

EUROCOP POLITICAL REPORT

Our EU Lobbying achievements

2012-2015



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Introduction

Dear EuroCOP members,

My term as President has flown by and I would hereby like to use this occasion to take stock of the progress EuroCOP has made over the past years.

This report will provide you with an overview of our activities advocating for you, Europe’s police officers, at the EU level between 2012 and 2015. And most importantly, it will highlight the achievements we have made.

Whereas our initial lobbying activities mainly focussed on raising awareness about the impact of police budgets on the working conditions of police officers, we have increasingly entering into more complicated debates centred around the future of European security, and the health and safety of workers.

As you all know, the security challenges that we are facing are no longer easy to define or to combat and are rapidly changing. This has an impact on the duties of police officers and will as such continue to influence EuroCOP’s lobbying activities in Brussels.

When reviewing all our activities and the achievements that we have made over the past years, I am very proud of how far EuroCOP has come in such a short time span! I would therefore like to thank all members for their support and contributions. Without the constant input from members, we would not have been able to achieve this.

I hope you will enjoy reading this report and that you feel energized to continue to support and contribute to our efforts to bring the cause of European police officers to the attention of European policymakers.

Best wishes,

Anna Nellberg-Dennis

President



Building Influence in the EU

Why are we in Brussels again?

As you are well aware, over the past few of years, EuroCOP has intensified the advocacy and lobbying activities at the European Union (EU) institutions in Brussels. We get often asked, both by policymakers as well as EuroCOP members, why are police officers active in Brussels? As discussed at various EuroCOP Committee Meetings, a vast amount of security and employment related policy measures are decided at the European level. Once agreed by the EU institutions, these measures will be implemented by the national governments of the 28 EU Member States. As such EuroCOP decided a few years ago to seize the opportunity contribute its voice to the political process, and has since been closely monitoring what is happening in Brussels and assessing how policies will impact our national police officers on the ground.

Policymaking in the EU can appear complex and impenetrable to the uninitiated, involving a wide variety of institutional players and stakeholders. In fact each stage of the decision-making process is an opportunity for EuroCOP to build relationships, educate policymakers, and influence the policymaking process, and ensure police officers’ interests are supported and improved.

There are three key institutional actors involved: the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council. Proposals for new EU legislation come from the European Commission, the executive body of the EU. These proposals are debated, amended...And eventually agreed in the Council and the European Parliament. The Council represents the governments of the 28 EU Member States and the European Parliament is made up of 751 directly elected Members representing the EU's 500 million citizens.

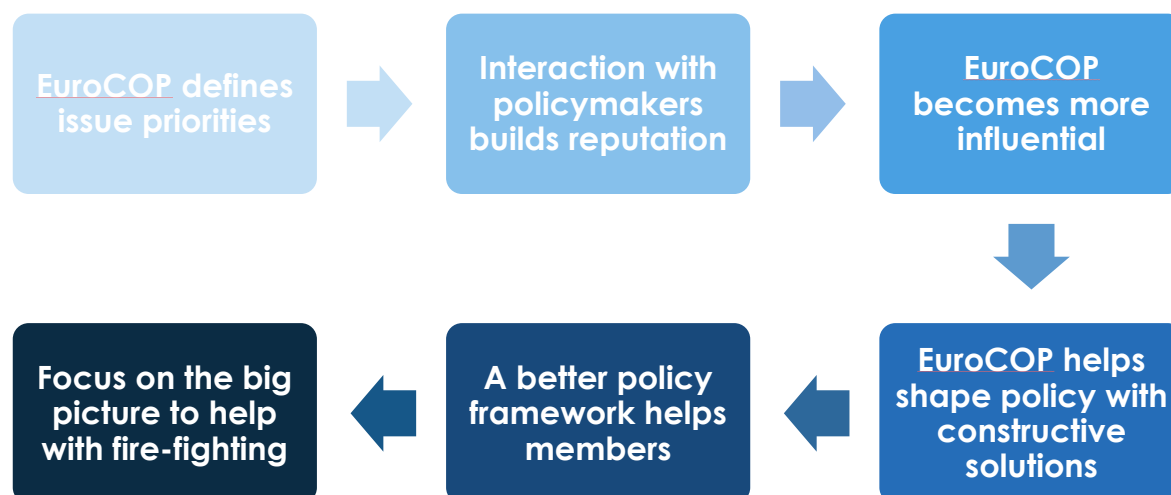
It is EuroCOP’s task to ensure these policymakers are well informed about the challenges facing European police, from austerity measures to union rights, and highlight how EU policy proposals are helping or hindering our officers.

We do not only need to know how and when to influence the policy debate, we also need to ensure our messages are heard.

In the following chapters you will find a detailed assessment of how EuroCOP has been building influence in Brussels.

How do we assess how we built influence?

In order to assess how we have been building influence in Brussels, we will use the diagram that we shared at each Committee Meeting to remind you of the stages of influence building in the EU institutions.



1. Defining Our Issue Priorities

Identifying issue priorities is one of the most important steps of any advocacy strategy. In order to make our voice heard in Brussels and convince policymakers of our message, we first needed to define our own issue priorities. This also plays a key role in determining whether, and at what points these issues, as well as any other key issues, can be influenced at the European Union institutions, or whether other audiences (national ministries, police unions, staff associations and federations) would be more effective. Moreover, in order to prepare any meaningful communication materials, such as position papers, we need to be clear about our priorities and corresponding key messages.

During the past few years we have worked hard to define our issues priorities and these will continue to be further defined. Working together with FleishmanHillard, we held our first messaging session in May 2013, to clarify our top level issue priorities and define our messages – or what we wanted to say about each issue. (See Annex)

EuroCOP continues to further define its priorities and, in order to be most valuable, our key messages require solid background information, data and practical examples. For this purpose, we have organized various EuroCOP member surveys in order to understand more about the problems police officers are facing every day in their jobs.

Thanks to the input from members, we were able to further categorize and prioritize our issues. The results of the 2014 Members’ survey highlighted that the challenges that police officers are facing go beyond austerity. There was resounding agreement across the EuroCOP members about two areas of serious concern in particular:



1) Health and safety

2) Police social rights

EuroCOP has taken the input from members very seriously and has shared these messages with EU policymakers, supported by qualitative and quantitative position papers. Over the past few years, we developed the following materials:

- EuroCOP position papers on Health and Safety
- EuroCOP position paper on Social Rights for the Police
- EuroCOP position paper on Data Retention
- EuroCOP consultation response on the post-Stockholm programme
- EuroCOP consultation response on new European Agenda on Security
- EuroCOP Open Letter to European policymakers

When looking at the grid below with our defined priorities, one will notice that more than 75% of these issues have been successfully addressed over the past few years. Either via position papers, parliamentary questions, consultation responses or in outreach meetings with policymakers, EuroCOP managed to raise awareness about these topics in the relevant policy context. Our achievements will be further discussed in the next chapters.

