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Q1: Name

James McAlister

Q2: Organisation

Merseyside Police

Q3: Type of Organisation

- EU Institutions
- **Other (please specify)** Civil Protection

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Q6: What subject area of the Foreign Policy Report does your evidence relate to?

- Civil Protection

Q7: 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 UK does not have the capacity to deal with catastrophic emergencies. I believe, especially, during these austere times that the UK cannot stand alone when faced with extreme civil protection incidents. The benefits of being able to call on the assistance of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism far outweighs the monetary contribution which we currently pay. Having UK, EU Civil Protection Mechanism trained personnel would be a significant advantage when receiving EU resources. I believe that the UK should change the current anti-European culture fully embrace the concept of civil protection cooperation.

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Q8: In what areas of global affairs does the EU add value or deliver impact or not on behalf of the UK?

In the field of civil protection, the EU adds a great amount of value with regard to training, expertise, resources and coordination. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism adds great value to the world with regards to response to global humanitarian issues and significantly raises the profile of the UK.

Q9: 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 strongly believe that the UK in the form of the Cabinet Office should take more interest in and support the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. My experience is that other EU member states see the benefits of a EU wide civil protection force. Culturally the UK finds it difficult to accept that there may be occasions, especially during future climate change that we will rely more on the experience and support of our EU counterparts.

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Q10: How effective are the EU's delivery mechanisms? Would any changes make them more effective, and if so, which ones and why?

With regard to civil protection, I believe the EU delivery mechanisms are effective. The Monitoring and Information Centre in Brussels monitors worldwide emergencies and can mobilise member state resources both technical and human within hours.

Q11: Would a different division of EU and Member State competence in a particular area produce more effective policies? If so, how and why?

As previously stated the UK need to fully support the EU Civil Protection Mechanism as the benefits far outweigh the negatives.

Q12: 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?

Re: Civil Protection – I believe that the UK has local, regional and national capability when dealing with emergencies but if a multi location incident of catastrophic proportions were to hit the UK we would need support from all of the above including the EU Civil Protection mechanism.

Q13: 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?

Re: Civil Protection – The EU has more competence when dealing with certain aspects of emergencies especially dealing with severe weather. I believe that involvement in the EU Civil Protection mechanism provides the UK with support as climate change becomes an increasing national threat

Q14: Are there any general points you wish to make which are not captured above?

I believe withdrawing from Europe would have a negative impact on the UK's ability to respond to catastrophic civil emergencies