



Evening conference

11 September 2025

17:00 - 18:30



The Race for High-Value Minerals in Africa

Mr Filip REYNIERS (International Peace Information Service, Antwerp)

Prof. Dr Koen VLASSENROOT (Conflict Research Group, Ghent)

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** hosted by the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** of the **Royal Higher Institute for Defence** on **Thursday 11 September 2025** from **17:00 until 18:30**.

European governments seek to restrict the access of minerals that fuel armed conflict to their markets, while ensuring continued economic engagement in high-risk regions to maintain access to critical minerals. Sourcing these minerals requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account issues such as interference by armed groups, governance shortcomings, environmental consequences, land disputes, socio-economic inequalities and the role of both state and non-state actors in perpetuating insecurity.

This event will examine the current dynamics surrounding high-value minerals, framed within the broader competition among global powers for the control of supply chains. The discussion will address the economic, security and ethical ramifications of resource extraction with a particular focus on the evolving landscape in the Great Lakes Region.

We are honoured to welcome two distinguished speakers: Filip Reyniers, Director of the International Peace Information Service (IPIS), and Prof. Dr Koen Vlassenroot, Director of the Conflict Research Group (CRG) at Ghent University. They will offer insights into the challenges and prospects of managing high-value minerals in Africa, highlighting the continent's potential to exercise greater agency and ensure more equity over its mineral wealth.

This conference will be held **in English at the conference room at campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**) on **Thursday 11 September 2025 at 17:00**. Simultaneous interpretation in Dutch and French will be available on site. Please note that online participation will not be possible.

Kindly register in advance at www.defence-institute.be. **Registration is required by Thursday 4 September 2025 at the latest.**

(Signed)

Baudouin COPPIETERS DE GIBSON, MSc Eng

Rear Admiral

Director-general

Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

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