As a society, we depend on infrastructures such as water, energy, telecommunication etc. Subsequently, they pose a (potential) threat to criminal organisations and natural disasters. If a critical infrastructure is not adequately protected, its destruction would have economic, political and psychological consequences. As a result, intelligence services fulfil a fundamental role in protecting organisations which are vital in the preservation of our society. Ever since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, critical infrastructure protection (CIP) has encountered an important transition. Kennedy, former President of the United States, and Khrushchev, former Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, witnessed problems in telecommunications. It would the first infrastructure which was labelled “critical”. But what do we know today about the protection of critical infrastructures? When is an infrastructure defined as “critical”? Which strategies and partnerships are eligible? These questions are covered during this conference. First, we will focus on the legal conceptualisation. Next, the crisis centre of the government will highlight CIP. Subsequently, we will focus on the European framework. Last, the conference will end with a debate between the intelligence services and the private security industry.

Chairmen: Robin Libert (State Security) and Guy Goemanne (GSIS)

9h30: Welcome reception
10h00-10h10: Opening conference – Mr. Guy Rapaille (Standing Committee I) – FR
10h10-10h20: Introduction conference - Robin Libert (State Security) and Guy Goemanne (GSIS) – FR/NL
10h20-11h10: The protection of critical infrastructures: a judicial conceptualisation - ENG Veerle Pashley (UGent)
11h10-12h00: CIP and the crisis centre of the government – FR Piet Pieters (Crisis Centre)
12h00-13h00: Lunch
13h00-13h50: Business Continuity at the Council of the European Union - ENG Siegfried Van Den Enden (Head of Unit - Council European Union)
13h50-15h00: CIP debate with the intelligence services and private security – FR/NL State Security – GSIS – Chris Bombeke (Securitas) – Suzanne Oyen (Swift) Moderator: Prof. Dr. Marc Cools (UGent – VUB)
15h00-15h15: Coffee break
15h15-15h30: Conclusions – FR/NL Prof. Dr. Marc Cools (UGent – VUB)
15h30-16h00: Q&A
16h00-17h00: Networking drink
Location

Ghent University
Faculty of Law
Movie theatre “Plateau”
Campus Aula
Paddenhoek 3 (near Korte Meer)
9000 Ghent

Target audience

Members of intelligence and security services, defence, federal and local police services, federal and European administration services, politicians, NATO, corporations, embassies, academics and students.

Practical information

Cost: 80 €. Included: drinks, lunch and a book publication (BISC-Cahiers 7). Students pay 40 € without the publication. However, it is possible to purchase the book separately during the conference.

Subscription: people who are interested have to send an email to Veerle Pashley - Veerle.Pashley@ugent.be, together with the following references: first name, surname, service, contact details and number of inscriptions. You will receive a confirmation e-mail with payment conditions. The subscription is definite after payment.

Language: the presentations will be given in English, French and Dutch.

Contact BISC

If you wish to receive information of our BISC conferences and publications, sent an email to:

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