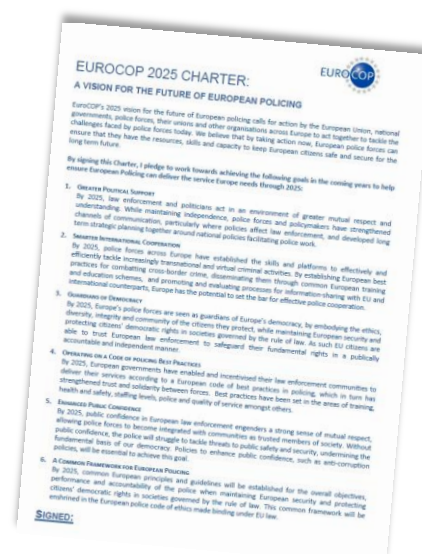
Combatting Counter Terrorism & Extremism	Fighting Organised Crime	Data Retention	Football Violence
Impact of Austerity	Working Time	Health & Safety	Pension Reform
Cyber-crime	Violence against the Police	Police Cooperation	Police Training
Schengen Border Code	EU Internal Security Strategy	Fighting Corruption	Police Social Rights

Although our defined priorities mostly relate to the challenges that police officers face in Europe, we also have a positive vision for the future of European policing. The EuroCOP 2025 Charter, compiled during the Prague Committee’s Workshop session in 2013, represents our positive goals for the future for Europe’s police forces. (See Annex)

The EuroCOP 2025 Charter moves us away from problems with European policing’s status quo. Instead, it presents our optimistic view of what we think can be achieved in European policing; what we believe Europe’s police officers need and deserve in order to be the best at their jobs; and how policymakers can help EuroCOP achieve these goals.

In the Charter we state for instance that, by 2025:

- ❖ *Law enforcement and politicians act in an environment of greater mutual respect and understanding;*
- ❖ *Police forces across Europe have established the skills and platforms to effectively and efficiently tackle increasingly transnational and virtual criminal activities;*
- ❖ *European governments have enabled and incentivised their law enforcement communities to deliver their services according to a European code of best practices in policing.*



The EuroCOP 2025 Charter is mainly intended to be an external facing document that we can encourage the policymakers we meet to sign up to.

Whilst we have already achieved a lot in the past few years, it is not time to sit and rest. As you all know, we still continue to face significant challenges and these should be addressed. EuroCOP is therefore committed to continue to further define its priorities and, in order to have an impact on these issues, we will work on gathering more insights on, and solutions to, the problems that we are facing.

With a broad European membership to draw from, EuroCOP has an opportunity to gather and disseminate quantitative data and more qualitative experiences from police officers across the continent, providing statistical evidence and operational insights that other organisations may be unable or unwilling to share.

2. Our Engagement With Policymakers

With our priorities and key messages defined, supported by communication materials, EuroCOP was ready to engage with EU policymakers in Brussels. Since 2013, we have held a series of meeting programs in Brussels with a view to raising EuroCOP's profile, informing policymakers about EuroCOP's key issues, gathering political insights and building relationships.

With 751 Members of the European Parliament (+ staff), hundreds of Commission officials and 28 Member States permanent representations in Brussels, organizing effective outreach in Brussels can be a challenge. Fortunately, EuroCOP has been effectively and efficiently supported by FleishmanHillard. FleishmanHillard is a public affairs agency, specialized in EU policy and advocacy, which is already present in Brussels for 25 years. FleishmanHillard helped us define who to meet and took care of the preparatory and logistical support to make most of these meetings a success. EuroCOP was always prepared for each meeting with an agenda, background briefings on the priorities of those EU representatives that we were meeting, targeted messages specific to each policymaker and clear requests for action from each meeting.



During our Committee Meetings, and via our newsletters, we have continuously kept you informed about the outcomes of our meeting programs. However, in order to provide you with a comprehensive overview of what we have done and, most importantly, what we have achieved since 2012, this chapter provides summaries of the five meeting programs and other interactions we have had with policymakers. Moreover, in the annex you will find some examples of the briefing packs and summary reports from those meetings as prepared by FleishmanHillard.

Brussels meeting program June 2013

In June 2013, EuroCOP met with three Members of the **European Parliament** (MEPs):

- Wim Van de Camp (Christian Democrats, Netherlands);
- Bendt Bendtsen MEP (Christian Democrats, Denmark);
- Cecilia Wikström (Liberals, Sweden)

The meetings with these MEPs were successful because they provided EuroCOP with interesting insights on the political dynamics in the European Parliament as well as outreach recommendations for the future.



From the **Commission**, we met with the Head of Home Affairs Commissioner Malmström's cabinet and the police cooperation unit of the European Commission, in their Directorate General for Home Affairs. The Commission asked EuroCOP to share suggestions on what to consider as a follow-up to the Stockholm Programme (a roadmap for European Union (EU) work in the area of justice, freedom and security for the period 2010-14.) as well as arguments against Member States who think that EU cooperation just makes things more difficult. They also asked for more facts and figures from EuroCOP to help support initiatives to improve and develop police cooperation.

Regarding **Member State** outreach, we met with attachés of two EU Member States: Lithuania and Sweden. The Swedish attaché very much welcomed EuroCOP's presence in Brussels and strongly encouraged EuroCOP to raise its profile in the security debate.

Brussels meeting program February 2014

In February 2014, EuroCOP met with attachés of five EU **Member States**:

- Germany
- Belgium
- Slovakia
- Sweden
- Greece

The attachés were interested in hearing from EuroCOP and shared EuroCOP's position on key issues in the different Member States with their counterparts in the Ministries of Interior. As such, these meetings helped in getting not only support on EuroCOP's issues in Brussels but also at the national, Member State, level. One of the most interesting outcomes was the invitation by the Greek attaché, as Greece held the rotating EU Council Presidency at that time, to brief the Law Enforcement Working Party in the Council on issues impacting our Members and their ability to keep Europe safe.

We also had a follow up meeting with the police cooperation unit of the **European Commission**, DG Home Affairs. The policy officer appreciated EuroCOP's input into the post-Stockholm process.

Meeting with DG Employment in Luxembourg

In March 2014, we also met with the legal team of DG Employment and Social Affairs in Luxembourg to discuss health and safety issues. DG Employment focuses on promoting better working conditions through common minimum standards in the workplace, by supporting and developing social dialogue at European level, by modernising labour relations, and by assisting EU workers. The legal team confirmed that the EU Framework Directive on safety and health of workers does apply to the police. They also recommended EuroCOP to file legal complaints when the EU Directives are not, or not correctly, implemented by the Member States.

Law Enforcement Working Party meeting

A real highlight for us was our June 2014 briefing of the Council Law Enforcement Working Party, an expert body which works to recommend new legislation in the law enforcement sphere. EuroCOP used this opportunity to talk about the health and safety, police social rights and internal security challenges facing European police forces today, noting the differences between Member States. This opportunity to showcase the collective voice of European Police Officers was remarkable and testimony to the successful profile-raising efforts that EuroCOP has made.

Brussels meeting program November 2014

The second half of 2014 was a tumultuous period for politics in Brussels. The European Union institutions went through considerable upheaval with the European Parliament elections and subsequent selection of a new Commission. These changes had an impact on how EuroCOP advocates for its interests in Brussels. With both a new European Parliament and Commission in place, EuroCOP had to consider the new political agendas and dynamics at play. The new dynamics also created new opportunities to build relationships with the people that decide the future direction of European policing.

In November, EuroCOP's Executive Committee took the opportunity to strengthen existing connections and build new relationships with the EU policymakers in Brussels. EuroCOP met with various Members of the European Parliament to address EuroCOP's concerns related to the health and safety of police and social rights for the police. EuroCOP met with:



- Martina Dlabajová (Liberals, Czech Republic)
- Jan Keller (Socialists & Democrats, Czech Republic)
- Agnes Jongerius (Socialists & Democrats, Netherlands)
- Marita Ulvskog (Socialists & Democrats, Sweden)
- Jutta Steinruck (Socialists & Democrats, Germany)

The MEPs were very interested in the issues addressed by EuroCOP and were keen to receive further information and practical examples. They very much appreciated EuroCOP's position papers and input. Some MEPs also expressed their interest in raising the profile of the issues by asking a parliamentary question to the Commissioner responsible for Employment and Social Affairs, Ms Marianne Thyssen.

