



PRESS RELEASE

International Military Ethics Conference in TOLEDO / Spain

From Monday, May 14, 2018, 09:00 am to Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 12:30 pm, the **8th Annual Conference of the International Society for Military Ethics in Europe (EuroISME)** will take place at the Infantry Academy of the Spanish Army.

This year's theme, the 'Ethical implications of emerging technologies in warfare' is a subject that provokes widespread interest. Although it is the drone (whether armed or unarmed) that has most captured the public's interest, new technology goes way beyond the 'eye in the sky'. We are fast approaching a time when **autonomous or semi-autonomous weapon systems** will become combat viable and artificial intelligence moves from science fiction to science fact. New technologies also include more sophisticated intelligence gathering and communications monitoring, as well as a whole range of emerging cyberwarfare techniques. **All these issues have important ethical implications**, not just for the military, but for everyone, because there are potential risks to privacy and the use of fake news to shape attitudes and even influence election outcomes. **Over 120 of the leading thinkers and writers** in the field of military ethics will gather to debate these issues.

During the conference, the **annual Euro-ISME prize for the best student's thesis** on a military ethics subject will be awarded. Last year the prize was awarded to Ms Samantha Hope, who was then a student at the UK Defence Academy for her ground breaking thesis on sexual violence in conflict. This year's winner will be announced at the conference.

Background Note

Military ethics is a category of professional ethics that deals with the ethical issues connected with the use of force in conflict. These issues, which affect the decision on whether or not to commit forces to conflict, the conduct of forces during conflict and also after conflict, has ended during periods of reconciliation and reconstruction. These issues are becoming increasingly important in times of socially controversial discussions about the purpose of military operations, especially as wars of national survival are now largely being replaced by wars of choice or humanitarian interventions.

EuroISME was formed in 2011. It was the first organisation in Europe to bring together scientists, academics and military practitioners working in the field of professional military ethics. The inaugural conference was held at the *École Militaire* in Paris. Since then, EuroISME has held annual conferences in different European venues. These conferences are now firmly established as one of the most important in their field.

We aim:

- To foster a European forum for the discussion and exchange of ideas on professional responsibility and military ethics;
- To promote comprehensive and systematic analysis in the fields of military ethics and the law of armed conflict, in accordance with humanitarian law and human rights;
- To initiate research on ethical traditions in Europe and worldwide, as well as on the behavioural norms that guide and limit the conduct of military;
- To enhance the quality of ethics education in European armed forces and the armed forces of partner countries who request advice;
- To support educational institutions and the military command in the analysis of behaviour during operations and any impact on military ethics.

This year's conference will take place for the first time in Spain. The venue is the Academia de Infantería <http://www.ejercito.mde.es/unidades/Toledo/acinf/> based in the historical garrison of Toledo. It is the central institution for the training of the infantry troops of the Spanish army. Euro-ISME is very grateful to the Spanish MOD for making these facilities available.

Notes for the Media :

Address:

Academia de Infantería (ACINF):

C/ Cuesta de San Servando s/n, 45009 Toledo

Schedule: see enclosed program

POC of the organization: Cte. José Angel Herencia Conde, ACINF.

Teléfono: 925247017 / 34 616179865.

Correo electrónico: jherco8@et.mde.es

Accreditation: Please address your request for participation informally

Stte. Carlos García Serrano ACINF.

Teléfono: 925247016

Correo electrónico: acinfo@et.mde.es

The contact point for EuroISME is Col. (ret) Manfred Rosenberger