



Evening conference

3 June 2024

18:00 - 19:30



ROYAL HIGHER
INSTITUTE
for DEFENCE

NATO: 75 years old, but still vital, flexible and attractive

Her Excellency Ariadne Petridis, Permanent Representative of Belgium to NATO

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Monday 3 June 2024** from **18:00 until 19:30** by the **Royal Higher Institute for Defence**.

Next July, the NATO summit in Washington will be the occasion to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty. The Organisation has never appeared so indispensable as it did since 24 February 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine for the second time. This forced the Atlantic Alliance to refocus on its historic mission: the collective defence of its member countries.

Faced with the return of high-intensity warfare in Europe, the crisis in the Middle East, the rise of China in the Indo-Pacific, the terrorist threat, hybrid warfare, the climate challenge and the potential political unrest that could arise within the Alliance in the year ahead, will Europe seize the opportunity to assert itself more autonomously in an Alliance that has certainly been revitalised but is now facing an increasingly dangerous and uncertain world?

How can the deterrence and collective defence of the Atlantic Alliance be further strengthened in the face of the Russian threat? How can NATO play a more active role in providing military aid to Ukraine? What are the defence industrial challenges facing NATO today, and how can they be resolved? Considering the United States' "pivot" to Asia and Donald Trump's possible return to the White House, should NATO's European pillar be strengthened? To meet common challenges, how can the Alliance consolidate relations with its southern neighbours (in the Middle East, North Africa and the Sahel) and its partnership with the Indo-Pacific countries (Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea)?

To answer these questions, we will have the pleasure of welcoming Ambassador Ariadne Petridis, Belgium's Permanent Representative to NATO.

This conference will take place **in Dutch and French** on **Monday 3 June 2024 at 18:00 in the conference room at campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**). A simultaneous interpretation in English, Dutch and French will be provided in the conference room. It will not be possible to follow the conference online. However, subject to the consent of the speaker, a recording of her presentation will be made available afterwards on our website.

We thank you in advance for registering via the following link: www.defence-institute.be. **Registration by Tuesday 28 May 2024 at the latest is compulsory.**

(Signed)

Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng

Air Force Major General

Director-General

Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

17:30	Welcome
18:00	Conference and Q&A
19:30 – 20:30	Reception