Welcome message from the ISCRAM2004 Workshop Chairs

Benny Carle and Bartel Van de Walle

Dear ISCRAM2004 participant,

Welcome to Brussels for the first International Workshop on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management ISCRAM2004!

When we discussed the idea of having an ISCRAM Workshop last year, during that long hot summer of 2003, we certainly did not anticipate the interest the Workshop would generate. Where we originally had in mind a rather small gathering, we soon discovered that there was an interest from many Emergency Response information systems practicioners and academics throughout the world. We soon had to upgrade our originally anticipated audience of about 20 to 40, then 60, to the current number of more than 80 registrations at the time of writing these words. Clearly, we are delighted that we seem to have struck a nerve and are able to bring together so many people from about 30 countries.

Needless to say, we soon discovered we could not handle the organizational tasks alone. We are therefore extremely grateful for the support of many colleagues and friends who have served in various capacities, volunteering their time to make this Workshop a reality. We are also indebted to the continuous support from our organizations, the Nuclear Research Center SCK-CEN and Tilburg University, who believed from the beginning this would work.

Last but not least, we like to acknowledge the appreciated financial support and sponsorship from the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research (FWO), Respond B.V. in the Netherlands, and Draka NK Cables Ltd. in Finland.

We hope your participation in the first International Workshop on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management ISCRAM2004 will be an enjoyable and fruitful one.

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