



PRESS STATEMENT

European Confederation of Police

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Luxembourg, 23 May 2007

ETUC Congress urges reinforced efforts to improve conditions in the Guardia Civil in Spain.

ETUC Congress in Sevilla concerned about disciplinary sanctions against Guardia Civil officers.

The ETUC Congress has today adopted a resolution to support Guardia Civil officers in their demand for collective rights and better working conditions.

The resolution was submitted by the European Confederation of Police.

‘The ETUC Congress has given its unanimous support to our call for progress on the reform of the Guardia Civil,’ EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer said after the adoption of the resolution in the plenum.

In the resolution the ETUC also voices its serious concern in view of the latest developments in disciplinary proceedings against Guardia Civil officers. The ETUC Congress expresses its solidarity with these Guardia Civil officers that stood up for their rights in a manifestation in Madrid on 20 January 2007.

Mr. Kiefer: ‘We acknowledge that the Government has presented two major reform bills that will significantly change the situation. But every day that their adoption is delayed unnecessarily prolongs the suffering of Guardia Civil officers. It is for this reason that we urge the government to conclude this process as swiftly as possible and to adopt a reasonable approach to the disciplinary proceedings under way.’

The full text of the resolution is attached.

The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, is the umbrella organisation of 30 national Police Unions and Staff Organisations from 23 European States. It represents the interests of over 500.000 police officers in Europe. www.eurocop-police.org

Resolution

To: ETUC Congress	From: European Confederation of Police
	Date: 16 May 2007
Reference: Professional Representation of Members of the Guardia Civil in Spain	CC:

The ETUC Congress is asked to adopt the following resolution at its meeting in Seville 21-24 May 2007:

The ETUC Congress:

- While acknowledging the adoption of two bills by the Government on 15 March 2007 to reform the Guardia Civil in Spain.
- Calls upon the political institutions in Spain not to unnecessarily prolong the legislative process.
- Voices its serious concern in view of the difficult situation of police officers in the Guardia Civil in Spain who are denied important collective rights and suffer from poor working conditions.
- Expresses its solidarity and support to officers in the Guardia Civil in Spain who suffer from undue restrictions of their collective and individual rights as workers.
- Expresses its solidarity with the Guardia Civil officers that stood up for their rights and called upon the government to deliver upon its electoral promises during a public manifestation in Madrid on 20 January 2007.
- Urges the Government in Spain to seriously reconsider the harsh disciplinary sanctions delivered against police officers for their participation in the event.
- Takes note of the continued efforts of the European Confederation of Police and the Trade Union Movement in Spain to promote reform of the Guardia Civil, with a view to ensure collective rights, to abolish military jurisdiction and to improve working conditions.
- Urges the Government in Spain to overcome the delay in implementing its electoral promise to reform the Guardia Civil, especially to grant Guardia Civil officers the Right to professional association and to abolish military jurisdiction over members of the Guardia Civil.