



## EVENING CONFERENCE

Dear Madam, Sir,

We have the pleasure to inform you that the Royal Higher Institute for Defence is organising an evening conference on **Thursday 14 December 2017**.

### ***What Relations between the EU and Russia, Now and in the Future: Cooperation and/or Conflict?***

**Prof. Dr Derek AVERRE**

**Director of the Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies  
University of Birmingham (UK)**

**Prof. Dr Irina BUSYGINA**

**Head of the Centre for Regional Political Studies  
Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Russia)**

In his opening address to the EU Ambassadors' Conference on 29 August, President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker stated: "I believe we need to think about better relations with Russia – it depends on Russia, it depends on us, but there will be no European security for centuries to come without Russia... And so this makes it necessary, without renouncing our values and our principles, despite the annexation of Crimea and the rest, that we find again a relationship with Russia more adapted to the future before us."

The task is arduous, provided it is desired by all the parties concerned, since the annexation of Crimea and the Ukrainian conflict have plunged these relations to the lowest level since the Cold War, then even further deteriorated by the Russian intervention in Syria. Differences over the fundamental principles of European security are particularly large between Europeans and Russians. Moreover, these divergences appear to be related to two conflicting worldviews. This conference will be an opportunity to discuss the current state of affairs between the European Union and Russia in the on-going crisis situation that has lasted for almost four years now, to address the conditions for dialogue, and open up perspectives on the future of that highly strategic relationship.

Therefore, with a view to cross-breed perspectives and expertise's, we have invited two prominent speakers, one from Europe, Dr Derek Averre, professor in EU-Russia relations at the University of Birmingham and the College of Europe (Natolin), the other from Russia, Dr Irina Busygina, Head of the Centre for Regional Political Studies at the Moscow state Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University), who will both present their respective views on different aspects of the complicated play of action and interaction between the EU and Russia.

This conference will take place on **Thursday 14 December 2017 at 17:00 hours** in the conference centre of the Campus Renaissance (entrance: Rue Hobbema 8, 1000 Brussels) Lectures will be given **in English, with simultaneous translation into French and Dutch**. Parking is available on the Cinquantenaire esplanade in front of the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History. We are looking forward to welcoming you and kindly ask you to confirm your participation by registering online on the RHID's website: [www.rhid.be](http://www.rhid.be).

**Pre-registration is mandatory to access the premises and must reach us not later than Friday 8 December 2017.**

**Programme:**

16:30	Registration
17:00	Conference and Q & A
18:30-19:30	Reception

(Signed)

Tim VAN LANGENHOVE, MSc Eng  
Colonel GS  
Director-general  
Royal Higher Institute for Defence