

1. Name

Louise Elstow

2. Organisation

London Borough of Camden

3. Type of Organisation

Member of Public

Local Government

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?

There are clear advantages for the UK working together through the EU on Civil Protection training and resource/ asset pooling to respond to incidents. At the local level though there are few tangible benefits in terms of being able to make use of the training or expertise for UK local authorities. This is because the UK structure does not fully align to other EU counterparts - i.e we have no civil protection agency.

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

No Response

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?

- Unable to comment as little experience of EU policy instruments in civil protection

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

I have had no experience of EU delivery mechanisms

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

Not able to provide a comment.

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?

Not able to provide a comment.

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?

In order for Local Authorities to be able to take advantage of the mechanism (primarily where training and funding opportunities are concerned) there needs to be a wider promotion of these. I do not think that local authorities (although a Cat One responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004) are fully aware of what is available to them. When funding opportunities are publicised, they are prohibitively large. The man power and knowledge needed to bid for funding is beyond what most LA teams are able to do. Would the UK (CCS?) be able to provide support officers to bid for larger funding that could be broken down or to act as advisors for those asking for funding, and to support the exercise organisation should the bid be accepted?

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

As a Local Authority emergency planning officer, I feel quite removed from the EU mechanism. From attending the discussion day, I do not think that this should be the case and that given the right support we could really benefit more from the opportunities available even under the current mechanism. Please note that the views expressed here are my own and not that of Camden Council/ the London Borough of Camden.