



Institute for International Law

The Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, the Institute of International Law of the University of Leuven and the Belgian Society for International Law are pleased to invite you to an international conference on

THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE AGE OF FIFTY: STATE OF AFFAIRS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

Monday 9 May 2011
9:30 – 17:00

Promotion Hall
Naamsestraat 69, Leuven

Please note that participation is free, but that registration through www.globalgovernancestudies.eu is mandatory by Tuesday 3 May



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THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

Measuring by the number of States Parties, the high degree of observance and its influence on the international legal order, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations is probably one of the most successful international instruments ever to be drawn up under the auspices of the United Nations. It provides a complete framework for the establishment, maintenance and termination of diplomatic relations on a basis of consent between independent sovereign States and has firmly established itself as a cornerstone of modern international relations.

As the Convention reaches the age of fifty, the time is ripe to pause at its success in regulating diplomatic practice in past decades, but also to look ahead and examine to what extent the Convention may withstand various challenges ahead, including the advance of non-State actors, evolutions in telecommunications and mass media, the compatibility of diplomatic privileges and immunities with the development of international human rights law and international criminal law, the emergence of the European External Action Service, etc.

In light hereof, the conference brings together several distinguished scholars and practitioners, both national and international, to broach the key underlying issues from a legal as well as a more policy-oriented perspective.



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MORNING SESSION – 9:30

09:45 Welcome Address

Prof. Dr. Filip Abraham, Vice-president of the Humanities and Social Sciences at KULeuven

10:00 Keynote Speech: The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations at the Age of Fifty: State of affairs and challenges ahead.

Sir Ivor Roberts, President of Trinity College, Oxford University, former UK ambassador to the Republic of Ireland and Italy

Panel I : Diplomatic law – evolutions in State practice

Chair: **Ambassador Jan Van Dessel**, President of the Belgian Interministerial Committee on Headquarters Policy

10:25 Diplomatic privileges and immunities: State practice under the Vienna Convention

Prof. Dr. Nicolas Angelet, Professor of International Law, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Lawyer with Liedekerke, Wolters, Waelbroeck, Kirkpatrick

10:45 The Vienna Convention and the Protection of diplomats and diplomatic correspondence

Mr. Carl Peeters, Councilor of Embassy

11:05 State practice with regard to the recognition of States and governments

Prof. Dr. Stefan Talmon, Professor of Public International Law, St. Anne's College, University of Oxford

11:25 Practice in the field of diplomatic protection and consular assistance

Dr. Annemarieke Vermeer-Künzli, Assistant Professor of International Law at the University of Amsterdam

11:55 Panel and Floor Debate

12:30 Lunch Break

AFTERNOON SESSION – 13:30

Panel II – The European External Action Service

Chair: **Mr. Paul Rietjens**, Director-General for Legal Affairs, Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

13:40 Emergent practice of the European External Action Service

Prof. Dr. Stephan Keukeleire (tbc), Jean Monnet Professor in European integration and EU Foreign Policy, KULeuven

14:00 The EU, EEAS, and Union Delegations and International Diplomatic Law: New Horizons?

Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters, Professor of International Law, KULeuven, Director Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, and,
Sanderijn Duquet, Doctoral Researcher at the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

14:20 The creation of the EEAS in light of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations – a practitioner's view

Mr. Jacques Vantomme, Head of Section, Protocol and Diplomatic Questions, European External Action Service

14:40 Panel and Floor Debate

Coffee Break

Panel IV: Diplomacy – past, present and future

Chair: **Ambassador Dirk Wouters**, Chief of cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs

15:20 History and the evolution of diplomacy

Prof. Dr. Richard Langhorne, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Centre for Global Studies, University of Birmingham

15:40 Contemporary diplomatic practice

Prof. Dr. Jan Melissen, Head Diplomatic Studies Programme Clingendael Institute; Professor of Diplomacy at the University of Antwerp

16:00 The future of diplomacy

Prof. Dr. Alan Henrikson, Fulbright Chair in US-EU Relations at the College of Europe; Director of Diplomatic Studies, Fletcher School of Diplomacy, Tufts University

16:20 Panel and Floor Debate

16:40 Concluding remarks

Ambassador Frans baron van Daele, Chief of Cabinet of the President of the European Council

17:00 Reception
