

Colonel Chris De Cock (ret.)

Colonel Chris De Cock obtained master's degrees in the fields of Aeronautical and Military Sciences (RMA), Law (VUB), Political Sciences (VUB), Public Management and Administration (VUB), Security and Defense (IDL), and International Relations and Diplomacy (UA). After graduating from the Belgian Royal Military Academy, Colonel (GS) De Cock served in the Belgian air force as Platoon and Company Commander for the Force Protection Units (1990-1996). After two years of being a Military Instructor (1996-1998), he taught at the Law Department of the Belgian Royal Military School for five years (1998-



2003). He became Legal Advisor from 2004 to 2007, prior to which he joined a course at the Royal Defense College and after which he participated in an Advanced Staff and Command Course at the National Defense College in the Netherlands. In 2008, he took up the position as the Head of the International Law Section. From April 2012 till June 2015, he served as the Head of the Operational Law Section, after which he became the Chief of Staff of the Legal Department from July 2015 till July 2016. He held the position as Special Advisor to the Director-General of the Legal Department of the Belgian Armed Forces, after which he became Associate Professor of Law at the Royal Military Academy in January 2017 in the fields of international criminal law, the law of armed conflict and disarmament law. In September 2017, he took up the position as legal advisor of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) within the European External Action Service. Colonel (GS) De Cock retired from active service on 01 July 2023. Today, he is professor of law at the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and the University of Ghent (U Ghent) in the fields of respectively 'Globalization and international law: capita selecta' and 'Law of armed conflict'.

Colonel (GS) De Cock has participated in several operational deployments as legal advisor in Afghanistan (2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2010), during Counter-piracy and Counter-narcotics operations with the Navy (2006), during operation Unified Protector (2011), and operation Inherent Resolve (2014).

He is also a member of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo (and Course Director of the French Military LOAC Course), and guest lecturer at the universities of Tilburg, Utrecht and Liège.

Double recipient of the Certificate of Merit by the Military Lieber Society (2008 and 2012), his publications include:

C. De Cock, 'Rules of Engagement in Large-Scale Combat Operations: Force enabler or Much Ado About Nothing?', Lieber Institute of Law and Warfare, 13 Dec24.

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C. De Cock, 'Detentie operaties: Enkele Kanttekeningen', *Belgisch Militair Tijdschrift*, Vol.1, Brussels, Printing House Defence, 2010).