



## PRESS STATEMENT

## European Confederation of Police

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### **Ambitions have to be met by commitments**

### **EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer comments on report of the 'Future Group' on EU Home Affairs**

### **French proposal to create an EU 'tourist police' lacks substance**

The report of the 'Informal High Level Advisory Group on the Future of European Home Affairs Policy' published at the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers Council meeting earlier this week in Cannes, has been met with great interest by EuroCOP.

"We welcome the fact that the Council has come forward with this outlook on the future of EU Home Affairs policy at an early stage. We now look forward to an open dialogue with the EU institutions on a follow up to the Hague Programme after 2010," commented Mr Kiefer.

While ideas to further harmonise police standards in the European Union meet the support of EuroCOP, some ideas in the paper, such as the proposed integration of the European Gendarmerie Force' into the EU Acquis are met with scepticism among police trade unions and staff organisations in Europe. "We fear that this will blur the clear distinction between military and police tasks in Europe," comments Heinz Kiefer.

With regards to the French proposal to intensify the presence of police officers from various countries in tourist centres, Mr Kiefer's comment is, that this idea so far clearly lacks substance. "This would only result in an additional drain on resources at the national level. No Member State has police officers available to follow tourists on baby-sitting missions."

Member States should therefore be extremely cautious when the increase provisions for cross border support, as recently created by the Prüm Treaty. Mr. Kiefer: "Before adopting new proposals Member States should have a serious look at the resource side of their decisions."

The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, is the umbrella organisation of 34 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)