



PRESS STATEMENT

European Confederation of Police

Responsible: Jan Velleman

☎ +352/43 49 61-22 📠 +352/43 49 61-33

jv@eurocop-police.org

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

mobile: +49 174 20 29 033

Luxembourg, 29 October 2008

Social Europe must not be buried

EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer: Proposal for a revision of the EU Working time directive is irresponsible

'We urge the European Parliament to take its responsibility to maintain the social character of the European Union', says EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer ahead of the important decision in the European Parliament's employment and social affairs committee on the draft for a revision of the EU Working Time directive on 4 November.

The proposal that is now on the table has emerged from the Council of EU Ministers for Employment in June. If approved, it will lead to a significant regression in the level of protection of the health and safety of workers in the EU.

Main features of the proposal are:

- Keeping in place the individual 'opt-out', whereby employers can agree with individual workers not to apply maximum working hours;
- Defining so-called inactive parts of on-call duty as not being working time, even when the worker has to be available in the workplace;
- Extending the reference period for counting the average maximum working week of 48 hours from four to 12 months, without any proper safeguard provisions.

Following the decision in the committee, the European Parliament is expected to finally decide on the proposal at its next plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 17 December.

Mr. Kiefer: 'We are not prepared to accept these irresponsible proposals. They are an attempt to bury the social values of the European Union. The EU Parliament should seize this chance to become the guardian of Social Europe, not the gravedigger.'

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