

## **Killer robots: just another weapon system (?)**

*Frans Osinga*

Following on from the intense public debate concerning the ethics and legality of employing armed unmanned weapon systems, there is a lively if not hyped up debate surrounding the development of autonomous weapon systems, called killer robots in the popular parlance. The presentation will try to come to grips with the various lines of argumentation – pro & con – in this public discourse and come to a balanced assessment concerning questions such as whether a ban on such technologies is feasible, what the potential military benefits are of autonomous weapon systems, what the proliferation of such technologies might portend for international security, to what extent this new technology is truly novel and, finally, if and how Western armed forces will incorporate and employ such weapons.