These meetings with MEPs resulted in an explicit reference by MEP Agnes Jongerius to the working conditions of police officers in a European Parliament plenary debate on 25 November. EuroCOP clearly found a new ally in advocating for EuroCOP's concerns in the European Parliament.

EuroCOP's Executive Committee also met with members of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE):



- Birgit Sippel (Socialists & Democrats, Germany)
- Louis Michel (Liberals, Belgium)
- Cecilia Wikström (Liberals, Sweden)
- Monika Flašíková Beňová (Socialists & Democrats, Slovakia)
- Tomáš Zdechovský (Christian Democrats, Czech Republic)

In view of the Commission's preparations on the new Internal Security Strategy at the time, it was interesting to brief the MEPs on the new challenges for police officers in the face of the changing security environment in Europe. The MEPs understood that the changing security threats in Europe require European police officers to play increasingly diverse roles and agreed that these challenges need to be taken into account in the new strategy.

Brussels meeting program February 2015

In the aftermath of the French terrorist attacks early 2015, EuroCOP sent an Open Letter to European policymakers to raise awareness of the challenges that Europe's police officers face when tackling these new security challenges (more information on this letter can be found in the next chapter).

In February, EuroCOP met with EU policymakers in Brussels to introduce EuroCOP and present the key policy positions on the EU Internal Security Strategy (or European Agenda on Security as it is now called) and the health and safety of police. In only two days, Anna and Executive Committee member Angels met with representatives from the European Commission, representatives from Luxembourg and Latvia who hold the 2015 EU Presidencies, a Spanish Member of the European Parliament and four parliamentary political advisors.

EuroCOP met with several political advisors of political groups in the **European Parliament**. The political advisors shared more information on the political group positions and activities and areas of interest of the relevant Members of the European Parliament. The political advisor from the Christian Democrats was very interested in receiving EuroCOP's position paper on data retention and said that the Christian Democrats group in the Parliament (the European People's Party (EPP)) EPP would support EuroCOP's position. She also invited EuroCOP to speak at an anti-terrorism hearing in April 2015. The political advisor from the Liberals was keen to hear more from us about the experiences with the Working Time Directive.

EuroCOP met with Ms Hamalainen from the **European Commission** who was in charge of preparing the new European Agenda on Security and has many years of previous experience with Europol. She was extremely open to constructive dialogue with police representatives and was very grateful for EuroCOP's contribution to the Commission Public Consultation on the new European Agenda on Security. EuroCOP was one of only a handful of organizations that were invited for follow up meetings with the Commission. The Commission's recognition of EuroCOP's issues is an important step in the right direction as the Commission is the institution that drafts EU legislation.



"I could have exchanged with EuroCOP for hours! [...] I can assure you that the [Luxembourg] presidency will do its best to put police officer's interests in the foreground and we will evaluate the possibility to involve EuroCOP into our plans"

Jean-Louis Bordet, Home Affairs Counsellor for the Luxembourg Permanent Representation to the EU

EuroCOP also met with Jean-Louis Bordet, Home Affairs Counsellor for the Luxembourg Permanent Representation to the EU. Luxembourg holds the Council Presidency in the second half of 2015. When holding the Council Presidency, Member States have the power to set the agenda. Mr Bordet highlighted the need for the Recommendations of the European Police Chief's convention to be better highlighted at the Council's Standing Committee on Internal Security "COSI". EuroCOP had a very successful meeting with Mr Bordet.

European Parliament hearing April 2015

As a result of EuroCOP's constructive engagement with EU policymakers, EuroCOP was invited to speak as a panellist in a European Parliament hearing on "The fight against terrorism and the challenges for EU internal security" in April 2015. The hearing was organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE): the committee for EuroCOP to engage with.

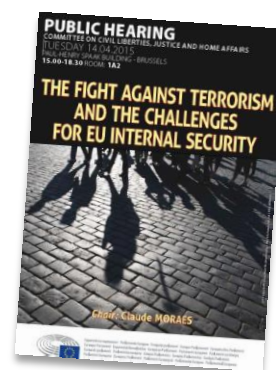
In front of Members of the European Parliament, European Commission officials and various anti-terrorism experts, EuroCOP's President Anna Nellberg-Dennis emphasized, from a police officer's perspective, what Europe's law enforcement officers need most in the fight against terrorism:

1. Provision of adequate resources, training and equipment
2. Allocation of adequate financial resource
3. Enhancement of cross-border police cooperation

Other contributions during the hearing came from Mr Rob Wainwright (Director of Europol), Ms Dolgor Solongo (from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), Mr Frédéric Van Leeuw (Federal prosecutor in Belgium) and various researchers.

Being invited as one of the panellist in such a high-level meeting is a major achievement for EuroCOP which demonstrates the importance EuroCOP's voice in Brussels and the need for continued constructive engagement.

Worth highlighting is also that, during the June 2015 meeting program, several MEPs noted that they remembered the speech and strong messages from EuroCOP at the hearing in April and that they would appreciate to hear more from EuroCOP.



Brussels meeting program June 2015

The June 2015 meeting program was fully packed with 15 meetings with different policymakers from different EU institutions. The main topics that we addressed during these meetings were the health and safety of police officers and the EU Agenda on Security.

Over the course of four days, EuroCOP met with Members of the **European Parliament** from nine Member States (Spain, Portugal, UK, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium), as well as representatives from the **European Commission** and agencies such as **EU-LISA** (European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice) and the office of the **EU Counter-Terrorism coordinator**.

In the meetings with MEP Javier Lopez (Socialists & Democrats, Spain) and Claude Rolin (Christian Democrats, Belgium), the Executive Committee had in-depth discussions about the working conditions of police officers and the concerns about the implementation of the existing EU legislation in certain EU Member States. The MEPs were very interested in the issues addressed by EuroCOP and were keen to receive further information, EU-wide statistics and practical examples. Both MEPs also asked EuroCOP to provide concrete input to reports that are currently being discussed in the European Parliament on the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014 – 2020 (2015/2107). You will find more information about this in the next chapter where we describe how EuroCOP has become more influential.

EuroCOP also met with 9 different Members of the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), of all different nationalities and from a range of political groups. In these meetings, the Executive Committee discussed the new European Agenda on Security and the new challenges for police officers in the face of the changing security environment in Europe (focussing on cyber security, organized crime, migration and terrorism).

- MEP Ana Gomes (Socialists & Democrats, Portugal) expressed her concerns about the lack of appropriate resources for the police and said that she would be happy to support EuroCOP’s Portuguese members. She also offered EuroCOP the opportunity to provide suggestions for amendments to a European Parliament report on the prevention of radicalization.
- Similarly, MEP Monika Hohlmeier (Christian Democrats, Germany) expressed her concerns about the lack of appropriate resources for the police and said that she would be happy to support EuroCOP’s Portuguese members.
- MEP Kinga Gal (Christian Democrats, Hungary) the MEP leading the negotiations on the CEPOL regulation, noted that there should be additional funding for training but that it has not been agreed for this year’s proposal. Following the suggestions by EuroCOP on the need for training of local police officers, Ms Gal responded very positively and said she would be happy to receive a proposal from EuroCOP for a pilot project on such a training program. Like Ms Gomes and Ms Hohlmeier, she offered EuroCOP the opportunity to provide suggestions for amendments to a European Parliament report on the prevention of radicalization (you will find more information about this in the next chapter).

