



PRESS STATEMENT

European Confederation of Police

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Delaying the introduction of the SIS II would be Catastrophy

EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer calls for greater efforts to introduce the new generation of the Schengen Information System in time

In view of possible delays in the introduction of the new generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II) EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer warns of the negative consequences for the abolition of internal border controls towards the new EU Member States that would follow a delay.

Mr Kiefer urges EU Justice and Home Affairs ministers ahead of their meeting on 20 and 21 September to do their utmost to solve remaining technical difficulties.

‘The new EU Member States have prepared intensively since 2004 for the abolition of checks at the internal borders. It would be more than embarrassing if a delay would now occur because the EU has not done its homework in adapting the most important tool for exchanging law enforcement data between the Schengen Member States.

The current generation of the SIS is limited to a maximum of 15 Member States and cannot cope with more Member States at all. The Justice and Home Affairs Council has discussed the issue already at its last meeting on 1 and 2 June.

The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, is the umbrella organisation of 28 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