INVITATION

European Civil Protection:
How does it relate to humanitarian aid?

Monday 16 May 2011, 18:00 – 19:30
Fondation Universitaire, rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels (Métro 'Trône')

Given the increasing incidence of disaster worldwide, the EU continues to explore ways to enhance its disaster response capacity. The Lisbon Treaty provides for the first time a legal base for both humanitarian aid and for civil protection. Since the beginning of 2010, civil protection has been part of DG ECHO. Via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, 31 states and the EU cooperate in civil protection matters, with the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) of ECHO at the operational heart of this mechanism.

When the EU civil protection mechanism was established it focused primarily on actions within Europe. However, the last few years have seen more engagement outside Europe as well, such as in Haiti and Pakistan. Humanitarian actors and civil protection increasingly share the same field of operation responding to natural disasters. The event looks into how civil protection complements and relates to humanitarian aid.

This discussion is particularly timely, given that the legislation for EU civil protection is currently being developed. VOICE therefore takes the opportunity to bring together various stakeholders with the aim of sharing better understanding of the mandates and roles of humanitarian actors and civil protection.

Programme

18:00   **Hans Das**, Head of Emergency Response, DG ECHO (Unit B/1)

Questions and answers

Chair: **Wolf-Dieter Eberwein**, VOICE President

19:30   **Refreshments**

VOICE *(Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies)* is a network representing 83 European NGOs active in humanitarian aid worldwide. VOICE is the main NGO interlocutor with the EU on emergency aid, relief, rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction. It represents and promotes the values and specific features of humanitarian NGOs.

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