EuroCOP also had the honour to share the first copy of the data retention position paper with MEP Timothy Kirkhope (Conservatives, UK). Mr Kirkhope is the rapporteur for the report on Passenger Name Records (part of the European Anti-terrorist legislation) and is a strong proponent of establishing new data retention rules for security purposes. Mr Kirkhope agrees with EuroCOP that it is critical that authorities, including the police, have access to information in order to combat serious crimes. He suggested to organize a hearing on data retention in September and invited EuroCOP to speak during this hearing and to share some practical examples that show the importance of having clear rules on data retention in the EU.



What's next?

The success curve of EuroCOP's Brussels meetings is evident in subsequent requests for contributions to the EU policymaking process. We have been invited to speak at hearings, organize events, asked to provide input for European Parliament draft reports on issues such as the prevention of radicalization as well as suggestions on improving working conditions in the EU for police officers. EuroCOP has also been asked to draft a proposal for a pilot project on training programs for local police. You will find more details about these exciting developments in the next chapter.

In order to keep building on EuroCOP's profile, it is important to continue engagement with policymakers. They need to be constantly fed with new information in order to stay interested and triggered to take further actions. Moreover, the political agenda continues to evolve which brings many interesting opportunities for EuroCOP to feed into the policymaking process.

3. How We Are Shaping Policy

After providing an overview of the preparatory phase (defining priorities) and the activity phase (interaction with policymakers), it is now time to show how we have become more influential. In the previous chapters we already referred to some activities where we were clearly contributing to shaping policy. This chapter will further elaborate on EuroCOP's influence-seeking activities and highlight some concrete results showing how we have contributed to shaping policy. In order to structure the chapter, a distinction is made between policy influence and media influence but these two are obviously very much interlinked.

EU policy influence

Post-Stockholm Programme

Based on the outcome of the Prague workshop, EuroCOP put together a detailed position paper on the follow up to the Stockholm programme. The paper was submitted as a contribution to the official EU public consultation on the revision of their justice and home affairs policy and outlined some key points for EuroCOP, namely:

- It called on the EU to make significant efforts to strengthen cooperation, and build trust and solidarity between European police forces;
- It stated that the EU should ensure the necessary tools and resources are available to police an area with open borders such as sufficient policing capacity, zero corruption, and adequate financial support;
- It advocated for an EU-level discussion on police budgets, which have reached critically low levels during the recent economic recession, threatening police safety, capacity to deliver a high-level service and the overall security of the Union;
- It encouraged the EU to advocate for police rights to ensure they are protected and operating within a respected environment;
- It welcomed the development of European training schemes and exchange programmes, and calls for these to be extended to officers across all ranks. 1/3 of all European police officers should receive some form of European training by 2020 and English courses should be a standard part of the law enforcement training curriculum.

The consultation response served as a useful tool in EuroCOP's Executive Committee advocacy meetings with EU policymakers. Besides the Brussels-focus, Executive Committee member Roger Mercatoris also represented the voice of European Policing on European security topics at European Commission-sponsored events in Rome and Berlin. The results of discussions fed into the EU's new JHA policy agenda. The outreach to policymakers was also supported by targeted media outreach, which is further described in the 'media influence' section of this chapter.

The new EU Justice and Home Affairs policy was presented on 11 March 2014. Overall, it focuses on the implementation of existing legislation and enhancing practical cooperation, rather than setting out a completely new agenda. A number of key points in relation to law enforcement, as outlined in EuroCOP's position paper were noted by policymakers:

- Operational coordination between Member States is essential
- The use of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) should increase, supported by EU funds
- Divergent national rules on investigative techniques should be examined
- Information exchange between authorities should be stepped up, with Europol acting as a hub
- EU level training of law enforcement should be further developed – for officers from all ranks
- Corruption should be tackled through measures identified in the first EU anti-corruption report

This was one of the first key policy files where EuroCOP actively contributed to the discussions and informed policymakers about the position of police officers in Europe. In addition to the specific points that were reflected in the Commission's new EU Justice and Home Affairs policy document, the active engagement was also an important starting point for EuroCOP for further engagement activities as discussed further in this chapter.

European Agenda on Security

Shortly after the successful impact EuroCOP made regarding the new EU Justice and Home Affairs policy document, EuroCOP identified a new opportunity to contribute to shape policy: the new EU Internal Security Strategy for 2015-2020 (or European Agenda on Security as it is now called).

In July 2014, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the new strategy which offered EuroCOP again the opportunity to share its written input on the challenges that European police officers face, highlighting the impact austerity measures, and providing concrete recommendations for actions that would have a positive impact on security.

With the consultation response, EuroCOP went to Brussels in November 2014 and again in February 2015 in order to meet with policymakers and to inform them about our position. As discussed in the previous chapter, these meetings were very successful and policymakers were very keen to receive our input.

On 28 April, First Vice-President Timmermans and Home Affairs Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos presented the new European Agenda on Security. Of particular interest, the Commission document reflects many of the points made by EuroCOP, for instance:

- It highlights that the effectiveness of cooperation tools relies on law enforcement officers in Member States knowing how to use them.
- It states that training is essential to allow authorities on the ground to exploit the tools in an operational situation.
- The Commission further states that CEPOL should adapt its yearly training programs to the priorities set out in this Agenda and national police academies should also use EU funding to make cross-border cooperation an integral part of their own training and practical exercises.
- The Commission further states that the recently created Internal Security Fund provides a responsive and flexible tool to address the most crucial challenges up to 2020. Priority uses of the fund should include updating national sections of the Schengen Information System, implementing the Prüm framework and setting up Single Points of Contact. The Fund should also be used to strengthen cross-border operational cooperation under the EU Policy Cycle for serious and organized crime, and to develop 'exit strategies' for radicalized persons with the help of best practices exchanged in the Radicalization Awareness Network.

In response to the publication of the new European Agenda on Security, the European Parliament worked on a resolution, outlining the Parliament's position on the new European Agenda on Security. The Parliament's resolution, which was adopted on 9 July, largely corresponds to EuroCOP's key messages that we have been sharing with policymakers over the past year:

- On the **need for appropriate resources**, the Parliament stresses the need to ensure adequate resources for national police officers and judicial officials whose budgets have been slashed in some Member States.
- On the need to enhance the **cross-border exchange of information**, the Parliament welcomes the Commission's announced assessment of the necessity and potential added value of a European Police Record Index System (EPRIS) to facilitate cross-border access to information held in national police records.


- On the importance of **training for police**, MEPs also emphasize in the resolution the pivotal importance of supporting actions relating to training, research and innovation and the important work of the European Police College (CEPOL) in this field. The Parliament further considers that training and exchange programmes for law enforcement officials are of significant importance for further fostering a European law enforcement culture and good practices in that field. It believes that more investment is necessary in research and innovation relating to security, including in the prevention field.
- On the need for clear rules on **data retention for security purposes**, the Parliament also calls, despite the sensitivities in the Parliament regarding data retention, upon the Commission to fully assess the impact of the Court’s judgement on the Data Retention Directive on any instrument involving the retention of data for law enforcement purposes. It also notes that cybercrime requires a new approach to law enforcement and judicial cooperation in the digital age.

Because of our constructive input to the consultation, supported by advocacy efforts in 2014/2015, EuroCOP successfully impacted the content of European Commission’s new European Agenda on Security as well as the Parliament’s resolution on the Europe’s new security agenda.

