



# The European Union Response to Emergencies. A Sociological Neo-Institutionalist Approach

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## Abstract

Disasters can strike at any time and can be of various types: natural like the Tsunami of 2004 that left over 300,000 people dead or man-made like the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah fighters. In face of the recurrence of major emergencies both inside and outside the EU borders, EU governments agreed in 2001 to set up a system which would allow them to pool their resources. The Council Decision of 2001 created the Community Civil Protection Mechanism (CCPM) relying on the so-called Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), as the crisis centre for civil protection located in Brussels at the European Commission. In 2005, another major step was made regarding EU emergency management, with the creation of the Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements (CCA). These arrangements, which are legally dealt with by the Council, were developed to share information, ensure coordination and collective decision-making at EU level in an emergency. It is dealt with by the Joint Situation Centre (Sit Cen). These two new organizational structures of EU emergency management, the MIC and the Sit Cen, and the two new organizational architectures of EU emergency management (commission- and council- based) are the object of my research. The thesis addresses the question of their creation, adoption and implementation, developing a sociological neo-institutionalist approach based on the concept of divergent isomorphism. The thesis contributes to the development of both EU integration theory in the field of security and organizational theory in the field of emergency management.



**Short Bio:**

Cécile Wendling graduated in Management at the ESCP-EAP (Paris-Oxford-Berlin) in 2003 and later in Political Sciences at Sciences Po (Paris) in 2005. In 2008, she was a visiting PhD student at the Centre de Sociologie des Organisations (CNRS - Sciences Po Paris). She finished her PhD in Social and Political Sciences at the European University Institute in May 2009. She teaches organisation studies at the ENESAD in Dijon, France. Cecile Wendling's main teaching and research interests are: EU integration theory, security, crisis management and organisation studies.