



Seminar: Prevent and Protect – an Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises (December 7th, 2018)

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The globalization of the international system, with its features, such as the technological development, the rising mobility of human masses, accompanied by the suppression and/or porosity of borders, to what adds the climate change associated phenomena, contribute to the assumption of a more complex world, filled with new risks and challenges. Along with the difficulties related to the answer to crisis situations, there appear the increasingly demanding citizens of the information era, with the new communication means allowing the shortening of distances as much as the faster expansion of crisis scenarios. However, not even these means are flawless, neither are they sufficient, requiring ultimately the states intervention to ensure their citizens' protection. Nevertheless, when isolated, the states' actions end up revealing, once again, their limited capacity to answer timely and with the necessary means, given their elevated costs, in order to face the dizzying speed of events. This perspective is particularly marked where the distance and the absence of the State's representation hinder a quick and efficient allocation of means of protection.

The complexity and extent of the crisis scenarios demand, thus, a response capacity increasingly coordinated and integrated, that provides the states' authorities with the possibility of a broader reach in their citizens' relief. That capacity can be found today at the European level, whether we're talking about the new communitarian mechanisms for crises monitoring and response or the cooperation and coordination between Member States concerning the consular protection of non-represented citizens in third countries. This is the scope of the present Seminar. It aims at contributing with an evaluation and delimitation of the situations that relate to a framework of common resources use and information sharing about the consular protection provided in emergency situations, feeding the debate about the path to tread on the future of the integrated European response, and at promoting a space for sharing best practices and experiences exchange between Member States and the European institutions with competence in the crises management processes.

In order to approach the many dimensions of the crisis monitoring/prevention and management processes in the EU and between its Member States, the Seminar will be composed of two parts and a total of three panels, besides the opening conference. **Part I** will address the EU's integrated strategy for crisis prevention and management, with focus on the mechanisms made available by the several communitarian bodies; **Part II**, with two panels, starts by focusing the role played by Civil Protection units in the context of consular crises, and follows through with the way these units articulate among themselves on the European level, including the use of integrated means, ending with sharing experiences, based on specific crises situations, as well as with a reflection about the future of consular protection in the European Union.

Part I: EU's Integrated Strategy for Crises Prevention and Management

Panel I: EU's mechanisms for crises monitoring and management

The EU has today, in its multiple bodies (in subsidiarity with the states) monitoring/prevention and response devices to face crises in and out of the its territory. Being the target of constant evolution, in its permanent effort to adapt to a changing reality, the way the European mechanisms articulate among themselves and with the Member States, the kind of assistance provided and how it is processed in its many phases, are of the utmost interest to the Seminar's participants, themselves parts in these processes. At the same time, it is this Seminar's goal to address the coming changes (for instance, concerning the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism) and what to expect about the future of the European integrated response capacity.

Part II: The Answer to Crises on the State Level

Panel I: The action of the MS' civil protection units

The national Civil Protection authorities are, nowadays, summoned to play a role in the answer to consular crisis situations, mainly those related to natural disasters, not only within the limits of the communitarian space, but way beyond it, whether in answering to help requests by third states, or in the projection of means to protect European citizens outside of the Union. The coordination and cooperation, in the states, and between the European Civil Protection units, assume, thus, a crucial importance in the context of consular emergency management processes, often dependent on response means that aren't immediately available to the respective responsible entities. At the EU level as well there has been progress towards the integration of the Member States' Civil Protection means, namely, through the Union's Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM). It is, thus, this Seminar's goal to help clarify the participants on the role that the national Civil Protection units play, or may play, in the context of consular emergency management processes, as well as to contribute to the present debate around the EUCPM's revision.

Panel II: The cooperation between MS in answering crises in third countries: national experiences and perspectives on the implementation of the new Consular Protection Directive

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union introduces consular protection as a right conferred to all of the communitarian citizens who find themselves out of the Union's space. More recently, the Council Directive (EU) 2015/637 of 20 April 2015 on the coordination and cooperation measures to facilitate consular protection for unrepresented citizens of the Union in third countries, confirms that right and establishes the assumptions concerning the operationalization of the associated obligations. The result of that is the

assumption of principles of complementarity and subsidiarity between Member States that, as a consequence, should cooperate to ensure no European citizen will be left unprotected, even outside Europe. Considering the implementation of the Directive is still in its initial phase, but there having already been a long path tread since the Treaty of Lisbon came into force, replete with different experiences, it's time to share best practices and lessons learned about specific crisis situations, as well as to think about the new framework establishing what should be the future of cooperation on matters relating to consular protection by the EU's states.