Health and Safety

In addition to the security related topics, another key area of advocacy activity for EuroCOP is the EU’s health and safety policy of workers. As health and safety is an issue that is mostly being dealt with the national, Member States, level, advocacy on these matters has sometimes been challenging. EuroCOP has nevertheless managed to get many relevant policymakers active on EuroCOP’s issues of concern.

For example, following the November 2014 meeting program, MEP Agnes Jongerius made an explicit reference to the working conditions of police officers in a European Parliament plenary debate on 25 November. She asked if Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Marianne Thyssen intends to take concrete steps to give guarantees to police officers.




“Will the Commission come with concrete measures to make sure that police officers and military personnel, who are here to protect EU citizens, will have the same guarantees of safe working conditions?”

MEP Agnes Jongerius (Socialists & Democrats, The Netherlands) in a plenary debate in November 2014

The MEP also sent a letter to Commissioner Thyssen about this topic and approached EuroCOP for further information and concrete examples.

Another concrete example of how EuroCOP is contributing to shaping EU policy on working conditions for police, are the recent contributions to the European Parliament discussions on the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020. During the June 2015 meeting program, EuroCOP met with Spanish MEP Javier Lopez and Belgian MEP Claude Rolin to discuss health and safety issues. As a result of the positive meetings, both MEPs asked EuroCOP to provide concrete input to reports that are currently being discussed in the European Parliament on the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014 – 2020 (2015/2107). EuroCOP provided the MEPs with suggestions on amendments which we hope will be adopted by the Employment and Social Affairs committee. The Committee is expected to vote on the amendments that have been tabled at its meeting on 23 September. The final plenary vote is currently foreseen during the October Strasbourg session.



“All employees have a right to the highest level of protection regarding health and safety in the workplace regardless of the size of the employer, the underlying contract or the Member State of employment; this includes employees from public services, such as the police”

MEP Claude Rolin (Christian Democrats, Belgium) in amendments tabled to a Parliament report in July 2015 on the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020

MEP Rolin also wrote an article about the meeting with EuroCOP and the importance of protecting the police and held a speech in the European Parliament on the reduced trade union rights of police officers in some EU countries.

EuroCOP, as well as individual EuroCOP members, also contributed to the Commission’s consultation on the review of the Working Time Directive. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, the Commission may decide to take further actions. This would be an interesting process that would bring new opportunities for EuroCOP to contribute to shaping policy in the area of health and safety of workers.

Because of our continued engagement with policymakers on these topics, EuroCOP is raising awareness among policymakers about the working conditions of police officers and the differences that exist in the Member States. Thereby EuroCOP is gradually getting more and more support and is exploring further opportunities to contribute to the discussions and policymaking process.

Other

In addition to the big policies files that EuroCOP contributed to, we have also become more influential via other activities, such as contributing to a non-legislative Parliament report on the prevention of radicalization, speaking at hearings and high level meetings, via parliamentary questions etc.

Following the June 2015 meeting program, EuroCOP was asked by three MEPs from different political groups to provide input for a non-legislative parliament report on the prevention of radicalization. As agreed with the three MEPs, EuroCOP shared its contributions to the report and various amendments were submitted that reflect EuroCOP’s key messages. Ms Gal (Christian Democrats, Hungary) tabled for instance an amendment where the Parliament stresses the importance of fostering and strengthening cross-border cooperation among law enforcement authorities. It also highlights the crucial importance of providing adequate resources and training to police forces working on the ground. The Committee vote on the amendments is currently expected to take place in October and will be followed by a plenary vote in November.



“Highlights the crucial importance of providing adequate resources and training to police officers working on the ground”

MEP Kinga Gal (Christian Democrats, Hungary) in amendments tabled to a Parliament report in July 2015 on the prevention of radicalization

Following a meeting with MEP Juan Fernando López Aguilar (Socialists & Democrats, Spain) in February 2015, the MEP asked EuroCOP to draft a suggested parliamentary question for a written answer from Home Affairs Commissioner Avramopoulos. The MEP was particularly intrigued by EuroCOP’s examples on how some European police officers find themselves too ill-equipped to carry out their duties given current budget cuts and working conditions. Contributing to parliamentary questions is an excellent opportunity for EuroCOP to raise awareness about certain issues of concern and to get a written reply from a Commissioner. In response to the question from MEP López Aguilar, Commissioner Avramopoulos emphasized for instance that the Commission is well aware of the difficulties that police officers in the EU may face in their daily work and “is equally aware of, and greatly appreciates, the importance of their mission in order to guarantee an EU Area of Freedom, Security and Justice”.

Another exciting project for EuroCOP will be the preparation of a proposal for a pilot project on training for local police officers. Following suggestions by EuroCOP in the meeting with MEP Kinga Gal (Christian Democrats, Hungary) in June 2015, Ms Gal responded very positively and said she would be happy to receive a proposal from EuroCOP for a pilot project on a program to provide training for police officers on the street on their role in the bigger EU picture.

Other milestones discussed in the previous chapter include the invitation for EuroCOP to speak at the Law Enforcement Working party in June 2014 and the European Parliament hearing in April 2015. These invitations

show that policymakers in Brussels increasingly become aware of EuroCOP’s presence and its valuable contributions to policy discussions. Interestingly, British MEP Timothy Kirkhope also expressed during the June 2015 meeting program that he intends to invite EuroCOP to speak at a special hearing on data retention. Similarly, Portuguese MEP Ana Gomes said that she would welcome a proposal from EuroCOP to organize an event in the European Parliament.

National level influence

In addition to all the activities at a European level, EuroCOP has also actively supported members at the national level. The benefits of EuroCOP’s EU activities for members will be further discussed in the next chapter but, when assessing how we have built influence and contributed to shaping policy, there are three national key events worth mentioning in this chapter as they are often referred to in our advocacy meetings with EU policymakers.

In **Portugal**, the President of our member organization APG/GNR was suspended from his professional duties for 25 days after making statements to the media in his capacity as a trade unionist. EuroCOP was able to raise its concerns about these astounding restrictions to freedom of speech with the office of the Portuguese Minister of the interior and boost awareness of the case at the APG/GNR Press Conference.

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) in **Ireland** was not allowed to enjoy full trade union rights, including the right to join an umbrella organisation. In June 2012, EuroCOP lodged a legal complaint against Ireland with the European Committee of Social Rights. The Committee concluded in December 2013 that the complaint was admissible under Articles 5 and 6 of the European Social Charter (the Charter). The Committee also found that Irish legislation failed *“to ensure the sufficient access of police representative associations into pay agreement discussions,”* as required under Article 6§2 of the Charter, and held that *“the prohibition of the right to strike of members of the police force amounts to a violation of Article 6§4 of the Charter”*.

In March 2013, EuroCOP’s President met the Spanish Secretary of State for Security, Francisco Martinez in Madrid, **Spain**. EuroCOP had been invited by the AUGC/Guardia Civil to represent their concerns on local policing issues to the Secretary of State. In expressing the support of EuroCOP for the AUGC/Guardia Civil, EuroCOP’s President noted the Secretary of State’s comments on possible restrictions on their freedom to associate with EuroCOP and hoped that the matter could be speedily clarified to the satisfaction of all parties.

Media influence

In addition to the direct engagement with EU policymakers, EuroCOP has also actively reached out to the media to raise awareness about some of our key concerns. Building media relationships will develop another channel through which to communicate with policymakers.

