

BISC

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CENTRE

Conference invitation
7 May 2024
Club Prince Albert, Brussels

Bridging Divides.
Exploring the legacy of Conflict in the Western Balkans
and its impact on European Security today.



Conference organized in collaboration with BISC partners:
HWRI, Hybrid Warfare Research Institute (Croatia)
RUSRA-KUIAD, Royal Union of Intelligence and Action Services



Hybrid
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With the support of the  **KONRAD
ADENAUER
STIFTUNG**

Bridging Divides. Exploring the legacy of Conflict in the Western Balkans and its impact on European Security today.

The lingering scars of past conflicts in the Western Balkans region continue to echo through the corridors of policy making, posing multifaceted challenges to the stability and cohesion of the European Union and its neighboring regions. As we navigate the nuanced terrain of European security, it becomes increasingly evident that the Western Balkan is a cornerstone of broader international peace and stability. The prospect of EU membership is what the European Commission calls “*a geostrategic investment in a stable, strong and united Europe based on common values*”. Indeed, the Western Balkan regio has a big geostrategic importance to the European Union, not only for its security, but also for its economic prosperity. But a path towards a more resilient and inclusive security architecture for Europe and beyond an only be achieved by fostering dialogue, cooperation and mutual understanding.

PROGRAM

- 09.00 – 09.15: Arrival of the guests
- 09.15 – 09.20: *Opening conference*
Mr. Guy Rapaille, President BISC (Belgium)
- 09.20 – 09.40: *The Partnership:*
- BISC: **Prof. Dr. Pieter Leloup**, Ghent University (Belgium)
- HWRI: **Prof. Dr. Gordan Akrap**, University North (Croatia)
- RUSRA-KUIAD: **Robin Libert**, President (Belgium)
- KAS: **Holger Haibach**, Director, Foundation Office Croatia and Slovenia
- 09.40 – 10.20: *Military security and protection considerations during the NATO-led missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.*
Drs. Elke Boers, PhD candidate, University of Groningen (The Netherlands)
- 10.20 – 10.40: Coffee break
- 10.40 – 11.20: *The Belgian military participation in the Western Balkans.*
Major General (ret.) Philippe Boucké (Belgium)
- 11.20 – 12.00: *NATO and security policies.*
Dr. Vira Ratsiborynska, Free University of Brussels (Belgium)
- 12.00 – 13.00: Lunch
- 13.00 – 13.40: *Chechen’s and Night Wolves in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Vectors of Russian influence.*
Prof. Dr. Darko Trifunović, Institute for National and International Security (Serbia)

- 13.40 – 14.20: *Russian vectors of influence against Montenegro. Activities & consequences. Lessons Identified & Lessons Learned.*
Ljubomir Filipović, PhD candidate (Montenegro)
- 14.20 – 15.00: Hybrid Threats & Challenges. The Western Balkans and the EU.
Prof. Dr. Gordan Akrap, University North (Croatia)
- 15.00 – 15.20: Coffee break
- 15.20 – 16.20: *Panel discussion:*
- Elke Boers
- Vira Ratsiborynska
- Philippe Boucké
- Darko Trifunović
- Ljubomir Filipović
- Gordan Akrap
Chair: Prof. Dr. Marc Cools
- 16.20 – 16.30: *Presentation of BISC Cahier 13: 'Our Men in Brussels.'*
Drs. Mathias Desmet & Mr. Robin Liefferinckx (BISC)
- 16.30 – 16.40: *Conclusions and closing remarks*
Prof. Dr. Marc Cools, Ghent University (Belgium)

Presidents of the conference:

- Kathleen Van Acker (BISC)
- Robin Libert (BISC)

MEETING DATE & PLACE

Tuesday, 7 May 2024
Club Prince Albert
Karmelietenstraat 20 / Rue des Petits Carmes 20
1000 Brussels

BISC WORKING GROUP

Gordan Akrap (HWRI)	Marnix Beyen (UAntwerpen)
Chris Bombeke (BISC Secretaris/AGORIA)	Philippe Boucké (BISC)
Marc Cools (UGent)	Emmanuel Debruyne (UCLouvain)
Mathias Desmet (UGent)	Robin Libert (RUSRA-KUIAD)
Robin Liefferinckx (NCCN)	Guy Rapaille (BISC)
Kathleen Van Acker (ADIV/SGRS)	Karin Van Peteghem (UGent)

TARGET AUDIENCE

Members of intelligence and security services, defense, federal and local police services, Belgian and EU authorities, political decision makers, NATO, embassies, academics, students...

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Cost: 115 euro.

Included: drinks, three course lunch and the book: *'BISC Cahier 13: Our men in Brussels'*.

Students: 60 euro with book, 25 euro without book. (Proof of active enrollment in an academic institution must be able to be demonstrated.)

Registration: people who are interested must register at the following website:

<https://congresso.ugent.be/bisc-conference-052024/>

You will receive a confirmation e-mail. The subscription is definite after payment.

Please, subscribe quickly as seats are limited. **Participants need to be able to present their proof of payment at the entrance.**

Language: The presentations will be given in English.

Dress code 'Prince Albert Club': city attire or uniform. Not allowed: jeans, sports shoes, T-shirts...

During this conference the "Chatham House Rule" applies!



Voorwoord Marc Cools, Emmanuel Debruyne, Mathias Desmet, Robin Liefferinckx, Pieter Leloup & Vincent Seron

Lezing naar aanleiding van de bevelsoverdracht van de Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsschool (IVS) – te Heverlee op 26 januari 2023 Marc Cools

Les affaires Grégoire et Gantois, symptômes d'une absence de culture du renseignement en Belgique ? Lionel Kaëns

The Name is Brussels, Target Brussels. Stijgende grootmachtencompetitie en de Europese hoofdstad als (hernieuwd) broeinest voor spionage Tom Van Rentergem

Analytic Black Holes: A Data-Oriented Perspective Giliam de Valk

L'Organe de Coordination pour l'Analyse de la Menace et la « communauté » du renseignement belge Chloé Thomas

Le Roi Salomon a mis ses gros sabots Derrick-Philippe Gosselin & Robin Libert

Interview with Roger Baron Coekelbergs (August 10, 2018) Anne Griffin

Interview avec Roger Baron Coekelbergs (26 avril 2019) Bernard Balteau

Interview with Robin Libert and Guy Rapaille. Belgian Intelligence and Counterintelligence
Giangiuseppe Pili

CONTACT BISC

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