



Colin Smith

EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories
Head of Mission

Panel Session:

**“European Crisis Management
Operations, Capability Building and Missions“**

Wednesday, January 30th, 14:30-16:30

Curriculum vitae

Born in December 1950 he graduated in 1972 from Southampton University with an Honours Degree in Modern History and Politics and joined the Times Regional Newspaper Group working for two years in marketing in Aberdeen, the Home Counties and Belfast (1973). He took up Sales Manager post in Dublin and Cork and then, in 1976, joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). He worked for 15 years mainly in counter terrorist intelligence, in HQ, North Belfast and as Head of Special Branch in Londonderry. In 1991 he transferred to the London Metropolitan Police as a Detective Superintendent, and was Investigating Officer on a major corruption enquiry into the Regional Crime Squad, then as a Senior Investigating Officer for Major Crime in SW London, leading the investigation into numerous drug-related crime murders (the ‘Yardies’) and the 1995 Brixton Riots. In 1996 he transferred to a Chief Superintendent post in Hampshire and in April 2000 he was appointed Assistant Chief Constable, Crime and Specialist Operations. He was a long standing member of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Terrorism Business Area, leading nationally, and internationally, for the Police Service on Intelligence and Chemical-Biological (CBRN) Terrorism, including developing the Police National CBRN Centre at Wintbourne Gunner. He was an advisor for the 2004 Athens Olympics. In January 2005 he took up a 15-month secondment, in the rank of Deputy Chief Constable, to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as Senior Police Advisor to the Iraqi Police in Basra and in May 2005 as Chief Police Advisor, Baghdad, leading all UK police advisors in Iraq. In May 2006 he retired from the Police after 30 years service. He was awarded the Queen’s Police Medal (QPM) for Distinguished Police Service in Her Majesty’s 80th Birthday Honours in June 2006. In January 2007 he was appointed EU Head of Mission for EUPOL COPPS, a European Police Support operation for the Palestine Civilian Police, based in Jerusalem, Gaza and Ramallah. He will leave this post in December 2008 and continue international consultancy work, presentations and after dinner speaking. He holds an MBA (Ulster 1987) and an MA (Reading 1993), the latter a Bramshill Fellowship in Terrorist Studies – ‘The Development of British Counter-Terrorist Strategy 1916-1993: The Role of the Police and the Military’ (unpublished). In 2000 he was awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in Criminology from Cambridge University.