Post-Stockholm programme

In the run up to the publication of the Post-Stockholm programme, EuroCOP’s ExCom ensured that our message reached a wider audience by contributing articles on European Policing to EU think-tanks. EuroCOP’s President addressed for instance some of the key issues in more detail in an op-ed for think tank ‘Friends of Europe’. ‘Friends of Europe’ is an EU think tank with a wide audience of Brussels policymakers. The op-ed highlighted EuroCOP’s position and demonstrates that we want to be part of the policy debate and proactively help policymakers find the solution to the problems we face.



Following the release of the new EU Justice and Home Affairs policy, which was presented on 11 March 2014, EuroCOP also sent out its reaction in a press release, which was distributed to some 300+ journalists. In the release, EuroCOP welcomed the new policy package, but expressed concerns that the

Commission's lack of concrete actions fails to address some of the serious issues facing European police officers today.

Open letter

As most of you know, EuroCOP prepared an Open Letter to European policymakers in the aftermath of the French terrorist attacks early 2015. The French terrorist attacks, followed a few weeks later by the Danish attack, are a tragic reminder of the changing nature of the security threats facing European countries. Other incidents of home-grown terrorism, such as those in Belgium, also illustrate how police officers are increasingly becoming the target of attacks.



In EuroCOP's Open Letter we highlighted what European law enforcement officers need most to tackle these new challenges effectively and guarantee the safety and security of European citizens and the police officers who protect them: 1) adequate resources, training and equipment; 2) adequate financial resources; and 3) enhanced cross-border cooperation.

The Open Letter generated media interest in different EU countries, including an interview, [video](#) and double page spread in EU newspaper New Europe. (See Annex)

The policymakers that EuroCOP met during the February 2015 meeting program also read the Open Letter with great interest.

The European Commission Director for Security (DG HOME), Mr Luigi Soreca, even replied in a letter to EuroCOP in which he expressed his deep appreciation for the work that police forces across the EU have to perform on a daily basis in order to guarantee the security of EU citizens. In his letter Mr Soreca elaborated on the European Commission's support for the issues highlighted in EuroCOP's Open Letter and expressed their interest in continued dialogue with EuroCOP. These achievements demonstrate the importance of EuroCOP's voice on the EU stage.

4. The Impact Of Our Activities On Members

In the previous chapter we showed how EuroCOP has become more influential and has contributed to shaping policy. These achievements may not directly result in higher salaries and better working conditions but they are a crucial step in raising awareness about the current situation and the impact of austerity measures in Europe.

By engaging directly with policymakers and becoming a trusted partner, we are not only making progress in achieving our goals, we are also doing some positive police PR work. Although policymakers are generally aware of, and appreciate, the tasks performed by police officers to keep citizens safe, debates on policing are unfortunately often dominated by references to bad behaviour. By educating policymakers and sharing our vision on the future of policing in Europe, we aim to move away from this negative focus and as such shift the attention to the needs of police officers. This will not only help change the debate at the European level but will, gradually, also have an impact on the national discussions.

Moreover, the fact that EuroCOP is becoming more influential in Brussels brings various benefits for members:

- **Issues are member driven:** Members have a strong say in the key issues that should be addressed in Brussels for instance via online surveys that are used for the preparation of EuroCOP communication materials.
- **Influencing national politics:** Moreover, by contributing to the policymaking process already at an early stage in Brussels, EuroCOP indirectly influences policies at the national level.
- **Tackle national issues via Brussels:** As recent events have shown, EuroCOP has the potential to tackle national issues by raising them at an EU level (for instance in meetings with Members of the European Parliament or Commission officials). Various MEPs have for instance offered their support to raise their concerns about issues that police officers are facing in specific Member States.

Lastly, members receive information about the EU policy developments for instance via our newsletter and the Committee Meetings. These developments are often not covered by national media and are generally rather complicated. By receiving updates on relevant policy developments, members have the opportunity to use this information at the national level or may contribute to the preparations of EuroCOP's communication materials and advocacy activities.

5. What We Need To Do Next

With various relevant legislative and non-legislative dossiers in the pipeline, e.g. the review of the Working Time Directive and the review of the Council Framework Decision on organized crime, there are great opportunities in the offing where we can profile itself as a key player and influencer. In order to achieve this, EuroCOP will have to continue to closely monitor the policy developments and define when and how best to contribute to the debate. Continued dialogue with relevant EU policymakers will be key to define the right approach. In parallel, we will have to evaluate, and if needed further define, its key messages and develop tailored communication materials.

While we can be proud of what we have achieved in a relatively short period of time, we will have to continue to further explore new opportunities of raising awareness about our issues. The purpose of the meetings with policymakers in the past few years has mainly been to establish relationships and to become a trusted partner. We will now have to see how we can bring our lobbying activities to the next level. EuroCOP's Executive Committee is already exploring new ways of sharing our messages, for instance by organizing an event together with a Member of the European Parliament or to organize workshops for attachés of Permanent Representations.

We will also be reliant on you, our Members, to support and contribute to our efforts to bring the cause of European police officers to the attention of policymakers. It is easy to forget, but European policymakers do not only reside in Brussels. Members of the European Parliament take their national politics very seriously and are keen to stay informed about issues facing their constituents and national citizens. I encourage you very strongly to reach out to your MEPs and engage them in an informed discussion about the challenges we face. We have the data, materials and recommended action points available for you to share with them. EuroCOP is here to support you, as much as you can support the wider cause of EuroCOP.

As requested by policymakers, we will have to collect more data and examples from practice. Various policymakers expressed that they are willing to raise awareness about our issues but they need data and real examples in order to support their messages. In this context, the input from EuroCOP members is crucial. Whereas the member survey results enabled us to develop a wide range of communication materials, we will have to evaluate how we can increase the participation rate and what would be the best tool to do this.

Lastly, there are great opportunities for EuroCOP to seek further media attention at the EU and national level. As discussed in the previous chapters, EuroCOP's Open Letter and EuroCOP's position on the Post-Stockholm programme generated media interest in various EU countries and this should be further exploited. In order to intensify our media influence, we will have to closely monitor the policy developments in order to identify new media outreach opportunities.

Concluding remarks

Police officers in Europe continue to face serious challenges on a daily basis. Early 2015, we were all shocked by the attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, which was a stark reminder of the threats Europe is facing, and the dangers police officers every day on the streets. As we all know, current and future security challenges are no longer easy to define and combat. As such we need policymakers to realize that those who are there to keep Europe’s citizens safe and secure, are provided with the appropriate resources, training and support needed.

EuroCOP’s established presence amongst European Union policymakers is a step in the right direction. And, as witnessed by this report, over the last two years, we can certainly say we have made our mark on Brussels. Our confidence has been boosted by guidance and logistical support of FleishmanHillard. We know that we are reaching the right people, at the right time, with the right message – ensuring we are as efficient and effective as possible with our advocacy strategy.

Our impact has been multiplied by active members of the Executive Committee, who have been passionate and dedicated in approaching the European institutions on all fronts. Their national perspectives have ensured EuroCOP has made some significant inroads into the European institutions of which it can be very proud.

All the achievements discussed throughout this report are a platform for action for us to build upon in the future. Our hard work is paying off dividends as Europe’s policymakers increasingly reach out to EuroCOP to contribute to policy discussions. We have developed the respect of those making the laws that impact our police officers on the street and the momentum is building.

Together we can ensure that EuroCOP continues to grow in size, influence and impact across Europe.



