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**INVITATION**

The Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union and France

invite you to a virtual event

**Launch of the Fifth Report on the EU Guidelines on Promoting Compliance**

**with International Humanitarian Law**

followed by a Q&A session

**Wednesday, 14 December 2022, 10.00 – 12.00 (CET) – on-line**

Welcome address

Mr Emil Ruffer, Director of International Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Mr Diego Colas, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France

Mr Václav Bálek, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva

Panellists

Mr Eamon Gilmore, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights (tbc)

Ms Joanna Darmanin, Head of Unit Humanitarian Aid Thematic Policies, DG Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission

Ms Lindsey Cameron, Head of Thematic Legal Advisors Unit, Legal Division, ICRC

The event can be accessed at:

<https://mzv.webex.com/mzv/j.php?MTID=m830402439472f6cfb82a95e3e34268f9>

Meeting number (access code): 2734 765 6682

Meeting password: gWKmH7hqp64





**PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday, 14 December 2022, 10.00 – 12.00 (CET) – on-line**

**10:00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS** (max 20 min)

Mr Emil Ruffer, Director of International Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Mr Diego Colas, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France

Mr Václav Bálek, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva

**10:20 HOW CAN THE EU CONTRIBUTE TO EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE WITH IHL?** **The need to** **end impunity and to ensure accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law.** (20 min)

Mr Eamon Gilmore, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights (tbc)

Ms Joanna Darmanin, Head of Unit Humanitarian Aid Thematic Policies, DG Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission

Ms Lindsey Cameron, Head of Thematic Legal Advisors Unit, Legal Division, ICRC

**10:40 Q&A SESSION**

**11:50 CONCLUDING REMARKS**

 

**CONCEPT NOTE**

Promoting respect for and compliance with IHL is at the heart of the EU’s external action, as expressed in the EU Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) adopted by the Council in 2005 (updated in 2009) and confirmed by the Council Conclusions on the EU’s humanitarian action of 20 May 2021. More recently, in the face of increasing violations of IHL, the EU has reaffirmed on numerous occasions its firm intention to promote the effectiveness of IHL. The Strategic Compass for Security and Defence, adopted on 21 March 2022, expressly incorporates the objective to promote and advance human security and the respect of and the compliance with IHL and the protection of civilians, including humanitarian personnel, in all conflict situations.

**The EU Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with IHL** constitute the reference document on which EU policy in this area is based. They provide both an overview of the means of action at the disposal of the EU in its relations with third countries, and guidance for understanding of IHL rules and principles, particularly for those working within and with the EU itself. The means of action include i.a. general public statements, political dialogues and demarches, cooperation with international organisations, such as the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), support to the International Criminal Court and other international criminal tribunals, ad hoc national tribunals and other mechanisms established to ensure that those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable for their actions, training in IHL, restrictive measures and control of arms sales.

**The Fifth Report on the EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with IHL** provides a concise, coherent, transparent and factual overview of the most relevant actions taken by the EU during 2021. It was prepared by the Council Working Group on Public International Law (COJUR), under French Presidency of the Council of the EU, with contributions from the European Commission (EC) services, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Parliament (EP) services, and adopted by the COJUR in June 2022.

The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU and France are organizing the joint launch event to increase the visibility of the wide range of measures undertaken in 2021 by the EU in favour of IHL. Furthermore, by bringing together experts from EU Member States, EU institutions, the ICRC and other humanitarian stakeholders, academia and the general public, the joint event aims to identify **how the EU can further strengthen the promotion of compliance with IHL**. Particular attention will be given to the EU role in the global fight to end impunity, to ensure accountability, in particular for the most serious crimes under international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, and to help to provide justice and redress for the victims of atrocities.

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