



## PRESS STATEMENT

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**Luxemburg, 22 October 2004**

### **Many Promises but Few Achievements**

### **Dutch EU Presidency presents "The Hague Programme for Freedom Security and Justice in the EU"**

### **EuroCOP meets in parallel to the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers in Luxembourg**

'We cannot but hope that the EU and its Member States will manage to keep their promises to further develop law enforcement cooperation in the EU this time, says Mr KIEFER, President of the European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, after a first glimpse on the newly drafted agenda for EU Justice and Home Affairs cooperation until 2008. 'This is certainly not the great leap forward you might expect from the challenges facing the EU in this area.

The draft programme does lay down a number of ambitious goals for future law enforcement cooperation in the EU, concrete proposals are however postponed. In most cases the programme calls on the EU Commission to come forward with proposals under 2005. Thus the programme refers to the 'realization of the great potential of Europol and Eurojust', it does however not specify how this should look like.

In the same manner the 'Hague Programme' does acknowledge the need for better and more timely implementation of EU decisions in the Member States, however it does not contain any specific proposal how this should be achieved. 'This does not hurt anybody, however it does not improve the situation either,' says Mr. KIEFER, who still has a vivid memory of the sad story of the ratification of the European Arrest Warrant.

Mr. KIEFER also strongly criticises the lack of public involvement and especially the relevant Trade Unions and Professional Organisations in the drafting process. 'We are merely presented with the results. The Justice and Home Affairs ministers deliberately neglect the potential input of their law enforcement professionals, say Mr. KIEFER. Apparently not much has changed in this respect since the 1999 Tampere Agenda, which was the first multi annual programme in the Justice and Home Affairs area.

This is especially sad to note given the poor results achieved regarding operational cooperation: The structures that were created in the EU to help operational law enforcement cooperation are in most cases too complicated and lack transparency. The result is that officers in most cases prefer informal channels of communication when investigating cross border cases.

Decisive progress for the fight against cross border crime is thus still out of sight, concludes Mr. KIEFER. An important progress could be made however, if Member States were finally able to agree to end the vacancy at the top of Europol. While Justice and Home Affairs ministers are discussing big plans for the future, the most important institution for police cooperation in the EU is left without a director for almost four months now.



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Mr KIEFER is in Luxembourg for a meeting of the EuroCOP Executive Committee on 25 and 26 October. Journalists interested in scheduling an interview are asked to contact

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Jan Velleman

The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP is the umbrella organisation of 25 national Police Unions and Staff Organisations from 18 European States. It represents the interest of over 600.000 police officers in Europe. [www.eurocop-police.org](http://www.eurocop-police.org) .