Annex

Example of outcome report of outreach meetings



CONFIDENTIAL

1

EU Meetings – 23-26 June, 2015



Tuesday 23 June 2015

<p>Agustín Díaz de Mera García-Consuegra (EPP, Spain) <i>European Parliament</i></p> <p>Mr. Díaz de Mera has been a Member of the European Parliament for Spain since 2004 and is a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). From 2002 to 2004, he was Director-General in the Police Department.</p> <p>He is the rapporteur of the Europol regulation.</p>	<p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Díaz de Mera discussed the key elements of the European Agenda on Security: terrorism, organized crime and cybercrime. On terrorism, Mr Díaz de Mera said that the Agenda on Security is too descriptive and does not combat the phenomenon. He believes that the solution is a military solution. On organized crime, he referred to the issue of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean. He believes that quotas should be compulsory and said that the EU approach so far is disappointing. Also in this context, he believes that the solution is a military solution. Lastly, on cybercrime, Mr Díaz de Mera hopes that the Europol datacentre on cyber security will contribute to combatting terrorism. In response to comments from EuroCOP, Mr Díaz de Mera noted that he completely agrees with the statements that the local police are essential to detect foreign fighters. He also agrees with EuroCOP that Member States are not investing enough in the resources for police. 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FH to send thank you email to Mr Díaz de Mera with digital versions of EuroCOP position papers. FH to request a follow up meeting with Mr Díaz de Mera, either in Brussels or Spain, to have further discussions.
<p>Ana Gomes (S&D, Portugal) <i>European Parliament</i></p> <p>Ms. Gomes has been Member of the European Parliament for Portugal since 2004 and is a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). She is also a member of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE).</p> <p>In the Parliament, her main areas of activity are: human rights, security and defence, international relations, gender issues and development. She</p>	<p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Gomes expressed her concerns about the lack of appropriate resources for police. She noted that she visited the local headquarters of the Portuguese police and referred to the tense negotiations between the Portuguese police unions and the government. She noted that she is familiar with the impact of mental illness on police officers and referred to cases of police suicide in Portugal. Mr Gomes suggested that EuroCOP should support the Portuguese unions in capacity building. She also noted that she would be happy to support the Portuguese EuroCOP members. She said it is important to engage with policymakers. She also said that she would like EuroCOP to come more often to LIBE Committee hearings to 	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EuroCOP + FH to prepare suggestions for amendments to report on prevention of radicalization. EuroCOP + FH to explore opportunities of organizing an event in Brussels. Anna to reach out to Portuguese EuroCOP member and provide the MEP's contact details for Portuguese follow-up.

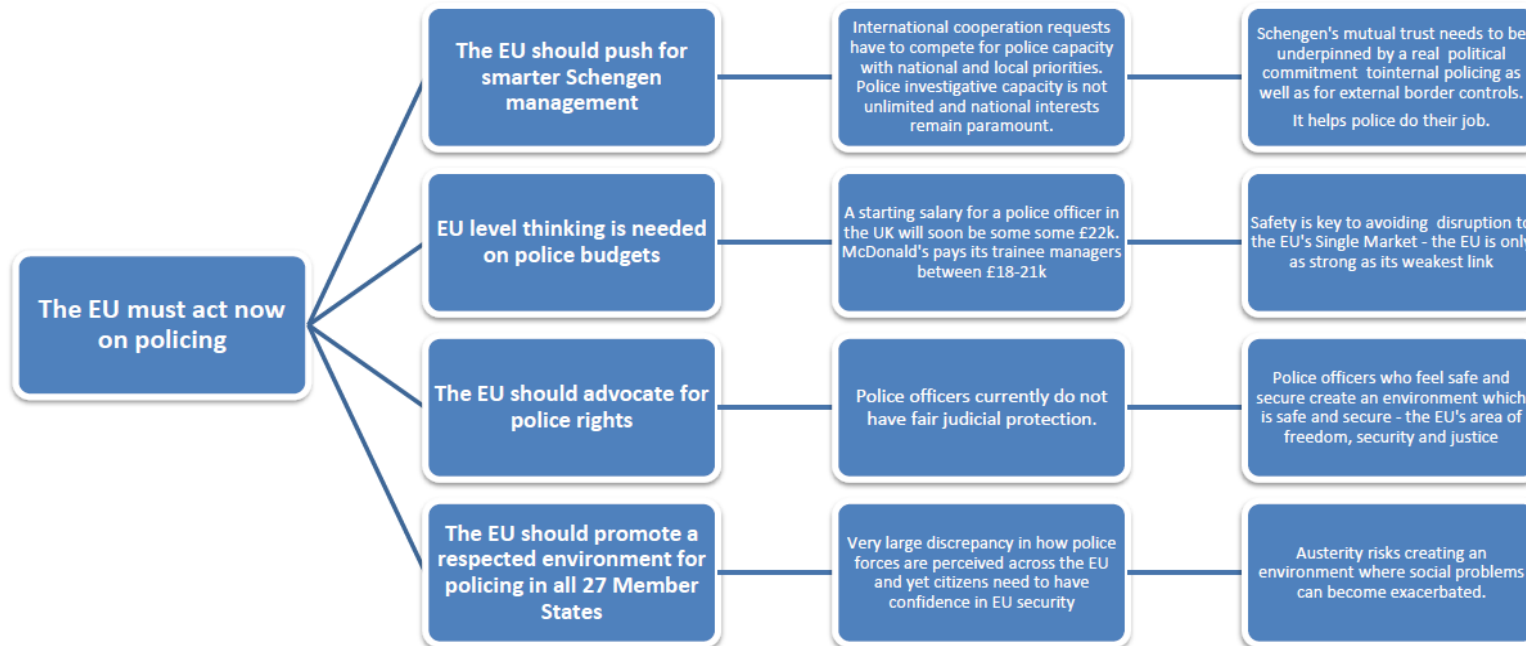
Example of preparatory briefing for outreach meetings



Monika HOHLMEIER

POSITION	Member of the European Parliament (Germany)
BIOGRAPHY	<p><u>Ms. Hohlmeier</u> has been an MEP since 2009 and is a Member of the European Parliament for Germany in the Group of the European People's Party. She is a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and of the Committee on Budgets (BUDG).</p> <p>Politically she started her career in 1990 when she became a Member of the Municipal Council of <u>Vaterstetten</u> and a Member of the Bavarian Parliament until 2008 before she became an MEP in 2009. During her time as a Member of the Bavarian Parliament she held a number of influential positions including State Secretary at the Ministry of Education and Culture and District Chairman of the CSU Munich.</p> <p>In 2012 Ms. Hohlmeier together with other MEPs asked a written <u>question</u> on "Training of police forces in the European Union - Maintaining the CEPOL independent agency". In 2012 she was also the rapporteur of the opinion of the European Parliament's Budget Committee <u>report</u> on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down general provisions on the Asylum and Migration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management.</p>
WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?	<p>On 28 April, the European Commission presented the Agenda on Security, which addresses Member States' cooperation in tackling security threats and steps up common efforts in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and cybercrime for the coming five years (2015-2020).</p> <p>The European Parliament will be charged with discussing the implementation of the Agenda on Security twice per year, and will therefore be able to influence its evolution.</p> <p>Ms. Hohlmeier is a member of the LIBE committee. Reviews of the new European Agenda on Security will take place in this committee and is therefore of interest to brief her on the challenges for police officers.</p>
EUROCOP KEY MESSAGE	<p>Police officers in Europe today need a voice, and one that can be heard equally across Europe. Not all officers are imbued with the same rights across the EU to vocalize their concerns through their trade unions and we aim to share their experiences with those political stakeholders and policymakers that need to know.</p> <p>The nature of security threats in Europe are changing and European police officers are playing increasingly diverse roles. Threats related to terrorism and for instance cybercrime force police agencies to rethink the basic skills they need to do their job. In the face of these new challenges, EuroCOP believes it is of utmost importance to ensure that police officers are provided with the adequate resources, training and equipment to combat these threats.</p> <p>Moving Europe closer to a common culture for law enforcement. EuroCOP believes that the ambitions of the new European Agenda on Security can be achieved with the right support and implementation of concrete proposed measures or best practices, in areas such as training, information-sharing, implementation of laws etc.</p>
QUESTIONS TO ASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > What is your position on the new Agenda on Security and the security challenges? > Are you familiar with the diverse roles that police officers play in combatting the security threats? > Are you familiar with the impact of police budget cuts on security in EU Member States?
WHAT CAN THEY DO?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Raise EuroCOP's issues in the upcoming debate on the new Agenda on Security (e.g. table amendments addressing policing issues) > Ask a parliamentary question
LEAVE BEHIND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Consultation response Internal Security Strategy > EuroCOP Leaflet > EuroCOP Position Paper on Data Retention

