

*The Ghent Rolin-Jaequemyns International Law Institute (GRILI) and the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies (GGS), together with Pax Christi Vlaanderen and Vredesactie, cordially invite you to a one-day conference on*

# PARLIAMENTARY WAR POWERS

## National and European Perspectives



**Brussels, 25 May 2018**

The aim of the conference is to discuss the democratic oversight in respect of military operations abroad, in particular by looking at parliamentary involvement in the initial decision to deploy troops, as well as during and after the operations. To this end, the conference will bring together a range of experts to examine, for instance, to what extent there has been an increased 'parliamentarisation' of war powers in recent years and what factors may account for this trend, and how the need for transparency and democratic accountability can be reconciled with the dictates of national security and confidentiality. Furthermore, speakers will examine how parliamentary war powers have been shaped differently in different European countries, what factors account for this, and what lessons learned can be drawn from the experience in countries such as the UK, Germany, the Netherlands and France. Building on the experiences in neighbouring countries, a stakeholder debate will subsequently address the situation in Belgium, where formal parliamentary war powers currently remain limited. A final conference panel will address the related issue of democratic accountability at the EU level, specifically in respect of operations pursuant to the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

**DATE** 25 May 2018

**LOCATION** Belgian Federal Parliament  
Congress Hall  
Leuvenseweg/Rue de Louvain 21  
1000 Brussels, Belgium

**REGISTRATION** Participation is free of charge, but registration is required.  
[REGISTER BEFORE 18 MAY - CLICK HERE](#)

## Programme

09:00 - 09:15	Registration
09:15 - 09:30	Welcome address
09:30 - 11:00	<p>Panel 1 – General overview on parliamentary war powers: setting the stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair: Dr. Tim Haesebrouck (Ghent University, GIIS)</li><li>• <u>Parliamentarisation of war powers: origins &amp; drivers</u> Dr. Yf Reykers (KU Leuven) and Daan Fonck (KU Leuven)</li><li>• <u>Parliamentary involvement in troop deployment decisions: a comparative analysis</u> - Prof. Dr. Tom Ruys (Ghent University, GRILI)</li><li>• <u>Overseeing war: conflict, secrecy and accountability in wartime</u> Dr. Karolina MacLachlan (Transparency International)</li></ul>
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 13:00	<p>Panel 2 – National perspectives on parliamentary war powers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair: Nele Verlinden (KU Leuven, GGS)</li><li>• <u>Parliamentary war powers in the UK</u> Dr. Veronika Fikfak (Cambridge University, Homerton College)</li><li>• <u>Parliamentary war powers in Germany</u> Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wagner (VU Amsterdam)</li><li>• <u>Parliamentary war powers in the Netherlands</u> Dr. Mirjam Grandia (Netherlands Defence Academy)</li><li>• <u>Parliamentary war powers in France</u> Dr. Amandine Blandin</li></ul>
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	<p>Panel 3 – Stakeholder debate on parliamentary oversight over Belgian troop deployments abroad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair: Jens Franssen (Journalist, VRT News)</li><li>• Prof. Dr. Alexander Mattelaer (VUBrussels and Egmont Institute)</li><li>• Dirk Van der Maelen (Member of Parliament, Socialist Party, SPA)</li><li>• Lene Jacobs (Vredesactie)</li><li>• Alfons Vanheusden (Belgian Ministry of Defence)</li></ul>
15:00 - 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 - 17:00	<p>Panel 4 – Democratic accountability and EU Common Security and Defence Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair: Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters (KU Leuven, GGS)</li><li>• <u>CSDP and multi-level parliamentary involvement: a case for increased oversight of national parliaments?</u> - Dr. Kolja Raube (KU Leuven, GGS)</li><li>• <u>EU military operations and the European Parliament: parameters and prospects of parliamentary scrutiny</u> - Maximilian Schröder (European Parliament, Secretariat of the Subcommittee on Security and Defense)</li><li>• <u>The European Commission's influence on the CSDP and its democratic implications</u> - Prof. Dr. Marianne Riddervold (Norway University of Applied Sciences and UC Berkeley)</li></ul>
17:00 - 17:10	Closing address