



## PRESS STATEMENT

## European Confederation of Police

Responsible: Jan Velleman

+352/43 49 61-22 +352/43 49 61-33

EURO COP – 617, rue de Neudorf – L-2220 Luxembourg

jv@eurocop-police.org  
mobile: +49 174 20 29 033

Luxembourg, 14 March 2008

### **EuroCOP welcomes Commission Proposal for an EU Entry/Exit registry**

In a first reaction to yesterday's proposals from the European Commission on management of the EU's external Borders, EuroCOP 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jan Schonkeren has welcomed the idea to establish an EU Entry/Exit monitoring system for third country nationals that enter the Schengen area with a visa.

It has to be possible to ascertain whether travellers leave the EU again before their visa expires. Within the Schengen area, people travel freely. This means that a person that enters the EU in Spain may leave it again from Poland. An EU wide register is the only possibility to make sure we keep control over the number of people in the Schengen area without a valid visa.

With regards to the proposals from the European Commission on the use of biometrical data Jan Schonkeren said that it was important not to deny border control authorities access to modern technologies. "Placing a stamp in a passport and filing cardboard is a pretty old-fashioned way of dealing with short term visa. If a fingerprint can be used to improve our abilities to identify a person with a specific document, or to identify a person without documents this is nothing that we should rule out from the start."

The question whether police authorities should have access to the data obtained in this way for general law enforcement purposes is currently under discussion within EuroCOP. "We are extremely conscious that this is a delicate issue. However we also have to make sure that the police make use of available technologies in order to fight crime effectively."

For interviews with Jan Schonkeren, please contact:

Jan Velleman +352/43496122  
+49/2029033 (mobile)

The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, is the umbrella organisation of 33 national Police Unions and Staff Organisations from 26 European States. It represents the interests of over 500.000 police officers in Europe. [www.eurocop-police.org](http://www.eurocop-police.org)