The **European Confederation of Police** serves as the voice of European police officers in Europe. It represents over half a million police officers in 27 European countries dealing with issues ranging from cross-border police cooperation to a safer working environment for police officers on the street. The changing nature of threats facing European countries means that frontline operators are playing increasingly diverse roles. We are asked to do more, with significantly less, creating a dangerous situation where forces find themselves ill-equipped and demoralized. We must do what we can now to address this, as the confidence of Europe's police forces are critically linked to the confidence of European citizens in a safe and secure European Union.



As Europe's police forces strive to "work smarter," we believe that EU-level initiatives can ease challenges facing European Member States. An EU-level study on the negative impact of police budget cuts, a hearing in the European Parliament on a topic of key concern to Europe's police officers and an informal forum in Brussels where police officers, policymakers and politicians can exchange views are just a few suggestions of ways in which we can begin to work together to conserve Europe's area of freedom, justice and security.



EURO COP 2025 CHARTER:

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN POLICING

EuroCOP's 2025 vision for the future of European policing calls for action by the European Union, national governments, police forces, their unions and other organisations across Europe to act together to tackle the challenges faced by police forces today. We believe that by taking action now, European police forces can ensure that they have the resources, skills and capacity to keep European citizens safe and secure for the long term future.

By signing this Charter, I pledge to work towards achieving the following goals in the coming years to help ensure European Policing can deliver the service Europe needs through 2025:

1. GREATER POLITICAL SUPPORT

By 2025, law enforcement and politicians act in an environment of greater mutual respect and understanding. While maintaining independence, police forces and policymakers have strengthened channels of communication, particularly where policies affect law enforcement, and developed long term strategic planning together around national policies facilitating police work.

2. SMARTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

By 2025, police forces across Europe have established the skills and platforms to effectively and efficiently tackle increasingly transnational and virtual criminal activities. By establishing European best practices for combatting cross-border crime, disseminating them through common European training and education schemes, and promoting and evaluating processes for information-sharing with EU and international counterparts, Europe has the potential to set the bar for effective police cooperation.

3. GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY

By 2025, Europe's police forces are seen as guardians of Europe's democracy, by embodying the ethics, diversity, integrity and community of the citizens they protect, while maintaining European security and protecting citizens' democratic rights in societies governed by the rule of law. As such EU citizens are able to trust European law enforcement to safeguard their fundamental rights in a publically accountable and independent manner.

4. OPERATING ON A CODE OF POLICING BEST PRACTICES

By 2025, European governments have enabled and incentivised their law enforcement communities to deliver their services according to a European code of best practices in policing, which in turn has strengthened trust and solidarity between forces. Best practices have been set in the areas of training, health and safety, staffing levels, police and quality of service amongst others.

5. ENHANCED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

By 2025, public confidence in European law enforcement engenders a strong sense of mutual respect, allowing police forces to become integrated with communities as trusted members of society. Without public confidence, the police will struggle to tackle threats to public safety and security, undermining the fundamental basis of our democracy. Policies to enhance public confidence, such as anti-corruption policies, will be essential to achieve this goal.

6. A COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR EUROPEAN POLICING

By 2025, common European principles and guidelines will be established for the overall objectives, performance and accountability of the police when maintaining European security and protecting citizens' democratic rights in societies governed by the rule of law. This common framework will be enshrined in the European police code of ethics made binding under EU law.

SIGNED:

Europe's police alarmed at cutbacks

Top cop talks to New Europe about cuts

BY ANDY CARLINO

Anna Nellberg Dennis is the president of Eurocop, the European Confederation for Police Officers, which represents half a million officers in 27 different. Dennis sat down with New Europe to discuss the tribulations the police face with recent cuts to their budgets.

Nellberg-Dennis: "We have recently sent out an open letter to European policy makers discussing the problems we face today primarily due to budget cuts and the increase in threats against police. In that letter, we also provide some solutions to those issues."

How serious is the effect of the cuts?

"As you know budget cuts have consequences. I think it's time for our politicians to realize that fact, and I don't think they are aware of how bad the situation is currently. We need three things; support from the politicians, training and equipment. The first thing they cut down with a budget cut is training and equipment."

Politicians say they support the, but this does not always come across in their actions.

"That's right, unfortunately not."

Could you give me some examples of ways the police force needs resources and equipment that they do not have?

"You can go to Sweden where some areas



have 1% of the total budget for training. That's it, for all their training. I think people need to remember that police are the first responders, when an attack occurs we are the ones who set out to protect Europe, its citizens and let not forget—ourselves. We need the training.

You are talking about the repeated training that people need to do their jobs properly?

"Yes, and these attacks we've seen recently are not things the cops receive proper

training to handle, and they should as first responders."

How are shortages affecting your members?

"Well, there's an overall lack in functioning police vehicles. Often we are forced to walk when cars are not available, is that the kind of first responders we want?"

"For some countries, that are not providing their police with adequate resources this has spill over affect on the entire EU, because we are in this together. Criminals know no borders, which is why it's so important to increase corporation throughout countries."

I think we can all agree it would be nice to call the police and not have by foot or public transport.

"Right. I mean several years ago these cuts were already showing consequences, and now it just continues to show even more. We are constantly asked to do more with less—and now with the added terror threat, that's made the situation even worse. "We are seeing cuts in the amount of cops in UK, and Belgian police officers are retiring and not being replenished with new cops. And the ones who are working are not getting paid overtime due to regulations at certain stations. "Security costs, it must costs, and its time we invest in the police. We need the right resources to do this."

Are the lives of police officers at risk because of these cuts?

"You have officers having to buy their own bulletproof vests. Of course, it is always a risk. You can hear from others that there is always a risk in our work, but now the discussion has started about the increased risk and now the question is—is it worth it?"

Have you had any responses to the open letter?

"No, but it's been quite widely spread in places like the UK, Sweden and Denmark, but no responses yet. We hope to get them. It is an important message and we are not going to give up." "Politicians are asking us for a Ferrari and only paying for an old tractor. What you pay is what you get."

When you approach politicians about this what do they respond?

"They say it's a national issue and should be handled nationally. I say to that well it's going to affect all the nations if it's not handled—it is going to affect another country as well. If I could decide, the politicians would give a list of demands and we would write an invoice of how much it would take to accomplish that."

Well, we are happy to let you explain your case and support you. We can only hope politicians begin putting their money where their mouth is.

"Yes, they need too. The simple truth is that security costs."



Police officers gather to show their broken equipment at the 'Grand Place' and City Hall in Brussels, Belgium, 11 November 2014.