

Evening conference
3 December 2024
17:00 - 18:30



Navigating Geopolitical Shifts: Azerbaijan's Role and Related Challenges in the South Caucasus

His Excellency Mr Vaqif Sadiqov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of Mission to the European Union

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Tuesday 3 December 2024** from **17:00 until 18:30** by the **Royal Higher Institute for Defence** and the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies**.

The geopolitical landscape of the Caucasus has been profoundly impacted by recent events, including the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the conflagration in the Middle East. These events have reshaped the position and foreign policy of Azerbaijan. The Second Karabakh War, in particular, marked a pivotal moment by shifting the political dynamics, creating a complex situation that requires efforts to ensure sustainable peace and stability.

The balance of power in the South Caucasus remains a delicate and ever-evolving equation, with Azerbaijan's strategic position and relationships with neighbouring countries playing a crucial role in maintaining regional stability. The interplay between Armenia, Türkiye, Russia and Iran significantly influences the geopolitical environment. Meanwhile, Russia's role as a mediator and its military presence in the region are critical factors, heavily influencing the balance of power through its strategic interests and interactions with both Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Azerbaijan's economic and strategic interests are shaped by its energy resources and international partnerships. The production and transportation of oil and gas via pipelines in the Caspian region are vital for Azerbaijan's economy and play a strategic role in the energy security of Europe and beyond. The EU's Eastern Partnership initiative aims to strengthen ties with Azerbaijan and other Caucasus countries, fostering economic development and political stability. Navigating these challenges and opportunities will determine Azerbaijan's future role and influence in the South Caucasus.

To address these issues, we welcome His Excellency Mr Vaqif Sadiqov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of Mission to the EU.

This conference will take place **in English** on **Tuesday 3 December 2024 at 17:00 in the conference room at campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**). A simultaneous interpretation in 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 his 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 26 November 2024 at the latest is compulsory.**

(Signed)

Baudouin COPPIETERS DE GIBSON, MSc Eng
Rear Admiral (LH)
Director-general
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

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