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**From a European Security Community to a Secure European Community:
Analysing EU 'Functional' Security
The Case of EU Civil Protection**

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Abstract

Karl Deutsch defined 'security community' as a group of people that is integrated to the point that there is a 'real assurance that the members of that community will not fight each other physically, but will settle their disputes in some other ways'. The European security community has been explained as a result of the EU's desecuritisation of inter-state relations, defined by Buzan and Waever as the shifting of issues out of the emergency mode into the normal political processes. Today the EU is securitising issues through the establishment of emergency and crisis management mechanisms for the handling of new threats such as terrorism. This indicates that the security identity of the EU is being transformed from a European security community to a 'secure European community' – a homeland defence à la Europe. In this paper a new approach - 'functional' security – is used as a way to sketch a framework of analysis for the study of the new EU security practices. A secure community is tentatively seen as a group of people that is integrated to the point that there is a spirit of solidarity that the members of that community will safeguard the basic functions of their societies and governments in common. The framework is tested in a case study of EU civil protection assistance.