



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 **Tuesday 23 May 2017**.

The European mutual defence clause: myth or reality?

Dr Thierry Tardy
Political scientist
Senior researcher at the
European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) in Paris

The mutual assistance or defence clause, included in the Treaty of Lisbon, is a provision that numerous officials regarded as being primarily political and symbolic, deemed to be rather a proof of awareness than a genuine operational tool. Great was the surprise, therefore, when France decided to invoke it for the first time in November 2015, following the terrorist attacks in Paris.

From a historical point of view, the European mutual defence clause can be compared to the Treaty of Brussels establishing the Western Union (1948), the modified Treaty of Brussels establishing the Western European Union (1954), and the North Atlantic Treaty (1949), all of them with their specific and different interpretations.

We are pleased to welcome **Dr Thierry Tardy**, political scientist and expert in peacekeeping operations and European Security and Defence Policy in both its civilian and military dimensions. He will share with us his analysis of the conditions for, as well as the functioning and the implications of activating the European Union's mutual defence clause.

The conference will take place on **Tuesday 23 May 2017, at 17:00 hours**, in the conference centre of the Campus Renaissance (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8, 1000 Brussels**). Lecture will be given **in French, without simultaneous translation into English or Dutch**. Parking is available near the Royal Military Academy and on the Cinquanteenaire 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.

Pre-registration is mandatory to access the premises and must reach us no later than Friday 19 May 2017.

Dress code:

Service dress 2C or business attire

Programme:

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

(Signed)
Fernand ROUVROI, MSc Eng
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Director-general
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

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