



**ISIS Europe
European Security Contact Group meeting**

INVITE TO

**R2P and the Protection of Civilians: Whom and How?
Mandate and Capabilities**

1 July 2008, 1230-14H

**European Parliament, Room A5F385
Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels**

Host: MEP Colm Burke (EPP-ED) European Parliament, Brussels

Chair: Giji Gya, Acting Director, ISIS Europe

Speakers:

Gareth Evans, President and CEO, International Crisis Group, (former Co-Chair ICISS)

Mark Burgess, Director, World Security Institute Brussels

Marta Martinelli, Pole Bernheim Chair in Peace and Conflict Studies, Universite Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Visiting Professor, UNESCO Chair, University of Bujumbura, Burundi (author of the EP study on the Protection of Civilians in Peacekeeping)

Concept note

Speaking in 1999, Kofi Annan challenged United Nations (UN) member states to address a conceptual vacuum in international relations between the principles of non-intervention and state sovereignty on the one hand, and the duty to respond to human rights violations such as genocide, ethnic cleansing and war crimes on the other.

This challenge was immediately taken-up by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), established by the Canadian government. Publishing its report in 2001 under the title 'The Responsibility to Protect', the ICISS stated that the international community had an obligation to halt future crimes against humanity by in the first instance, prevention and as a last resort, military intervention. The report and its recommendations were finally endorsed by over 170 countries at the UN World Summit in September 2005, and were later reaffirmed under UN Security Council Resolution 1674 on 28 April 2006.

In an attempt to stop a future Rwanda, however, a number of controversial issues have arisen. Those in support of the principle have seen it as a milestone in extending a normative basis for humanitarian intervention, while others claim that the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) serves as a license for powerful 'Western' states to impose and intervene wherever they like.

This meeting will discuss some of the main arguments for and against, discuss the limits of mandates and capabilities of protection – particularly in the framework of European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) - and attempt to clarify some of the misconceptions surrounding the principle. It will also seek to answer these more specific questions:

- What has happened to our understanding of sovereignty since the adoption of R2P?
- How important is the issue of political will in mobilizing a response to potential R2P situations and the protection of civilians?
- How is ESDP addressing the issue of civilian and military capabilities in response to R2P?
- How have the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq affected the legitimacy of R2P as a concept?
- Should the international community invoke R2P in Darfur/Chad, Zimbabwe or Burma?



REGISTRATION required

By Thursday 24th June

PLACES ARE LIMITED - To register, please send this reply form to ISIS Europe
register@isis-europe.org or Fax +32 2 230 6113.

Questions: contact Daniel Fiott, ISIS Europe at daniel.fiott@isis-europe.org or on +32 (0) 2 230 7446

Full Name: _____
Position: _____
Organisation: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

If you DO NOT have a pass that allows you entry to the Parliament, for security purposes you will need to indicate your

Date of birth: _____
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Nationality: _____
Passport / I.D. Number: _____

Please bring identification (ID card or passport) and **arrive by 12:00H at the reception of the Paul Henri Spaak building** on Rue Wiertz so that you can be given a pass and escorted to the room.

Please note that following this event there will be another presentation entitled "**The Responsibility to Protect: Where does the EU stand?**" taking place on Tuesday **1 July 2008**, from **14.30 to 17.00 pm** (registration from 1.45pm) also at the European Parliament, Room PHS 7C050, Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels.

Speakers will include **Professor Edward Luck**, Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect to the U.N. Secretary General; Senior Vice President and Director of Studies, International Peace Institute and is hosted by **Ana Maria Gomes**, MEP, Vice-Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence, European Parliament.

Please contact mvincent@madriaga.org or enzo.lefevre@peacedevelopment.eu for more information.