

Human Rights and EU Crisis Management Operations: A Duty to Respect and to Protect?

25 May 2012, T.M.C. Asser Instituut

**Organised by the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER),
Netherlands Defence Academy and the T.M.C. Asser Instituut**

Over the course of the last decade, the European Union has acquired an operational capability enabling it to deploy military and civilian crisis management missions in third countries in pursuit of its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Since 2003, the EU has launched more than twenty CSDP missions, ranging from large-scale military and civilian deployments in the Balkans to more modest security sector reform and monitoring missions in Georgia, Guinea Bissau and elsewhere.

The conduct of the Union's crisis management operations raises a number of questions relating to human rights law that merit urgent academic attention. The conference will bring together a group of academic and professional experts to explore two cross-cutting themes: (1) the duty to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in EU crisis management missions and (2) the contribution that such missions make to the Union's policy of promoting human rights at the international level. In practice, the implementation of the legal duty and the political commitment to ensure respect for and to promote human rights encounters certain difficulties in the field of crisis management. The workshop will address these difficulties and challenges.

The workshop will largely rely on CLEER's network of experts, which includes highly-recognized legal scholars as well as practitioners from Member States' administrations, the Council of the European Union (its Secretariat and Legal Service) and the European Parliament. The workshop aims to attract a variety of participants including LLM and PhD students as well as experienced professionals from the Netherlands and beyond.

Conference directors: Prof. Dr. Ramses Wessel (University of Twente/CLEER), Dr. Aurel Sari (University of Exeter) and Dr. Tamara Takacs (CLEER/T.M.C. Asser Instituut)



This conference is sponsored by the Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen

Provisional Conference Programme

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25 May 2012

9.00–9.30 **Registration**

9.30–9.45 **Welcome and Opening**

Dr. Tamara Takács (CLEER, T.M.C. Asser Instituut) (*Confirmed*)

9.45-10.15 **Keynote address *Challenges of human rights protection in EU missions and operations* by Dr. Hadewych Hazelzet** (Head of Section, Division of CSDP Policy, Partnerships and Agreements / Crisis Management and Planning Directorate, European External Action Service) (*confirmed*)

10.15-10.30 **Questions and answers**

10.30-10.45 **Short coffee break**

10.45–12.30 **Session 1: The Legal Framework Governing the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in EU Missions**

Chairperson: Prof. Dr. Ramses Wessel (University of Twente, CLEER) (*confirmed*)

- *Application of General International Law Principles and Instruments* - *tbc*
- *EU Missions and the European Convention: Recent Cases* - **Prof. Heike Krieger** (Freie Universität Berlin) (*confirmed*)
- *Application of EU Law Principles and Instruments* - **Dr. Frederik Naert** (Legal Service of Council of the European Union & affiliated senior researcher, KU Leuven) (*confirmed*)

12.30-13.30 **Lunch break**

13.30–15.00 **Session 2: The Duty to Respect Human Rights during EU operations**

Chairperson: Dr. Aurel Sari (University of Exeter) (*Confirmed*)

- *Human Rights, Operational Effectiveness and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA* - **Lt Col Christian De Cock** (BE Defence Staff, Head of International Law Section) (*confirmed*)
- *The Duty to Respect International Humanitarian Law* - **Dr. Marten Zwanenburg** (Senior Legal Adviser at the Dutch Ministry of Defense, Leiden University) (*confirmed*)

- *Right to Life and Procedural Requirements - Col. Dr Paul Ducheine* (University of Amsterdam and NLDA) *(confirmed)*

15.30-15.45 **Coffee and tea**

15.45–17.15 **Session 3: *Promoting Human Rights by EU Operations***

Chairperson: Prof. Eva Gross (IES, Vrije Universiteit Brussel) *(confirmed)*

- *Experiences of Human Rights Issues in Crisis Management Missions and Operations on the Ground - Dr. Annelies Verstichel* (Belgian Delegation to the EU Political and Security Committee, Guest professor at Law Faculty of Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) *(confirmed)*
- *Promoting human rights through the EULEX mission in Kosovo- Dr. Martina Spornbauer* (EULEX Kosovo)*(confirmed)*
- **Wanda Troszczyńska-van Genderen** (DG External Policies, European Parliament)*(confirmed)*

17.15-17.30 **Summary and Closing**

Prof. Ramses Wessel and Dr. Aurel Sari *(confirmed)*

17.30-18.30 **Reception**