

Evening conference

18 March 2026

17:00 - 19:00



MILCLUB  
AUTONOMIA ET OFFICIUM NOS REGUNT



## How Could the Belgian Defence Deal with Economic Warfare?

Prof. Dr Cind DU BOIS (Royal Military Academy)

Mr Jean-Pol PONCELET (former Minister of Defence and Energy)



Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Wednesday 18 March 2026** from **17:00 until 19:00** by the **Royal Higher Institute for Defence** and the **Collège Belgique** from the **Académie royale de Belgique** with the support of the **MilClub**.

Economic warfare is nothing new, but it is now being fought with equal technological weapons. It pits states, companies and rival powers against each other in a fierce battle for access to resources, information and markets.

This conference explores the growing involvement of the Belgian Defence in a silent but structuring confrontation: how can we anticipate supply disruptions, secure supply chains, protect strategic assets and maintain a technological advantage in a hyper-competitive world? This is a vital issue for the economic sovereignty, industrial survival and strategic autonomy of tomorrow.

To address these defence and security issues for Belgium and Europe, we are pleased to welcome Prof. Dr Cind Du Bois, specialist in defence economics and professor at the Royal Military Academy, and Mr Jean-Pol Poncelet, civil engineer nuclear physicist, member of the Académie royale de Belgique, former Belgian Minister of Defence and Energy, former Strategic Director at the European Space Agency and former Director of Foratom.

This conference will be held **in French** at the **Auditorium K.10.24 (room Peeters)** at **campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**) on **Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 17:00**. Simultaneous interpretation in English will be available on site. Please note that online participation will not be possible.

Kindly register in advance at [www.defence-institute.be](http://www.defence-institute.be). **Registration is required by Wednesday 11 March 2026 at the latest.**

(Signed)

Baudouin COPPIETERS DE GIBSON, MSc Eng  
Rear Admiral  
Aide-de-Camp to the King  
Director-general  
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

### Programme:

16:30: Welcome  
17:00: Conference and Q&A  
19:00 – 20:00: Reception