

Scientific Coordinators:

**Prof. Dr. Erik Franckx (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) &  
Dr. Irini Papanicolopulu (University of Glasgow)**

Venue:



Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium  
for Science and the Arts

Local Organizer:



Vrije  
Universiteit  
Brussel

Funding / Sponsors:



**International Conference**  
"Safety and Security Issues with  
Respect to Resources Exploitation  
in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction"



**PLENARY CONFERENCE**

**Safety and Security Issues with Respect  
to Resources Exploitation in Areas  
Beyond National Jurisdiction**

**2 April 2014 - 9.30 AM to 4 PM**

Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium  
for Science and the Arts  
Academy Palace  
Hertogsstraat/Rue Ducale 1  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

## INTRODUCTION

### Safety and Security Issues with Respect to Resources Exploitation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

The wealth of areas beyond national jurisdiction has drawn the attention of States and commercial actors and has formed the basis for the development of principles and rules included in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Following the adoption of the UNCLOS, exploitation of resources followed diverging paths. While living resources of the high seas formed the object of ever increasing commercial activity, exploitation of mineral resources of the International Seabed Area was slow to develop and commercial activities are just about to start.

The Brussels International Conference, by focusing on the safety and security aspect of exploitation, will look closely at an often neglected aspect in the exploitation of resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Taking the move from the legal regime and institutional framework incorporated in the UNCLOS, the conference aims at investigating the adequacy of this regime to address safety and security issues and the potential of the institutional machinery to further develop and complete the existing regulatory framework.

## PROGRAMME

9h30-9h50 Registration

9h50-10h00 Welcome address by **Johan Vande Lanotte**, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Consumer Affairs and North Sea (to be confirmed)

10h00-12h00 Session 1

Chairman: **Erik Franckx**, Research Professor and Vice Dean at the Faculty of Law and Criminology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

Speakers:

**Frida Armas Pfirter**, Professor at the Faculty of Law, Austral University, Buenos Aires, Argentina

*"The International Seabed Authority's Role in the Protection of the Living Resources of the Area"*

**Fernando Loureiro Bastos**, Professor at the Faculty of Law, Lisbon University, Lisbon, Portugal

*"Environmental Standards for Exploration and Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area"*

**Jeffrey Smith**, Doctoral student, Faculty of Law, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

*"Security for Resource Survey and Exploration Vessels: The Sufficiency of the Law of the Sea Convention and Customary International Law"*

12h00-14h00 Lunch

14h00-16h00 Session 2

Chairman: **Irini Papanicolopulu**, Lecturer in International Law, School of Law, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

Speakers:

**Patrick Duray**, Head Public International Law Unit, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

*"The Recent Belgian Legislation on the Exploration and Exploitation of the Seabed and Ocean Floor and Subsoil Thereof, Beyond National Jurisdiction"*

**Philippe Gautier**, Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Hamburg, Germany

*"Responsibilities and Obligations of States Sponsoring Persons and Entities with Respect to Activities in the Area: First Advisory Opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea"*

**Lemonia Tsaroucha**, Policy Officer, Legal Affairs, European Commission, DG Mobility and Transport, Unit for Maritime Safety, Brussels, Belgium

*"Third Party Liability Insurance in EU Maritime Safety Policy: Links to the Offshore Sector and Lessons to be Learned"*