



PRESS STATEMENT

European Confederation of Police

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EU Fight against Terrorism must reach down to National Level

EuroCOP President Heinz KIEFER warns against overburdening the agenda of the British EU Presidency

Following yesterday's meeting of EU Justice and Home Affairs ministers in Brussels, Mr KIEFER has commented that the results point into the right direction. 'There is hope that some progress may be achieved on a number of important EU internal security dossiers.'

The extraordinary meeting of the EU Council for Justice and Home Affairs has resulted in the approval of an impressive catalogue of measures to be adopted this year. In total, EU Ministers have promised themselves to adopt 18 measures, three of them framework decisions until the end of December, piling up pressure on the 6 months term of the British EU Presidency.

Mr KIEFER has expressly welcomed the unusually clear references in the final declaration towards the fact that merely adopting decisions in Brussels is not enough. 'The key issues are implementation of adopted measures and actually making use of existing means provided on the European level. While cooperation of Member States with Europol has improved in recent years we are still miles away from an optimal state of affairs. In a number of Member States a cooperating culture across borders is still in its infancy.'

Against this background KIEFER warns not to overburden the British EU Presidency's agenda. 'It is perfectly understandable that politicians now want to demonstrate their ability to act. Measures like the large scale exchange of information between law enforcement authorities or the introduction of a European Evidence Warrant however will take time to draft and implement since they pose a range of difficult organisational and legal challenges to Member States.'

'Decisions have to be followed up by concrete actions', says Mr KIEFER. Not much will have been won if, by the end of the year, we have three new Directives to fight terrorism but still some Member States have not ratified changes to the Europol convention adopted in 2002 already.

The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, is the umbrella organisation of 27 national Police Unions and Staff Organisations from 19 European States. It represents the interests of over 600.000 police officers in Europe. www.eurocop-police.org