



## ***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 16 May 2019**.

### ***THE SAHEL CHALLENGES***

#### ***Regional security situation and operational responses in Mali***

**Prof Dr Djallil LOUNNAS**

**Al-Akhawayn University (Morocco)**

**MajGen Jean-Paul DECONINCK**

**Force Commander MINUSMA (2017-2018)**

The debates addressing the evolution of jihadi terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda or Daesh have often mobilised the image of “metastases”, after major military turning points forced these organisations to relocate and reconfigure elsewhere. In the recent “post-Califate” context, the Sahel region has increasingly been flagged as the next safe haven for jihadi elements. In the same vein, Mali has steadily become the epicentre of the associated instability. More than six years after the launching of French “Operation Serval”, both the proliferation of violent non-state actors and the multiplication of foreign initiatives (MINUSMA, EUTM, FC-G5S, etc.) have made the security landscape hard to decipher. How is the situation evolving and are the military responses appropriate and efficient?

With a view to attempting to better understand the dynamics currently at work in this vast and complex part of Africa, we are pleased to welcome Prof Dr Djallil Lounnas and MajGen Jean-Paul Deconinck, who will respectively present the security situation at the regional scale and address the issue of operational responses at the Malian level.

This conference will take place on **Thursday 16 May 2019 at 17:00 hours** in the conference centre of the Campus Renaissance (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8, 1000 Brussels**). The lecture will be given in **French** with **simultaneous translation** into **Dutch** and **English**. Parking is available on the Cinquantaire 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 Tuesday 14 May 2019.**

#### **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