

Jo Coelmont



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European defence, crisis management operations,
transatlantic relations

Biography

Brigadier General Jo Coelmont is Senior Associate Fellow at EGMONT, Royal Institute for International Relations and Senior Fellow at Royal High Institute for Defence.

He retired from active duty on 1st April 2008 and left the reserve forces on 31 December 2012.

He was the Belgian Permanent Representative to the Military Committee of the European Union and the Western European Union and Military Advisor to the Belgian Ambassador to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union from January 2002 to October 2007. In April 2006 he was elected as Dean of the EUMC.

In 2000 he was assigned to the Private Office of the Minister of Defence as Military Advisor for European and Security Policy in view of the Belgian Presidency of the EU during the second half of 2001.

In 1997 he was appointed to the Royal Defence Institute, first as military professor in the Department of Security and Defence Policy, later as head of the Air Force Department.

Upon graduation from NATO Defence College (Senior Course) in 1996, he became Deputy Military Adviser to the WEU Ambassador during the Belgian Presidency.

In 1993 he graduated from the Belgian Royal Defence College and subsequently was assigned to the Joint Staff – International Relations and Defence Policy Branch.

He began his career in the Air Force in 1974 where he held several functions at the level of an operational unit, the tactical headquarters and the Air staff.

He graduated in 1973 from the Royal Military Academy (Master in Military and Aeronautical Sciences) and in 1985 from EHSAL (Economische Hogeschool Sint-Aloysius – Brussels, Master in Economic Sciences, orientation International Economics and Diplomatic Relations).

He is guest speaker at several European universities on issues related to European Security and Defence and Transatlantic relations. His recent research and publications have focussed on European strategy, on which he has published “Europe, Strategy and Armed Forces – The Making of a Distinctive Power” (Routledge, 2011, with Sven Biscop) and, on crisis management operations and transatlantic relations.

Publications

See www.egmontinstitute.be - Publications - Security Policy Briefs