



Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency



Preliminary Programme

Crisis Management in Europe: What role for the EU and the Swedish Presidency 2009?

January 28, 2009, Stockholm, Sweden



Invitation

What should the European Union's role be in managing future crises and disasters? What will the Swedish Presidency's priorities be in this area? These questions and a range of other central issues concerning the development of European crisis management will be explored at the conference "Crisis Management in Europe: What role for the EU and the Swedish Presidency 2009?"

We are delighted to invite you to this conference in Stockholm on the 28th of January, 2009. The broad selection of themes will appeal to everyone with an interest in building capacity to deal with transboundary and transnational crises and disasters. Participants will represent universities, organizations and government authorities from all over the world, which provides a unique opportunity for learning from each other, creating new research ventures and disseminating recent findings.

This conference is a collaboration between the Swedish National Defence College (SNDC) and the newly formed Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). By tapping into research carried out jointly by the European Union Crisis Management (EUCM) programme at SNDC, the Swedish Institute of International Affairs and Louisiana State University, MSB is proud to carry on the tradition of nurturing cutting-edge research that aims to improve the practice of crisis and disaster management in Sweden and beyond.

We take great pleasure in welcoming you to Stockholm.



Helena Lindberg
Director General
Swedish Civil
Contingencies Agency



Mats Ericson
Vice Chancellor
Swedish National
Defence College

Crisis Management in Europe: What role for the EU and the 2009 Swedish Presidency?

We have now entered a world where transboundary crises threaten our way of life. Epidemics, financial crises, suicidal terrorism, natural disasters and climate change do not respect man-made borders or particular values. They materialize suddenly from out of nowhere, and can devastate the critical infrastructures that support the high standard of living in Europe. A string of recent crises and disasters demonstrates how national governments cannot deal with these threats on their own. Transboundary threats require an international, multidisciplinary approach that is marked by effective coordination, information exchange, regulation, mutual support and concerted action. This kind of approach is difficult to accomplish in normal times. It is even more difficult in times of crisis.

The European Union seems qualified to facilitate a commonly shared approach to transboundary threats - an approach that accommodates national diversity and protects the European population. The EU does have the capacity and potential to bring member states together and tackle shared threats. But the question is whether the European Union can actually accomplish this feat. When Sweden assumes the Presidency in July 2009, the transboundary crisis management issue should be placed squarely on the political agenda.

The goal of this conference is to bring together practitioners and academics with an active interest in studying and developing the EU's capacity to deal with transboundary threats, crises and disasters. Participants will be asked to focus on timely and tangible issues in an interactive setting, such as the development of the EU's early warning capacity, the challenges of achieving collective action in the area of security and crisis management, and the implications of future institutional changes. The opinions and insights derived from these discussions will be passed on to the Swedish and European policymakers who are in charge of creating a safer and more secure Europe.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Morning session

Moderator: Bengt Sundelius, Swedish National Defence College

08.00 – 08.30	Registration
08.30 – 08.35	Welcoming remarks: Mats Ericson, Vice Chancellor Swedish National Defence College
08.35 – 08.50	Opening Plenary Session: Helena Lindberg, Director General for the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
08.50 – 09.10	Plenary address: “Crisis management in the EU and priorities for the Swedish Presidency”, Cecilia Malmström, Minister for EU Affairs
09.10 – 09.20	Film: “A crisis in Europe during the Swedish EU Presidency”
09.20 – 09.45	“Is Sweden ready?” Comments by opening speakers
09.45 - 10.15	Coffee
10.15 – 11.30	EUCM programme panel: Magnus Ekengren, Swedish National Defence College Arjen Boin, Louisiana State University Mark Rhinard, Swedish Institute of International Affairs
11.30 – 12.00	Keynote address: “Entering a new world of global crises”, Keynote Speaker TBA.
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch

Afternoon session

Moderator: Bengt Sundelius, Swedish National Defence College

13.00 – 13.10	Introducing the research workshops (Theme 1-3)
13.10 - 15.00	Workshop discussions
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee
15.30 – 16.10	Plenary reporting
16.10 - 16.15	Final conclusions - The Way Forward

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1

Early warning for future crises: What role for the EU?

