



## RESOLUTION

### THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF POLICE STANDARDS AND INTEGRITY IN EUROPE

Adopted at the 2005 Autumn EuroCOP Committee  
3 November 2005

We, the 28 Member Organisations of the European Confederation of Police, representing over 600.000 police officers in Europe, have come together today in the EuroCOP Committee in London.

The enlargement of the European Union and the subsequent extension of the Schengen Area are an unprecedented chance to improve the security environment of all EU Member Countries through the creation of a common Area of Security.

However this chance needs to be seized. The success of a common European Area of Security depends upon the professionalism, high standards and integrity of law enforcement agencies on all levels, including EU agencies as well as national police services.

Better and improved tools for information exchange and other forms of law enforcement cooperation are much needed in a Europe without borders. Efficient law enforcement cooperation is much needed in order to prevail against the threats of organised crime and terrorism. Without shared high standards for integrity and professionalism efficient law enforcement cooperation cannot emerge.

Common professional standards are a precondition for efficiency in police cooperation. Common levels of integrity are a precondition for the achievement of a free flow of law enforcement information across borders because they are a precondition for the emergence of trust.

The Police Unions and Staff Organisations joined together in the European Confederation of Police are deeply concerned in face of the continuing proliferation of overlapping cross border instruments for police cooperation, which is not followed by a necessary development of common professional standards and levels of integrity among the police services in the European Union. Instead there is a lack of joint professional standards as well as diverging levels of integrity of police services throughout the European Union.



High levels of integrity cannot be established through criminal sanctions and disciplinary procedures only. They are a result of a balanced reform of police services that provides police officers and their families with economic and social security, including

- education and training that takes note of the crucial role of a police service in a democratic society
- a level of income that is adequate to the responsibility police officers assume and that enables them to sustain a decent living standard without falling into poverty.
- social protection and health care that takes into account the specific dangers of police work
- a framework for the information, consultation and participation of staff in decisions affecting the police service
- internal regulations that protect police officers from arbitrary decisions of superiors
- transparent promotion schemes that works on the basis of professional merit

It is a shame for the European Union that these basic conditions are not fulfilled in a large number of its member states. In addition there is an undeniable statistical correlation between the level of corruption and reported abuses of power on one side and the lack of adequate social and economic security of police officers on the other.

It is the view of the European Confederation of Police that these points need to be taken into account in the current process of enlargement to a larger extent than this is practiced currently.

A common area of security cannot be built exclusively on political declarations; it has to be built upon professional police services that are trusted by their respective populations. Economic and social security for police officers is not the only but a crucial precondition for this.

Information exchange for law enforcement purposes and other much needed tools for police and criminal justice cooperation will only be accepted by citizens if they can be sure that they meet the same high professional standards and levels of integrity throughout the European Union.

The European Confederation of Police therefore calls upon the EU Member States and upon the European Union institutions to act before more harm is done to the European project. It specifically calls upon the European Union,

- To establish common minimum standards regarding the economic and social security of police officers based upon the Council of Europe Recommendation for a European Code of Police Ethics.
- To actively monitor the implementation of these standards throughout its member states through an independent authority.
- Establish a social dialogue with representative organisations of police officers on the European level to address issues that affect the police services throughout the EU.
- If need be, to delay the enlargement of the Schengen Area in order to make sure that the preconditions for an efficient implementation of the Schengen acquis are met.