

1. Name

Terry Webb

2. Organisation

Essex Fire Service/EUCP Expert

3. Type of Organisation

EU Institutions

Fire and Rescue Service

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?

The EU civil protection mechanism pools together the benefit of both member and participating states. It creates a greater understanding and ability to manage large rapid onset disasters. Modern developed states have measures in place for these types of events, however in some cases they extend beyond the capacity of that state, therefore the benefit of pooling resources, expertise, and sharing brings is paramount when dealing with events within and both outside the EU.

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

The combined resource of all EU member and participates states is a major global play, its budget is by far one of the largest in terms of humanitarian response, much bigger than the UN. Also this allows it to operate in areas were sometimes the UN is maybe not the preferred option.

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?

By pooling resources across member states, this gives a greater combined capability which the cost is spread and shared across all members. This brings clear financial benefits to all members. Europe has since 1945 has had its greatest period of stability by being united in common areas, this combined power gives the EU combined a very flexible and dynamic capability within foreign policy, this we should continue to build.

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

In terms of EU Civil Protection the mechanism is extremely effective in my personal experience, which should not be underestimated by the UK. At some point we may need to call upon the mechanism to support the UK. In 2007 (floods) in my opinion we very nearly came to that point. The UK needs to take a more active role at strategic level to fully utilise

what is available and how that can assist our planning and response functions in all areas of Civil Protection across all arts of Government, LAs departments, agencies etc.

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?

No Response

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?

No Response

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

No Response