



# Seminar

## Managing Threats? Citizens and disasters abroad – EU policy responses

10th December 2007

Centre for European Policy Studies, CEPS  
Place du Congrès 1, 1000, Brussels, Belgium  
*Conference Room*

The right to diplomatic and consular protection of EU citizens on the one hand and the concept and practices of EU civil protection on the other are two areas of EU policy which are rarely brought together. Substantially and institutionally different legal regimes govern these fields. Yet, crisis situations and disasters outside EU borders, like the Tsunami in South-East Asia in 2004 or the Lebanon crisis in 2006 have highlighted the close link that exists between providing assistance *to* third countries and at the same time protecting EU citizens and their families *in* these third countries. As a consequence, not only in the *Barnier-Report* of May 2006 ("For a European civil protection force: europe aid"), but also in the latest update of the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy (Factsheet of May 2007) consular and civil protection have become increasingly interlinked at EU policy level.

However, while efforts in these two fields had been stepped up considerably in the last years, both are traditionally located within member states' competence and the skepticism member states have shown towards further EU involvement underline a continuing reluctance. One might therefore wonder to what extent the citizen at risk abroad - by his very construction as an EU citizen and related citizenship rights - is in fact perceived as a threat to state sovereignty in international relations.

In this seminar latest developments and future perspectives of EU civil protection and the protection of EU citizens by diplomatic and consular authorities shall be presented and assessed. The innovations likely to be brought about by the new Reform Treaty will be discussed as well as recent policy and legal steps like the Commission's communication on diplomatic and consular protection or innovations of the legal framework of EU civil protection.

This seminar will provide a unique opportunity for policy makers, social partners, civil society actors and academics to exchange views on these critical aspects of EU policy and to test and develop the thinking in this field. This event is co-organised by the COST Action A24 "*The Evolving Social Construction of Threats*", and CHALLENGE "*The Changing Landscape of European Liberty and Security*", a research project funded by DG Research.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

9:30 – 10.00

Registration

10:00 – 10.15

Welcome & opening remarks by **Elsbeth Guild** (CEPS / Radboud University of Nijmegen / Kingsley Napley, London) and **Jef Huysmans** (Open University).

10:15 – 11:45 **PANEL I: Disasters abroad and EU civil protection**

**Chair: Elspeth Guild**

**Christopher Allen** (DG ENV, European Commission), *European civil protection beyond EU borders*

**Françoise Krill** (Representative from ICRC), *Legal framework for civil protection intervention in armed conflicts*

**Tiago Marques** (Institute of International and Social Studies at Tallinn University) **TBC**

Discussion

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30 **PANEL II: Citizens abroad and the right to diplomatic and consular protection**

**Chair: Jef Huysmans (Open University)**

**Monika Ekström** (DG JLS, European Commission), *The Commission's strategy for ensuring effective diplomatic and consular protection of EU citizens*

**Giorgio Porzio** (Secretariat General, Council of the EU) *EU member states' conception of the right to diplomatic and consular protection of Union citizens*

**Simon-Pierre Nothomb** (The Europeans throughout the World), *Strengthening the EU acquis on diplomatic and consular protection: a citizen's perspective*

**Kevin Laue** (REDRESS), *Latest developments in the UK on the right to consular assistance*

Discussion

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 **PANEL III: Practical and institutional questions**

**Chair: Michael Emerson (CEPS)**

**Representative of French Foreign Ministry, TBC**, *The newly adopted Lead-State-Concept as a means of ensuring consular cooperation in times of crisis*

**Christian Berger** (DG Relex, European Commission), *The role and competences of EU delegations in the protection of EU citizens abroad*

**Juliet Lodge** (Leeds University), *The Example of a Shared Consular Office – the prospects for joint consular services*

**Florian Geyer** (CEPS), *Diplomatic and consular protection: mere public policy or a real citizens' right?*

Discussion

16:00 – 16:45 **Concluding Roundtable: Summing up the day**

**Chair: Florian Geyer**

**Juliet Lodge**

**Jef Huysmans**

**Elsbeth Guild**

**Tiago Marques**

Discussion