



Ethical challenges to civil-military relations

15th annual conference, at the convention center of the Royal Netherlands Navy, Amsterdam, 11-13 May 2026

6 March 2026

Provisional programme

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, 10 May		
18:30-20:00 hrs	Meet & greet	lounge Loire
Monday, 11 May		
08:30-09:00 hrs	Registration and coffee	entry lounge
09:05-09:20 hrs	Opening by senior chaplain Stefan Gugerel (Austria), Vice President of EuroISME	Amstel I
09:20-10:00 hrs	Inaugural address by Air Cdr. (ret.) John Thomas, President of EuroISME	Amstel I
10:00-10:25 hrs	Coffee break	lounge Loire

10:30-12:00 hrs

Session 1 with the parallel panels No. 1 to 4

1. Panel: “Civil Military Relations: individuals, institutions, and collectives” (full panel proposal)

Amstel I

This panel examines how democratic values are expressed, strained, and sometimes misaligned within military institutions.

Chair: Prof.Dr. Jesse Hamilton (UK)

- Prof.Dr. Tom Simpson (UK), “The soldier’s ethos in a liberal democracy”
- Prof.Dr. Sven Altenburger (UK), “The *Democratic* Military: Institutional design and normative evaluation”
- Prof.Dr. Jesse Hamilton (UK), “Collective agency in democratic military institutions”

2. Panel: Total defence

Amstel II

Chair: Maj. Hans Lemain (The Netherlands)

- Dr. Asta Maskaliūnaitė (Estonia), “Moral Shield? Towards Ethical Total Defence”
- Prof.Dr. Dragan Stanar (EuroISME BoD, Serbia), “ Total Defence Concept and Civil Military Relations”
- Prof.Dr. Gita Leitlande (Lithuania), “ Relevance of the Supreme Emergency Concept Today”

3. Panel: Rapid technological advances and their ethical consequences

Theems

Chair: Dr. Christine Boshuijzen-van Burken (The Netherlands)

- Dr. Florian Demont-Biaggi (EuroISME BoD, Switzerland), “The High-Velocity Resonance Loop. A Conceptual Framework for Ethics and Autonomy in European Civil-Military Relations”
- Dr. Ioanna Lekea (Greece) & Gérard de Boisboisel (France), “ From Design to Deployment:

discussions on autonomy in Defence decision-making on national territory”

- Dr. Ujházi Lóránd (Hungary), “The Evolving European Security Landscape”

4. Panel: Combat and the environment

Schelde

Chair: t.b.a.

- Dr. Nicholas Carrol (Australia), “Civil-military relations at the border: climate migration and the expanding role of the military”
- Dr. Laura Puumala (Finland), “Non-combatant immunity in environmental war”
- Dr. Juha Mäkinen (Finland), “ Perspectives on the individual and the collective environmental responsibility of citizen-soldiers”

12:05-13:15 hrs

lunch buffet

lounge Loire

13:20-14:50 hrs

Session 2 with the parallel panels No. 5 to 8

5. Panel: Maintaining humanity in the face of technology

Amstel I

Chair: Dr. Ioanna Lekea (Greece)

- Andrea Gentili (Italy), “Beyond the black box: embedding conscience in lethal autonomous systems via the 3T model”
- Morgan Flom (Canada), “Risks in metadata and AI-driven decision making tools”
- Dr. Nathan Wood (Germany), “Embedding military legal advisors to anchor ethical design and optimize weapons review”

6. Panel: Society at risk ? How achieve a resilient society: connecting with Civil Society organisations supporting sufficiency ([full panel proposal](#))

Amstel II

European prosperity, taken for granted, seems very sensitive to a now faltering international order, especially as the continent will not have as easy access to the world's resources as it did during its period of domination. The panel aims to initiate dialogue between defence professionals and stakeholders involved in designing energy- and food-efficient models.

