



# PROGRAMME

## IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN EUROPE

Monday 13 – Wednesday 15 February 2006

### 809th WILTON PARK CONFERENCE

with support from Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London  
and in association with Crisis Response Journal

*How well prepared are the European governments and emergency services for a major terrorist incident, large-scale hostage taking, or pandemic of avian influenza? What lessons have been learnt from the response to recent major incidents such as the London and Madrid bombings and from other emergencies including floodings and the Buncefield oil depot fire? What can be learnt from the response to hurricane Katrina which would assist European planners and responders? What more can be done to prepare for large-scale emergencies which cross borders? What preparations are needed to ensure consular services are available and supported when foreign nationals are caught up in the emergency? What are the best communication techniques and methods to keep the public informed (not alarmed) about the risks and during the response phase? What can and should the EU do together? How can best practice be set, shared across Europe, and implemented? How can communication and co-operation, both national and municipal, be improved across borders? Where are the main inter-agency blockages in the planning and response stage and what needs to be done to overcome these? What are the limits of co-operation?*

### MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY

1300-1430 Buffet Lunch available

1500 Introduction to the Conference  
**Robin HART**  
Associate Director, Wilton Park

#### **SETTING THE CONTEXT**

1515-1645 1 **DEALING WITH DISASTERS: MOVING FROM PLANS TO RESPONSE**  
*What are the major risks facing European countries in the coming years? How well prepared are national and local governments, the emergency services and the civilian population for natural and man-made disasters? How well prepared is Europe for a pandemic of avian influenza? Where should Europe pool resources? What lessons can the UK share from its disaster preparedness work and from the responses to recent emergencies such as the London bombings, including in relation to foreign victims?*  
**Peter TALLANTIRE**  
Director, Assessment, Commitments and Legislation, Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Cabinet Office, London  
**Paul SIZELAND**  
Director, Consular Services, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London



Wilton Park gratefully acknowledges support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

## **UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS: CONSIDERING SCENARIOS**

- 1730-1900 2 **EXTREME WEATHER RELATED EMERGENCIES: ASSESSING THE RISKS FOR EUROPE GIVEN A CHANGING CLIMATE**  
*The scientific community and the intra-governmental panel on climate change is increasingly convinced that humanly created climate change is leading to more extreme weather conditions. What will the future bring for Europe from extreme cold, wet or hot and with results in terms of emergencies – from increased forest fires, floodings, severe winters? What preparations are wise and necessary? What more do emergency planners need to do? Who does what? What is a proportional response?*  
**Dave ROBINSON**  
Head, Public Weather Services Programme, Met Office, Exeter
- 1900 Reception followed by Dinner

## **TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY**

- 0900-1030 3 **UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS: CASE STUDIES**  
**Chair: Tony MOORE**, Associate Director, The Resilience Centre, Cranfield University, UK Defence Academy
- Preparing for sieges and hostage taking: Lessons from the response to the Moscow theatre and the Beslan school sieges**  
**Lina KOLESNIKOVA**  
Researcher and consultant; currently studying at Scarman Centre, University of Leicester
- Preparing for industrial accidents: Lessons from the Buncefield oil depot fire**  
**Mark YATES**  
Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Hertford
- Clive WHITWORTH**  
Regional Resilience Director, Government Office for the East of England, Cambridge
- IMPROVING RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS**
- 1100-1200 4 **COMMUNICATIONS: COMMUNICATING THE RISKS AND RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC**  
*The media now play a critical role in providing the public with information both in terms of risks and during the emergency response phase. How can the ongoing risks, whether about avian influenza or extreme weather etc be best communicated to the public so that they are alerted but not alarmed? What are the key lessons learnt from recent emergencies in how the responders should work with the media?*  
**Nik GOWING**  
Main Presenter, BBC World Television, London
- 1200-1300 5 **THE ROLE OF POLICE GOLD COMMAND IN THE RESPONSE TO MAJOR INCIDENTS**  
*How is the initial response best handled? How can the response meet the needs of those involved and thought to be involved? How can the impact on the wider community be best managed? What lessons can be learnt about from the command and control of recent disasters?*  
**John YATES**  
Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service, London
- 1430-1530 6 **IMPROVING RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS**  
**10 minute presentations from each speaker introducing the topic followed by discussion in smaller groups in the following session**
- **Preparing for evacuations and providing shelter: under what circumstances? For whom and how?**  
**Cheryl PLUMRIDGE**, Director, Capabilities, Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Cabinet Office, London
  - **Should the private sector be involved in delivering the response? The Katrina experience**  
**Robert JENSEN**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kenyon International, Houston

- **The role of the voluntary sector: how can their contribution be integrated into national, regional and local response plans?**  
**Moya WOOD-HEATH**, Emergency Planning/Civil Protection Adviser, British Red Cross Society, London
- **Providing immediate critical healthcare to those injured: Lessons from Madrid**  
**Alex LOPEZ CARRESI**, Independent Emergency Management Consultant, Madrid
- **Preparing for a CBRN disaster: A health perspective**  
**Mike BARKER**, Centre for Emergency Preparedness, Health Protection Agency

- 1530-1700 7 **DISCUSSION IN SMALLER GROUPS**  
on the topics in session 6. Participants will be invited to sign up for the topic of their choice.
- 1730-1900 8 **SUPPORTING THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES**  
*What do victims caught up in a disaster need? What more can be done to support the victims including dealing with their trauma? What can be done to support their families? What lessons have been learnt?*  
**Chair: Tony MOORE**, Associate Director, The Resilience Centre, Cranfield University, UK  
Defence Academy  
**David BOLTON**  
Director, Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma & Transformation  
**Pamela DIX**  
Executive Director, Disaster Action, Woking  
and **Charles NORRIE**  
Executive Committee Member, Disaster Action, Woking
- 1930 **Speaker at Dinner:**  
**Dickie STAGG**, Director General Corporate Affairs, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

## WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

- 0900-0930 9 **FEEDBACK FROM DISCUSSION GROUPS**

### **THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION TO AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

- 0930-1100 10 **HURRICANE KATRINA: MANAGING THE RESPONSE AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**  
*What was the scale of the Hurricane Katrina response efforts? What are the guiding principles for an emergency response in the USA? How can offers of assistance from the international community following a disaster be managed effectively and co-ordinated with the local and national effort?*  
**Ed BUIKEMA**  
Regional Director (Region 5) and Acting Director for Response Division during Hurricane Katrina, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington
- 1130-1245 11 **DEALING WITH THE IMPLICATIONS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS CAUGHT UP IN A DISASTER: THE WIDER EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION**  
*What are the lessons from the emergencies where a large number of foreign nationals are victims? What do consular services need to provide?*  
**Risto VOLANEN**  
State Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Helsinki  
**Michelle BERNIER-TOTH**  
Office Director of American Citizen Services, US State Department, Washington
- 1415-1530 12 **DISASTER RESPONSE: WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL?**  
*What policy issues need to be addressed at European level to improve preparedness and response at national and EU level? What role should the European Commission play in co-ordinating a European response to a major disaster which crosses borders within the EU? How can best practice be shared across Europe between practitioners and policy makers? Is decisive leadership and direction on these issues at a European level needed? What practical things could the EU address which would ensure improved response – for example in terms of improving communications systems and techniques?*

**Chair: Antonio MISSIROLI**, The European Policy Centre, Brussels  
**Guido BERTOLASO**  
Director-General, Prime Minister's Office, Department of Civil Protection, Rome

1530-1600      13      **HOW CAN EUROPE PREPARE BETTER?**  
**CONCLUDING COMMENTS by selected participants**

1600              Participants depart