

## PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL AND MILITARY MISSIONS (CONFERENCE)

In the late aftermath of the invasion of Iraq in 2003, several Dutch political parties called for a parliamentary investigation into way the Dutch executive formed its official position of politically supporting the war.

Questions were raised, such as: on which grounds, based on which (and whose) information did the executive conclude that the invasion was justified and necessary?

Whereas the call for parliamentary investigation was initially blocked by the parties of the government coalition in the Lower House. However, political pressure from the Dutch Senate caused the executive to opt for an independent review of the events that led to the 2003 decision.

This choice of an independent review instead of a proper parliamentary enquiry raises questions with regard to the nature of parliamentary involvement in the preparation and control and military missions.

Intrigued by these questions, the Maastricht branch of the Montesquieu Institute will organize a conference on “Parliamentary control and military missions”. At this conference the issue of parliamentary involvement will be discussed from a legal as well as from a political point of view. The focus will be on the ways in which parliament can influence military decision-making beforehand and the means parliaments have at their disposal to investigate such matters afterwards. Among the speakers are renowned scholars in the field of law and political sciences, as well as current or former members of several parliaments.

The Maastricht branch of the Montesquieu Institute would like to welcome you on the **23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2009** at the Faculty of Law in Maastricht. There are no costs involved and lunch will be provided. Registration is mandatory and can be sent to: [wytze.vanderwoude@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:wytze.vanderwoude@maastrichtuniversity.nl)



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## **Symposium Parliamentary control and military missions (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October)**

Conference venue: University of Maastricht, Faculty of Law (Feestzaal)

Conference language: English

Times and titles are provisional

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|-----------|---|
| 11.00 uur | Parliament and military missions: a general introduction<br><i>dr. Wolfgang Wagner</i>              |
| 11.30     | Parliamentary control in the United Kingdom (a legal point of view)<br><i>prof. dr. Nigel White</i> |
| 11.50     | Parliamentary control in the United Kingdom (a political point of view)<br><i>Brendan Donnelly</i>  |
| 12.00     | Discussion  |
| 12.30     | Lunch   |
| 14.00     | Parliamentary control in Germany (a legal point of view)<br><i>prof. dr. Heike Krieger</i>          |
| 14.20     | Parliamentary control in Germany (a legal point of view)<br><i>dr. Dieter Wiefelspütz</i>           |
| 14.30     | Discussion  |
| 15.00     | Break   |
| 15.30     | Parliamentary involvement: legal lessons for the Netherlands<br><i>dr. Paul Ducheine</i>            |
| 16.00     | Parliamentary involvement: political lessons for the Netherlands<br><i>Bert Bakker</i>              |
| 16.20     | Discussion  |