



T.M.C Asser Institute Early Career Conference Series

Arms Control and Rearmament: Contradiction or Synergy? Interdisciplinary Workshop

3 February 2026

Background

The Asser Institute Early Career Conference Series provides doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers in international law, political science and security studies with the opportunity to present their research on selected topics related to disarmament, non-proliferation, and export control and receive feedback from experts and peers. The Conference Series additionally provides early career researchers with the opportunity to build networks within their field thereby strengthening the academic arms control community within the Netherlands and Europe.

Topic of the Workshop

The February 2026 workshop features the topic of 'Arms Control and Rearmament: Contradiction or Synergy?' Geopolitical contexts surrounding Europe have accelerated investment in the defence capacities in the EU and Member States. The EU's Readiness 2030 initiative aims to mobilise €800 billion by the end of the decade to strengthen defence preparedness, with investment focused on technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, quantum computing, and space-based platforms.

In an era of rearmament in Europe and elsewhere, disarmament, non-proliferation, and export control regimes are facing fundamental challenges. Yet these regimes may paradoxically increase their relevance, precisely because of the risks that the development and transfer of defence-related technologies may pose to Europe and the world.

Against this background, the early career workshop will analyse, from multi-disciplinary perspectives, how disarmament, non-proliferation, and export control should and can be adopted in a highly competitive geopolitical climate. The workshop will draw lessons from historical, political, legal, and technological perspectives and serve as a venue for discussing ways forward.

The workshop will be followed by a closed policy roundtable, inviting early career scholars to exchange insights with professionals.

Programme Schedule

Tuesday 3 February 2026 – Early career workshop

13.00 – 13.15 **Introductory Remarks**

13.15 – 15.15 **Panel 1 Arms Trade and Export Controls**

Armaghan Naghipour (Lawyer; Doctoral Researcher, University of Kassel)
Arms Export Control Law: Germany, Netherlands, and the EU

Madalena Simões (PhD Researcher, European University Institute)
Courts and Arms Trade: Lawfully Evading International Law?

Adrian Agenjo (PhD Candidate, University of Barcelona and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
From Export Control to Criminal Liability: Offences Arising along the Arms Transfer Cycle

Ellen Cantraine (PhD Researcher, Department of European, Public and International Law, Ghent European Law Institute)
The Division of Competences in EU Arms Export Control: Re-evaluating the Common Position on Arms Exports through the European Peace Facility and the European Defence Fund

Commentators:

- Marco Pertile (Professor of International Law, School of International Studies, University of Trento)
- Mirko Sossai (Professor of International Law, Law Department, Roma Tre University)

Chair: León Castellanos-Jankiewicz (Senior Researcher, Asser Institute)

15.15 – 15.45 **Break**

15:45 – 17.15 **Panel 2 Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

David Shakarishvili (PhD Candidate, Klaipeda University)
The Paradox of Defence Innovation: Do Advanced Capabilities Strengthen or Weaken Global Arms Control?

Raoul Cardellini Leipertz (PhD Candidate, School of Advanced Defence Studies (CASD/SSU))
When Treaties Cannot See: Nuclear Non-Proliferation in Space

Murtaza Mohiqi (Lecturer, Department of Law, University of Agder)
Regulating Data and Models in Algorithmic Warfare: Arms Control Without Arms

Commentators:

- Katarina Šmigová (Associate Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, Pan-European University)
- Michal Onderco (Professor of International Relations, Department of Public Administration and Sociology, Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Chair: Machiko Kanetake (Asser Institute)

17:15– **Networking drinks**