

## Roundtable & networking: ReArming Europe and the future of international and European Law

30 September 2025, 16.00-17.45 followed by networking drinks  
Asser Institute (R.J. Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, 2517 JN Den Haag)

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### THEME

Geopolitical contexts surrounding Europe have accelerated investment in the development of defence capacities in the EU and Member States. The ReArm Europe Plan symbolises such a change in political and industrial landscape at the EU level. While the decline in the US' support for European defence necessitates policy changes, a significant increase in investment has profound societal implications. The loss of alternative investment in other public sectors in the EU is one of them. What matters however is that the implications of rearming Europe *go much beyond the boundaries of the EU*. It is likely that the investment to rearm Europe would *paradoxically increase the export* of arms to a variety of non-EU destinations. This is not only because the EU strategically chooses to form a partnership with certain like-minded countries. This is also because the development of advanced weapons requires the European defence industry and related sectors to import and export know-how, technology, components, and weapons from and to the rest of the world.

Against the backdrop of a significant increase in defence production in Europe and beyond, the Asser Institute's Roundtable & Networking Event will look at the future role and direction of international and European law in regulating governmental and corporate decisions in the development, export, and use of weapons. Take, for example, the **regulation of AI-enabled weapon systems**, whose development in the EU would be further accelerated by a new wave of investment. The regulation of **arms and dual-use exports** will also face new geopolitical contexts as well as a greater public demand for transparency. This will be accompanied by the need for strengthening **corporate due diligence** in the defence industry, despite its traditional nexus to the government. Underlying these fields of regulation are a series of rules on **human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law** that can serve as normative yardsticks for risk assessment, state responsibility, individual criminal responsibility, and corporate liability.

The speakers will share their views regarding **upcoming changes** and **research agendas** in the specific sub-fields of international and European law. The event will provide a forward-looking opportunity to discuss how international and EU law could be effectively used and developed to address legal and societal challenges arising from the rearming of Europe.

### PROGRAMME

16.00 – 16.10	<b>Introductory Remarks</b> Liesbeth Lijnzaad & Christophe Paulussen (Asser Institute)
16.10 – 16.45	<b>Setting the Scene: ReArming Europe &amp; Future Research Agendas</b>



Machiko Kanetake (Asser Institute - UvA)

Chair & Discussant: Auke Venema (Clingendael)

16:45–17.45

**Roundtable: ReArming Europe and its International Implications**

Moderator: León Castellanos-Jankiewicz (Asser Institute)

Cor Oudes (PAX)

Marta Bo (Asser Institute)

Sofie van der Maarel (Nederlands Defence Academy)

17:45–

**Networking drinks**