



AMBASSADE
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FABRIQUE LA DÉFENSE



The European Strategic Autonomy Crossed Perspectives with Admiral Mellett and Colonel Dirou

Monday 24th January 2022
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

L023 A&L Goodbody Theatre
UCD Sutherland School of Law
Belfield, UCD

Programme

Introduction

La Fabrique Défense is a unique initiative seeking to develop a European strategic culture among the European youth community. It will take place for the first time in Ireland at University College of Dublin (UCD) on 24th January 2022. In 2020, with over 14,500 participants in Europe, 154 partner organisations involved, and 80 events organised in about fifty European towns, *La Fabrique Défense's* first edition was an undeniable success. Now, it is happening in Ireland too!

The Irish event's theme will be ***The European Strategic Autonomy: Crossed Perspectives***. The issue of conflicts worldwide, and more implicit conflicts affecting Europe, implies a broad understanding of how societies and countries interact, including how they view the use of their armed forces. There is a necessity to understand how governments develop their defence capabilities at national and European levels and how the governments and societies perceive the role of their defence forces in the face of the different threats (e.g., climate change threat, terrorist threats, traditional security threats etc.). Against this backdrop, several questions arise in the EU context. Does the EU have the means to ensure its security? What could be the role of the EU in respect of the Member States' sovereignty? How can the EU encourage its citizens to feel more concerned about their security? What are the common threats?

Admiral Mark Mellett, former Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces and Colonel Armel Dirou, Deputy Head of Defence Strategy, French Ministry of the Armed Forces, will exchange their perspectives on these matters to address these questions. The event aims to stimulate debate on these strategic issues and raise awareness about the EU collective security among young European citizens.

The student audience will have the possibility to ask questions and share their views with the speakers in a Q&A session.

The event also coincides with the start of the **French Presidency of the Council of the EU**. The French Ministry of the Armed Forces and the Embassy of France in Ireland organise the event in partnership with UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, UCD Sutherland School of Law and UCD School of Politics and International Relations.

The organisers would like to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of the Embassy of France in Ireland and UCD College of Social Sciences and Law (College Strategic Funding Scheme).

Registration

Registration is open on Eventbrite [here](#) until Friday 21 January 2022 at 12.00 noon.

Attendance at this event is primarily in person (see location). However, a Zoom link will be communicated to those who would like to attend online. Attendees will be asked to firmly confirm that they will attend in person.

Location

UCD Sutherland School of Law (A&L Goodbody Theatre L023)
University College Dublin, Dublin 4, Belfield, Dublin on Google Map [here](#).

For further information on the event, please email julien.bouchez@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Programme

1.30pm Registration and Welcome

Because of the Covid circumstances, no catering will be provided during the event.

2.00pm Introductions

Introductory words by **Prof. Niamh Moore-Cherry**, Acting College Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law

Introductory words by **H.E Mr. Vincent Guérend**, Ambassador of France to Ireland

Introduction of the two speakers by **Colonel Nicolas Filser**, French Defence Attaché

2.20pm Irish View on the European Strategic Autonomy

Admiral Mark Mellett, former Chief Defence of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces (2015-2021)

2.40 – 2.50pm Short break

2.50pm French View on the European Strategic Autonomy

Colonel Armel Dirou, Deputy Head of Defence Strategy at the French Ministry of the Armed Forces

3.25pm Questions and Answers Session with Students

Moderator **Dr. Marie-Luce Paris**, UCD Sutherland School of Law

3.55pm Concluding Words

Speaker **Prof. Ben Tonra**, UCD School of Politics and International Relations

Speakers' biographies

As Founder and Director of Green Compass, **Admiral Mark Mellett** specialises in the complexities of today's strategic environment. He has served his country for nearly forty-eight years in Ireland's regular and reserve forces. A decorated three-star Flag Officer, Chief of Navy and Ireland's thirty first Chief of Defence, Admiral Mellett has brought his experience to his role as Ireland's highest ranking military officer, the Government's principal military adviser and member of the National Security Committee. He is a Lifetime Fellow and Council Member of the Irish Management Institute and a Fellow of the Nautical Institute. Chair of the Advisory Council of the Azure Forum for Contemporary Security Strategy, he holds a Doctorate in Political Science and a Masters in Government and Public Policy specialising in Ocean Governance and Sustainable Development. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at University College Cork. He has a keen interest in research focused on technological innovation, climate change, offshore renewable energy, ecosystems governance, sustainability and security.

Colonel Armel Dirou is the former Defence Attaché to Ireland and Military Attaché to the UK. He is currently Deputy Head of Defence Strategy at the French Ministry of the Armed Forces. Cavalry Officer and *Chasseur Alpin*, Armel Dirou is graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies, the NATO Defence College, the Joint Staff College and the *Ecole militaire de haute montagne* in Chamonix. With a PhD from Paris Sorbonne University, he is Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London and Member of the Senior Common Room at University College of Durham. He took part in different operations in the Balkans, in Bosnia and in Kosovo. He carried out three combat tours in Afghanistan, and, as a Battle Group Commanding Officer, he led an infantry battle group in the Central African Republic. He is the author of *La Guérilla en 1870: Résistance et Terreur* (L'Artilleur 2021), and *Security and International Relations in Central Africa: A Practitioner's Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan 2021).

Organisers

Dr. Marie-Luce Paris

Associate Professor, UCD Sutherland School of Law
Academic Director UCD Centre for Human Rights
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Colonel Nicolas Filser

French Defence Attaché to Ireland and Military Attaché to the UK

The event will be held under the framework of UCD principles on academic freedom. UCD has a statement on academic freedom, which is available [here](#). Under Irish Law, academic freedom is defined in the Universities Act 1997, which states that:

'A member of the academic staff of a university shall have the freedom, within the law, in his or her teaching, research and any other activities either in or outside the university, to question and test received wisdom, to put forward new ideas and to state controversial or unpopular opinions and shall not be disadvantaged, or subject to less favourable treatment by the university, for the exercise of that freedom.'

Covid Guidelines

Participants will be asked their COVID Certificates by the Student Ambassadors assisting with the event.

Participants must wear a face mask at all times in UCD buildings (when moving through buildings, in corridors and on stairwells, queuing for any reason, using toilet facilities etc.). In all circumstances, participants must comply with UCD Covid19 guidelines available [here](#).

Because of the Covid circumstances, no catering will be provided during the event.



Thank you!

Looking forward to welcoming you!