



International Society for Military Law and the Law of War aisbl

OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The International Society for Military Law and the Law of War or Société Internationale de Droit Militaire et de Droit de la Guerre is an International Non-profit-making Association under Belgian law with consultative status at the United Nations. The Society has its seat as well as its Secretariat in Brussels since 1988, when it succeeded a society with the same name established in Strasbourg in 1956, and has English and French as official languages.

The objectives of the Society are:

- the study of military law and the law of armed conflict and peace operations;
- the promotion of military law and the law of armed conflict in accordance with the principles of human rights;
- research into harmonization of internal systems of law in these respects.

To this end, the Society regularly organizes various activities, edits and publishes a number of publications and keeps a documentation centre. The activities of the Society and its Documentation Centre are open to both members and non-members

The Society has over 700 members, including university professors, military or civil magistrates, government officials, lawyers and officers from over 50 countries, and is a liaison organization for many national groups with similar objectives as those pursued by the Society and organising their own activities. The Society also cooperates with various other institutions and organizations active in its areas of expertise.

For additional information, see <http://www.soc-mil-law.org>.

STRUCTURES

The Society's governing bodies are: the General Assembly, the Board of Directors and the Managing Board.

The General Assembly is the Society's electoral college and chamber of reflection. It is composed of all member of the Society and its meetings are held during and at the place of the international congresses.

The Board of Directors is the general directing body of the Society.

The Managing Board is charged with the daily management of the Society

The Society also has five Specialized Committees:

- The Committee for Military Criminology and Criminal Law
- The Committee for International Humanitarian Law
- The Committee for General Affairs
- The Committee for History of Military Law and the Law of War
- The Committee for Maritime and Air Warfare

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are published by, or under the auspices of, the Society:

The *Military Law and the Law of War Review / Revue de Droit Militaire et de Droit de la Guerre* is a journal consisting of 4 issues per year usually published together annually. It is edited by the Belgian Military Law and the Law of War Centre under the auspices of the Society and is published with financial support of the Belgian Defense. It is peer-reviewed and publishes contributions about matters of interest to military law and the law of war in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Dutch. Submissions should be sent to the Director of Publications via soc-mil-law@scarlet.be. The price of a subscription is € 35,00 for members of the Society and € 55,00 for non-members.

The *Recueils of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* contain most of the proceedings of the Society's tri-annual international congresses (the proceedings of the specialised committees are published in the *Review*).

The *Society's Newsletter* is distributed to the Society's members in electronic form every three months and contains sections on relevant activities of the Society and its national groups and of other organisations, on current developments in its area of activities (international treaties, jurisprudence, domestic regulations, etc.) and on new publications of interest. Upon publication of each new issue, the previous issue is archived (from 2004 onwards); this archive is available at the Society's website.

ACTIVITIES

The Society's principal activities are its tri-annual international congress and its seminar for legal advisors to the armed forces. In addition, the Society organizes various other events and supports and/or participates in activities of its national groups and partner organizations.

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The Society's Documentation Centre hosts a significant collection of publications on military law in various countries, the law of war, other legal aspects of armed conflicts and of peace operations, international criminal law and relevant international organizations. The collection includes several specialized journals with which the *Review* has an exchange.

The Documentation Centre is accessible to members and non-members and is located at the Society's seat. Visitors should first contact the Society's Secretariat (see contact details below).

MEMBERSHIP

Members are admitted on the basis of their competence in the matters within the scope of activity of the Society and are expected to contribute to the Society's objectives. The membership fee is € 20,00 (2010 rate, excluding the *Review*) or € 55,00 (including the *Review*). Members may be admitted to the Society:

- by acceptance into a recognised national group and notification thereof to the Secretary General;
- individually, by decision of the Managing Board, upon a written application (forms are available on the Society's website), addressed to the Secretary General.

The membership fee is to be paid on the following account:

Banque de la Poste, 56, Rue des Colonies, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

IBAN: BE29 0000 0330 4464

BIC/SWIFT: BPOTBEB1

CONTACT

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