he became Chief of Staff of the Belgian Navy Component. From 1 March until 6 July, he was temporarily promoted to flotilla admiral to assume the force command of operation AGENOR of the European-led mission EMASoH in the Hormuz Strait. He was again assigned Chief of Staff of the Belgian Naval Component in 2022 and, from June 2023, he assumed the command of the Belgian Navy Component.







ACCES

- 1** Main Entrance and exit + guardroom (registration)
- 2** Conference room Frank De Winne
- 3** Mess 2 - Lunch
- 4** Bar (cafeteria) - Reception

NEXT EVENTS

Evening conference, 16 May 2024

Is Taiwan Defendable?
*A Critical Look at the U.S.-Japan Alliance
and What Needs to be Done*

Seminar Belgian EU Presidency, 23 May 2024

Securing the Future in the Age of Cyber Defence
and Cognitive Warfare

Evening conference, 3 June 2024

NATO's 75th Anniversary

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