Chair: Matthieu Calame (France)

- Yves Marignac (France), “Sufficiency, the path to energy independence: the NegaWatt model”
- Béla Kuslits (Hungary), “Resilience and Vulnerability in European Food-Systems”
- Quentin Ladetto (France), “Soldiers, civilians, or algorithms: who will defend us?”

7. Panel: Societal acceptability and the defence industry: ethical constraints or strategic levers? ([full panel proposal](#))

Theems

This panel aims to examine how the European defence industry is responding to evolving societal expectations regarding ethics, transparency and accountability, and how these requirements concretely shape industrial strategies.

Chair: Dr Farah Duquesne Weber

- Col. (ret) Jean-Marc Vesco (France), CEO of C&V Defence, “Building Europe’s ethical foundations for a European strategic autonomy”
- [speaker t.b.a.] (The Netherlands), TNO (Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research), [title to be announced]
- Serge Damian (Czechoslovakia), Chief Sustainability Officer of Czechoslovak Group, “Sustainability as Strategic Leverage in European Defence”
- Prof.dr. Tine Molendijk (t.b.c.) (The Netherlands), ...

8. Roundtable dialogue: “Professional Military Ethics Education for the 21st Century” ([full roundtable proposal](#))

Schelde

This roundtable will focus on how military ethics education can better equip service members to act professionally, responsibly, and humanely in the twenty-first century.

Chair: Prof.Dr. Lonneke Peperkamp (The Netherlands)

- Dr. Peter Olsthoorn (The Netherlands): “Should military ethics education be useful?”
- Dr. Adam Henschke (Australia): “Realism, ethics, and the international rule based order”
- Dr. Christine Boshuijzen (The Netherlands): “Comparative Military Ethics Education”
- Prof.Dr.(em.) George Lucas (USA): “Technology, Responsibility, and Ethics Education”
- Dr. Christian Braun (Germany): “Case-based learning, simulations, and war gaming”

14:50-15:10 hrs

Tea break

lounge Loire

15:15-15:45 hrs

Prize ceremony for the Manfred Rosenberger prize for the best European MA thesis written the topic of military ethics of 2026

Amstel I

short break

16:00- ± 17:45 hrs

AGM (members only!)

Amstel II

NO PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING!

Tuesday, 12 May

08:30-08:55 hrs

coffee

lounge Loire

09:00-10:30 hrs

Session 3 with the parallel panels No. 9 to 12

9. Panel: curriculum development

Amstel I

Chair: Caroline Walsh PhD (USA)

- Dr. Aura Codreanu (Romania), “Warriors or managers? The leadership-management divide in Romanian professional military education and the way ahead”
- Stephanie Erwin, Lisa Kerr (USA), “ Navigating tensions between curriculum adaptability and hardiness in professional military ethics/leadership education”

10. Panel: Ethical Challenges to CMR: courage, professional values, and lawful disobedience ([full panel proposal](#))

Amstel II

Chair: Milan Mor Markovics PhD (Hungary)

- Dr. Kristina Tonn (Germany), “The Courage to Refuse? Moral Courage between Military Functionality, Conscience, and Law in the German Armed Forces”
- Senior chaplain Stefan Gugerel (EuroISME BoD, Austria), “Courage or bravery?”
- Andrea Ellner (EuroISME BoD, UK), “The Duty to “Speak Truth to Power” and the Armed Services’ Core Values in British Civil-Military Relations”

11. Panel: Just and unjust wars

Theems

Chair: Dr. Asta Maskaliūnaitė (Estonia)

- Dr. Maciej Zając (Poland), “Permissible participation in (some types of) unjust wars – reconciling Walzerians with Revisionists”
- Prof.Dr. David Whetham (EuroISME BoD, UK), “Do some soldiers deserve to die more than others?”
- Lt. (ret) Vladyslav Pereverziev (Ukraine), “Conflicting Digital Narratives and the limits of Just War Theory: A Critical Case Study of the Russia–Ukraine War”

