

## **Captain (Navy) Hans HUYGENS**

### Short CV



Capt (N) Hans Huygens works at the Belgian Defence staff, for the Assistant Chief of Staff, Strategy and International Relations as Head of his EU-Desk, where he covers all EU defence related issues. He's currently working on security issues where the EU is involved and Belgium is participating, on the EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy and its implementation plan and previously worked on the EU Maritime Security Strategy and its implementation.

He is an alumnus of the 123rd Senior Course at the NATO Defence College in Rome.

Prior to this, he was for two years Commanding Officer of the Belgian Navy's frigate F931 Louise-Marie, with which he participated to the EU counter piracy operation ATALANTA off the Horn of Africa and Somalia and in the Indian Ocean.

He previously helped plan this operation while working for three years as a strategic operations planner at the EU Military Staff in Brussels. In this job, he also planned for the EU Training Mission in Somalia/Uganda and for Regional Maritime Capacity Building in the Horn of Africa (the later EU NESTOR mission).

Captain Huygens has a 30 year long career in the Belgian Navy, during which he totaled some 10 years on board of warships and participated to several naval operations, spanning the Gulf War, the Balkan conflict in the Adriatic Sea, counter drug operations as well as counter piracy operations in Atlantic, Mediterranean, Persian Gulf and African waters and the Indian Ocean. He served as an exchange officer on board of US Navy ships. He was also an Equerry to the King of the Belgians for some ten years and has taught oceanography at the Military Academy for four years.