



PRESS STATEMENT

European Confederation of Police

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Police Officers are not Soldiers

EuroCOP calls upon Spanish Government to act on Electoral Promise to Demilitarise Guardia Civil

EuroCOP Executive Committee to meet in Madrid on 21 April 2006

'With its meeting in Madrid on 21 April 2006 the EuroCOP Executive Committee wants to support the demand for a demilitarisation of the Guardia Civil in Spain', says EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer ahead of the meeting.

The EuroCOP Committee, representing all EuroCOP Member Organisations, had already on 14 March 2006 urged the Spanish government to deliver upon its electoral promises to abolish military jurisdiction for the Guardia Civil and to adapt training as well as working conditions to those of the major civil police force in Spain, the Cuerpo Nacional de Policía. 'It is more than disappointing that the Spanish government has not acted since it came to power in March 2004. For the police officers in the Guardia Civil two years have been lost,' comments Heinz Kiefer.

Two weeks ago a reshuffle among ministers in the Spanish Government led amongst others to the resignation of Defense Minister José Bono who has been replaced by the former Interior Minister José Antonio Alonso. 'While this development gives reason to hope, we will continue to monitor closely whether the government now is going to live up to its promises,' comments Heinz Kiefer.

'It is time that the Kingdom of Spain bids farewell to a system that leaves a part of its police officers as 'second class citizens', who are denied important democratic rights.'

The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, is the umbrella organisation of 29 national Police Unions and Staff Organisations from 21 European States. It represents the interests of over 600.000 police officers in Europe. www.eurocop-police.org