

2nd Edition of the CECRI Conference on Strategic Studies

Reflecting on Belgium's Strategic Orientations: Opportunities for a Niche-Based Approach in Defense and Foreign Policy.

Schedule	Programme
08h30-09h00	Registration
09h00-09h05	Welcome Adress - Pr. Tanguy de Wilde d'Estmael (UCLouvain)
09h05-09h15	Opening Remarks - Pr. Tanguy Struye de Swielande (UCLouvain)

Panel 1 - Specialization as Strategy: Examining Belgium's Defense Role Beyond Multilateralism

09h15-09h30	Keynote Speech -Lieutenant-general Marc Thys (Former Vice Chief of Defense)
09h30-10h45	<p><u>Part 1. Insights and perspectives</u></p> <p>Chair: Edouard Xia (Ph.D Candidate UCLouvain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "The Future of Belgian Defence: From Standalone Forces to Niche-Based Forces and Back?" - Wannes Verstraete (Ph.D Candidate VUB) - Belgian defence policy after Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine in comparative perspective: 'Business as Usual'? Pr. Tim Haesebrouck (UGhent) & Michelle Haas (Ph.D Candidate UGhent) - "Belgian Defense Policy: A Review" - Pr. Alexander Mattelaer (VUB) - "Towards a Belgian Information Warfare Doctrine?" - Julien Godfroid (Ph.D Candidate UCLouvain) <p>Q&A Session</p>
10h45-11h00	Coffee Break
11h00-12h15	<p><u>Part 2. Roundtable with Practitioners</u></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Simon Desplanque (UCLouvain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major General Serge Vassart (Former Belgian Military Representative to the Military Committee of the EU and NATO, Belgian Defense) - Major General Michel Van Strythem (Chief of the Belgian Cyber Command, Belgian Defense) - Ambassador of Belgium William Roelants de Stappers (Director Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) - Major General Bernard Phaleg (Head of Strategy Department, Belgian Defense) <p>Q&A Session</p>

12h15 - 13h45: Lunch Break

Panel 2 - What Role for Multilateralism in Contemporary Belgian Foreign Policy?

13h45-14h00	Keynote Speech - Ambassador (hon) of Belgium Ghislain d'Hoop (Former Acting Director-General for Multilateral Affairs)
14h00-15h15	<p><u>Part 1. Insights and perspectives</u></p> <p>Chair: Vincent Gabriel (Ph.D Candidate UCLouvain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "It's a Balancing Act. Belgium's Position as an Open Economy in a World of Geoeconomic Competition" - Pr. Cind Du Bois (Royal Military Academy) - "Belgium's Arctic Niche" - Dr. Karen van Loon (Clingendael Institute) - "Deepening Bilateralism and Fighting Fragmentation: A Complementary Strategy to Multilateralism" - Edouard Xia (Ph.D Candidate UCLouvain) - "To 3D or not to 3D" - Commandant Joachim Herpels (Ph.D Candidate UCLouvain - ERM) <p>Q&A Session</p>
15h15-15h30	Coffee Break
15h30-15h45	Keynote Speech - Ambassador Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve
15h45-16h45	<p><u>Part 2. Roundtable with Practitioners</u></p> <p>Moderator: Pr. Michel Liégeois (UCLouvain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ambassador (hon) of Belgium Raoul Delcorde (Ph.D, guest Professor UCLouvain) - Ambassador (hon) of Belgium Ghislain d'Hoop (Former Acting Director-General for Multilateral Affairs) - Colonel Frédéric Linotte (Head of Defense Policy Division, Strategy Department, Belgian Defense) - Ambassador of Belgium Patrick Renault (Senior Coordinator for the Arctic and Antarctica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Q&A Session</p>
16h45-17h00	Concluding Remarks - Pr. Tanguy Struye de Swielande (UCLouvain)

17h00: Reception

