



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin



ICRC

Introduction to International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts

Natolin, 12th March – 14th March 2020

Seminar organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross
and the College of Europe Natolin Campus (Warsaw)

Thursday, 12th March 2020

8h30 - 9h00 *Registration of participants*

9h00 - 9h15 *Welcome*

9h15 - 10h45 *Mr Toni Pfanner*

I. Introduction to International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts (IHL)

1. Notion of IHL
2. Sources and principles of IHL
3. Evolution of the relationship between the legality of the use of force (*jus ad bellum*) and the rules to be respected in warfare (*jus in bello*)
4. Material scope of application of IHL (international armed conflicts, non-international armed conflicts, internationalized non-international armed conflicts, difference between non-international armed conflicts and internal disturbances and tensions, etc.) with special emphasis on the situation in Eastern Ukraine, Syria and other recent examples of the use of armed force

10h45 – 11h00 *Coffee break*

11h00 – 12h30 *Mr Toni Pfanner*

II. Personal scope of application of IHL

1. Notions of: combatant, civilian and protected person
2. Status of combatant
3. Status of other persons directly participating in hostilities
 - a) spies
 - b) mercenaries
 - c) private military companies
 - d) civilians occasionally participating in hostilities
 - e) governmental and dissident armed forces in non-international armed conflicts

12h30 – 14h00 Lunch break

14h00 – 15h45 Ms Elzbieta Mikos-Skuza

III. Categories of protected persons

1. General remarks
2. Civilians on the territory of the enemy state
3. Civilians on occupied territory
4. Civilian internees
5. Special protection of some categories of civilians
 - a) women
 - b) children
 - c) journalists
6. Prisoners of war
7. Wounded, sick and shipwrecked

15h45 – 16h00 Coffee break

16h00 – 17h30 Ms Elzbieta Mikos-Skuza

IV. Conduct of hostilities – protection of civilians against the effects of hostilities

1. Generalities
2. Definition of civilians
3. Definition of civilian objects vs. military objectives; problem of dual use objects
4. Prohibited attacks – principles of distinction and proportionality
5. Precautionary measures
6. Special measures of protection

17h30 End of the session

Friday, 13th March 2020

9h00 – 10h45 Mr Toni Pfanner

V. International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights institutions

10h45 - 11h00 Coffee break

11h00 – 12h30 Mr Stéphane Kolanowski

VI. International Committee of the Red Cross operations and the challenges to humanitarian action

12h30 - 14h00 Lunch break

14h00 – 15h00 Mr Paul Berman

VII. The European Union and International Humanitarian Law

1. EU and IHL - what's the connection ?
2. The EU framework - supranational & intergovernmental action
3. The promotion and implementation of IHL: the EU as political, economic, developmental, legislative and military actor
4. Looking ahead

15h00 – 16h00 Mr Stéphane Kolanowski

VIII. Relations between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European Union

16h00 – 16h15 Coffee break

16h15 – 17h30 Mr Paul Berman

IX. The European Union and crisis management

1. The Common Security and Defence Policy
2. The crisis management operations
3. IHL in EU crisis management operations

17h30 End of the session

Saturday, 14th March 2020

9h00 - 10h00 Ms. Elzbieta Mikos-Skuza

X. Implementation of International Humanitarian Law

1. Preventive measures
2. Means of control during an armed conflict
3. Repression of violations and development of international justice

10h00 - 11h15 UNHCR

XI. Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Migrants

Introduction to a simulation game "Passages"

11h15 - 11h30 Coffee break

11h30 – 12h30 Open questions session, Closure of the seminar, Distribution of certificates
