

1. Name

Duncan Shaw

2. Organisation

University of Warwick

3. Type of Organisation

Think Tank

University

6. What subject area of the Foreign Policy Report does your evidence relate to?

Civil Protection

7. What are the comparative advantages/disadvantages of working through the EU in the area you wish to comment on, rather than the UK working independently?

Adv: - There is more research money available and there are larger (more ambitious) calls for research proposals meaning that international collaborations are expected and can be suitably funded. This is not the case for national research councils. - The EU badge adds additional credibility to a project when attracting EU partners. There is a feeling of being part of a wider union and so collaboration may be more easily facilitated through the EU. - There is a considerable range and depth of knowledge in EU member states about civil protection and these are more easily accessed through the EU mechanism than through purely national/local working. - There is a shared identity across collaborators when working within an EU project.
Dis: -The EU processes are inflexible and they are not always appropriate to encouraging innovation.

8. In what areas of global affairs does the EU add value or deliver impact or not on behalf of the UK?

My areas of experience (to which I will limit my comments) are the EU-funded research projects around matters of civil protection.

9. How effective is the EU at combining its foreign, defence, economic and civil contingency policy instruments to deliver best effect in foreign policy? What, if anything, should it do differently?

I think it has the potential to do this well through the Monitoring and Information Centre but (to me) this has a more operational focus rather than a policy one. In terms of what it could do differently - I am uncertain of the extent to which the results of the research projects that are co-financed by the EU actually contribute to policy development. It seems like lots of research is funded, but little happens to the results other than those activities driven by the researchers. I see little wider impact of our research which is partly because there is no noticeable pull of research findings by EU policy units. Essentially, there may be further opportunities to harness their results at EU and national levels.

10. How effective are the EU's delivery mechanisms? Would any changes make them more effective, and if so, which ones and why?

On the research side – the bidding for research support seems to work well. It is well coordinated. It does seem like it is over-engineered in terms of the amount of man-hours that are devoted to the writing and evaluating of proposals. Some DGs in the EU are unfortunately inflexible when it comes to innovation and new opportunities concerning budgetary matters – if you have not foreseen the exact budget line item 3 years before then it cannot be included in the project.

11. Would a different division of EU and Member State competence in a particular area produce more effective policies? If so, how and why?

No Response

12. How might the national interest be served by action being taken in this field at a different level e.g. regional, national, UN, NATO, OECD, G20 – either in addition or as an alternative to action at EU level?

Action is taken at all of these levels and this should complement, not compete with, EU action.

13. What future challenge/opportunities might we face in this area of policy and what impact might these have on the balance of competence between the UK and the EU?

The UK is already a respected leader in civil protection so there is no immediate danger of it falling behind the competences of the EU. There are opportunities to capitalise on this reputation and take leadership roles in the EU on civil protection.

14. Are there any general points you wish to make which are not captured above?

No Response