Moderator: Arjen Boin (Louisiana State University)

Crises and disasters often come as a complete surprise: witness the 9/11 attacks, the Asian tsunami, and the current financial breakdown. In hindsight, many crises seem foreseeable and thus preventable. But that is a tall order. First, we need to improve our understanding of what threats will confront us in the future. Second, we need the organizational and technical tools to detect unfolding crises and to provide an early warning. The European Union is embarking on such measures by building monitoring capacities and alert systems and may be uniquely positioned to do so: its integrated markets and joined-up infrastructures require a bird's eye view on early warning. Yet a number of difficult questions confront this role: What actual capacities for early-warning does the EU possess? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the EU enhancing its role in early-warning? What are the latest advances in early warning/detection research, and how can the EU learn from these insights? What are the gaps in early warning knowledge? What are the prospects for a more integrated early warning approach by the EU, and improved interaction between practitioners and academics in this area?

Workshop 2

Transboundary Crisis Management as a European Public Good

Moderator: Mark Rhinard (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)

Most threats facing Europe today are transboundary in nature. Managing them requires effective cooperation amongst states, but collective action is a historically difficult task. States have their own interests, their own administrative structures, and their own culturally-bound traditions. In addition, long-term collective gains are often sacrificed because of short-term costs and frustrations associated with cooperation. The result is an under-provision of transboundary "public goods" such as common disaster preparedness, carbon emission reduction, infectious disease control, terrorism suppression, infrastructure protection, and deterrence of weapons of mass destruction. In the European Union, recent initiatives towards transboundary crisis management reflect a similar effort to provide "European public goods". Such goods can only be provided collectively and require every member to contribute their fair share. This generates problems to overcome, including the free rider temptation and a reluctance to ensure a basic standard of protection across the EU. This workshop will investigate whether current problems plaguing EU cooperation on transboundary crisis management reflect classic "collective action problems" associated with providing a public good. Discussion will assess whether the EU's current cooperation structures can solve these problems, and if not, what reforms might move the EU towards improved cooperation.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 3

Making the Solidarity Clause Work

Moderator: Magnus Ekengren (Swedish National Defence College)

The Solidarity Clause of the Lisbon Treaty aims at a crisis management system for mutual assistance that involves both EU institutions and EU Member States. It provides a political framework for strategic and cross-sectoral use of existing transboundary systems led by the Commission and Council Secretariat in Brussels. These systems for information, early warning, rapid reaction, and coordination cover civil protection, health threats, terrorism and natural disasters. Sooner or later – perhaps under Swedish chairmanship – the EU's capacity will be tested in a major crisis and crucial questions concerning the meaning of solidarity and the division of responsibility between the national and EU level will then require immediate answers. For reasons of effectiveness and democracy this discussion should begin now – before the crisis. This workshop will bring to the fore several central issues that need to be answered in the implementation of the Solidarity Clause: What and who is being protected? Against what? What is the territory where the EU operates – only Europe? When is the EU's capacity activated? How should EU and national levels relate? What is the role of the Presidency? What can we learn from cross-border cooperation and solidarity within the United States? What reforms are needed in order to make the Clause work?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Registration

To register for the conference “Crisis Management in Europe: What role for the EU and the Swedish Presidency 2009?”, please follow this link and fill in the registration form: www.krisberedskapsmyndigheten.se/eurosec

Venue

The conference will be held at the new premises of the Swedish National Defence College (SNDC):

Swedish National Defence College
Drottning Kristinas väg 37 (street address)
P.O. Box 27805 (postal address)
SE-115 93 Stockholm, Sweden

Directions

By underground: the nearest station is “Tekniska Högskolan”

By bus: bus no. 4 (and other buses) to Valhallavägen/Östra Station.

For more information about how to get to the conference venue, see www.sl.se

Meals

Coffee/tea will be served during breaks.

Lunch will be served for speakers and workshop participants (afternoon session of the conference) at “Syster o Bror” - a restaurant just across the street from the SNDC. Please indicate on the registration form (see link above) if you want to participate in the lunch.

Contact

If you have any questions or need more information about the conference, please contact :

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