



PRESS STATEMENT

European Confederation of Police

Responsible: Jan Velleman

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Social tensions throughout Europe result in violent outbreaks and violence against the police

The EuroCOP Committee rejects idea of violence against the police as a “job risk” and demands actions to improve the working conditions for police officers and reduce violent behaviour

At its meeting in Krakow on May 10-11, 2010 the EuroCOP Committee passed a resolution on putting a stop to violence against the police.

EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer pointed out the seriousness of the matter.

“Many police officers who want to serve their society are feeling frustrated when they have to face hatred, violence and disrespect for their work. Adding budget cuts, which result in inadequate staff and lack of the right equipment and training to that equation are not necessarily the ideal preconditions to deal with the problem.”

The police unions and staff organisations in EuroCOP call upon decision makers to work towards protecting police officers against violent behaviour, but also to work towards reducing violent behaviour in society in general.

The resolution passed in Krakow rejects that violence is just a job risk that police officers and their relatives have to accept. The EuroCOP Committee insists that violence against police officers is not only an attack on a human being, but a deliberate attack on society and democracy.

Mr Kiefer: “EuroCOP is concerned about the lack of sensitivity among decision makers in this matter and also about the fact that society doesn't seem to be interested in a debate about the possible causes of violence and possible remedies. Therefore we want to promote a debate on this subject to convince the public that violence is not acceptable.”

On April 12, 2010 EuroCOP held a conference on the subject, titled “Responses to Violence against Police officers: Protect those that protect you!” with invited experts and police officers who had been victims of violence from all over Europe.

“This resolution is another step for EuroCOP to raise awareness on the issue,” President Heinz Kiefer said.

EuroCOP already started to raise awareness about stopping police violence in 2003, where a row of conferences were held across Europe. However, according to Kiefer the situation has not improved since then, rather the opposite.

Mr Kiefer: “Nothing seems to have changed. Not only when it comes to risk awareness and the public debate, but also for victimized police officers who don't always get the support and aid they need, social economic and legal. This is not the case today.”



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The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, is the umbrella organisation of 35 national Police Unions and Staff Organisations from 26 European States. It represents the interests of over 500.000 police officers in Europe. www.eurocop.org