12. Panel: Ethics outside the realm of territorial sovereignty

Schelde

Chair:

- Daria Chaganova, (Russia) “Free Sea? Naval Blockades and Civil–Military Relations”
- Ioana Bratu (The Netherlands), “Securing Europe’s orbit: EU–NATO space cooperation, democratic governance, and civil–military relations”

10:35-10:55 hrs

Coffee break

lounge Loire

11:00-11:50 hrs

Key-note address by Vice Admiral Boudewijn Boots, Inspector-General of the Dutch Armed Forces

Amstel I

11:55-12:10 hrs

Group photo

t.b.d.

12:15-13:25 hrs

Lunch

lounge Loire

13:30-15:00 hrs

Session 4 with the parallel panels No. 13 to 16

13. Panel: Collateral damage and meaningful civilian control

Amstel I

Chair:

- Wg Cdr Charlotte Charlton (UK), “The Acceptable Body Count: Society, the Military, and Bargaining Civilian Harm”
- Dr. Ann-Katrien Oimann, Prof.dr. Carl Ceulemans (Belgium), “The in bello trilemma revisited? Risk distribution, due care, and AI-assisted military decision-making”
- Sgt. Charlotta Palmroos (Finland), “Artificial intelligence and civil-military relations – philosophical inspection of agency, trust and more”

Panel No. 14: issues of CMR in the United States

Amstel II

Chair: Dr. Kristina Tonn (Germany)

- David Perry (USA), “Abuses of the U.S. Military by the Trump Administration”
- Marcus Hedahl (USA), “Civilian Military Relations: Leadership and Professionalism”
- Prof.Dr. Ed Barrett (USA), “Taming the Guardians: Liberal Democracy and Civil-Military Relations”

Panel No. 15: "Citizen in uniform" in the German Military (full panel proposal)

Theems

Chair: ...

- Lt.Col. M. Rose, MA (Germany),
- 1st Lt. Volkmann M.Sc.,

Panel No. 16: Security and gender

Schelde

Chair: Dr. Laura Puumala (Finland)

- Dr. Andrea Ellner (EuroISME BoD, UK), “A Gendered Reading of the Narratives on Contemporary European Security – Feminist Perspectives and International Ethics of Care”
- Linda van Duin, Charlotte Kröger, Eva van Baarle (The Netherlands), “Everyday experiences with sexual transgressive behavior in the Dutch Navy”

15:05-15:25 hrs

Tea break

lounge Loire

15:30-17:00 hrs

Session 5 of parallel panels No. 17 to No 20

Panel No. 17: Building and keeping trust between civilian society and its military

Amstel I

Chair: Dr. Maciej Zajac (Poland)

- Milan Mor Markovics (Hungary), “Bridge or Fault Line? Military Chaplaincy, Metapolitics, and the Fragility of Civil–Military Trust in Europe”
- Anat Shapira (Israel), “Keeping Armies Above Politics in Europe: Evidence and Lessons from Israel’s Wartime Polarization”
- Firdaus Olakulehin Ayomide (Nigeria), “Concordance and Coups: Civil–Military Relations and Societal Legitimacy in the Sahel Region”

Panel No. 18: Civil society – its strengths and weaknesses

Amstel II

Chair: Dr. Nathan Wood (Germany)

- Dr. Farah Duquesne Weber (France), “War from below: Popular perceptions and European strategic coherence”
- Magnus Linden (Sweden), George Wilkes (UK), “Can we talk of threats that populism poses to professional military ethics?”
- Axel Augé (France), “Moral forces, the Army and civil society: ethical challenges and patriotism in France”

Panel No. 19: Military identity in the context of CMR

Theems

Chair: Maj.Gen. (ret) Juan A. Moliner Gonzalez (Spain)

