Ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, espionage seemed to belong in the past and restricted to the culture of novels and action movies. However, nothing is further from the truth. E.g.: Belgian diplomats are being prosecuted due to their help to foreign intelligence services, media coverage about poisonings are commonplace...

Espionage has never left our society and contemporary reality. On the contrary. Considering the complexity of our global world, the activity has never been so extensive.

Did we underestimate the threat of espionage? And what about the Belgium’s role as host of the UE, the NATO and Shape? These questions will be dealt with during our BISC-conference.
Programme

Chair: Robin Libert (State Security) and Kathleen Van Acker (GSIS)

09h00 – 09h30: Welcome reception

09h30 – 09h40: Opening conference
Guy Rapaille (President BISC) – FR/NL

09h40 – 09h50: Welcome
Robin Libert (State Security) and Kathleen Van Acker (GSIS) – FR/NL

09h50 – 10h10: Repressie van spionage na WOI
Dr. Katrin Vanheule (KUL) – NL

10h10 – 10h40: The Polish security service UB/SB and Belgium in the Cold War
Prof. Dr. Idesbald Goddeeris (KUL) – E

10h40 – 11h10: Size does not always matter. The joint CIA-Dutch intelligence operations behind the Iron Curtain
Dr. Cees Wiebes (Universiteit Leiden) – E

11h10 – 11h30: Coffee break

11h30 – 12h00: A Dutch intelligence operation behind the Iron Curtain: The KGB View
Dr. Ben de Jong (Universiteit Leiden) – E

12h00 – 12h30: L’espionnage en France
Prof. Dr. Bertrand Warusfel (Université Paris-Descartes & Université Lille 2) – F

12h30 – 13h30: Lunch

13h30 – 14h00: The ‘Skripal case’, poisoning of defectors
Gordon Corera (BBC) – E

14h00 – 14h30: Corporate espionage
Frederik Verhasselt (Ernst & Young) – NL

14h30 – 15h00: Brussels, EU-capital and target
Gerhard Conrad (Head EU IntCen) - E

15h00 – 15h20: Conclusions
Prof. Dr. Marc Cools (Ghent University)

15h20 – 16h30: Network drink
Location

Chamber of Representatives
Entrance: Leuvenseweg 48/48, rue de Louvain, 1000 Brussels
Conference room: Yourcenar (2nd floor)

BISC Working Group

Chris Bombeke (Securitas)  Robin Libert (State Security)
Marc Cools (Ghent University – VUB)  Veerle Pashley (Ghent University)
Emmanuel Debruyne (UCL)  Thierry Piette (ISS)
Vivianne Deckmyn (Administrative Commission)  Guy Rapaille (BISC)
Frank Franceus (S. Committee I)  Kathleen Van Acker (GSIS)
Eric Kalajzic (RMA)  Matthias Van Hoey (CUTA)

Target audience

Members of intelligence and security services, defence, federal and local police services, federal and European administration services, politicians, NATO, corporations, embassies, academics and students.

Practical information

Cost: 120 €. Included: drinks, lunch and a book publication (BISC-Cahiers 10). Please, subscribe quickly as seats are limited. Participants need to present their proof of payment!

Subscription: people who are interested have to register at the following website: https://congrezzo.ugent.be/bisc-conferentie-052019/re23-bisc-17th-may-2019-registration. You will receive a confirmation e-mail with payment conditions. The subscription is definite after payment.

Language: the presentations will be given in English, French and Dutch.

During this conference, the Chatham House Rule applies!

Contact BISC

If you wish to receive information of our BISC conferences and publications, sent an email to:

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