- Dr. phil. Lic. theol. Markus Thureau (Germany), “What can military chaplaincy do and what does it achieve?” Chaplaincy and civil military relations in the German Armed Forces
- Boglárka Barna (Hungary), “Beyond the uniform: identity fusion, moral injury, and the integrative model of military socialisation”

- Prof.Dr. Paul Silas Peterson (Germany), “...free armed citizens... first and foremost... human beings”

Panel No. 20: Civil society and an increased military

Schelde

Chair: Dr. Arseniy Kumankov (Russia),

- Ashley Roden-Bow (Portugal), “Civil-Military Relations in a Nonviolent Society: Potential Implications of Contingent Pacifism and Non-Military Defence”
- Raisa Foster (Finland), “Militarising Childhood? Ethical Tensions in Civil–Military Relations in a Finnish Public Debate”
- Veronika Bock (Germany), “Societal Resilience as a Shared Responsibility: Civil–Military Cooperation and the Role of Churches in Times of Crisis and Conflict”

Pause

18:30-22:00 hrs

Reception & formal dinner

restaurant, ground floor

Wednesday, 13 May

08:00-08:20 hrs

coffee

lounge Loire

08:25-09:55 hrs

Session 6 of parallel panels No. 21 to 24

21. Panel: An ethical use of military AI

Amstel I

Chair: Dr. Ann-Katrien Oimann (Belgium)

- SSgt. Bradley Mortin (UK), “Collective intelligence and the ethics of alliance governance: civil–military relations, trust, and intelligence interoperability in NATO”
- Prof.Dr. (em)George Lucas (USA), “Moral scepticism and warrior memory in artificial intelligence”

- Andrew Rebera (Belgium), “Unrecognisable virtue: military AI, military virtue, and civil-military relations”
- Anthony Longo (UK), “A multi-level approach to crisis governance: rethinking responsibility in human–swarm teaming”

22. Panel: Sociological and historical perspectives

Theems

Chair: ...

- Axel Grimmeißen (Germany), “*Bellum Justum, Miles Justus* - Outlines for a (Non-)Platonic understanding of civil-military relations after WWII”
- Wout Bisschop (The Netherlands), “On the ethics of trust for military coalitions”
- Dr. Arseniy Kumankov (Russia), “War in Russian history textbooks. (Not) only propaganda”

23. Panel: The difficulties of leadership

Schelde

Chair: Dr. phil. Lic. theol. Markus Thurau (Germany)

- Dr. Rene Moelker (The Netherlands), “The Sassenzaal. Commemoration betwixt and between academic elevation and dark moral complexities”
- Maj. Kevin Van Loon (The Netherlands), “Fostering ethical leadership: introducing ‘unconstructive leadership’
- Özgür Göktaş (Türkiye), “From technical reporting to institutional integrity: a forensic analysis of ethical sinkholes in military command”

24. Panel: The principle of proportionality under scrutiny

Elbe

Chair: Prof.Dr. David Whetham (EuroISME BoD, UK)

- Prof.Dr. Daniel Statman (Israel), “How Can Academics Help the Military in Ethical Dilemmas Concerning Warfare?”
- Prof.Dr. Michael Skerker (USA), ““A Theory of Application for in bello Proportionality””
- Prof.Dr. Michael Gross (Israel), “Proportionally under Fire: An Experimental Study of IDF Targeting in Gaza and Lebanon”

10:00-10:20 hrs

Coffee

lounge Loire

10:30-11:00 hrs

key-note speech by Mr. Derk Boswijk, junior Defence Minister of The Netherlands

Amstel I

11:00-12:10 hrs

Farewell panel: Ethical challenges to changing civil-military relations

Amstel I

Chair: Prof.dr. Lonneke Peperkamp (The Netherlands)

- [speakers t.b.a.]
- ...
- ...
- ...

12:10- ± 12:40 hrs

Closing comments and announcement of the 2027 conference location & dates
by the President of EuroISME, Air Cdre.(ret) John Thomas

Amstel I

► possible rooms for interviews and press: Linge and Regge