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Foreword from the President

Dear all,

Welcome back from the summer break. I hope everyone is feeling well rested and ready to tackle the many challenges that lie ahead of us this Autumn. This second edition of our e-newsletter contains updates on EuroCOP activities as well as interviews with EU politicians and EuroCOP colleagues. As ever, we would welcome contributions and suggestions for content of future newsletters from members.

During the summer I have continued with my visits to member states to learn at firsthand the difficulties being faced by our members. Some of these problems reflect the negative attitudes of some police authorities and national governments. Other problems arise because national governments have imposed disproportionately tough austerity measures on their police service. As you will have read in the previous newsletter, in June I had several meetings with EU officials and politicians. This programme is the start of building a dialogue with Brussels so that our voice is heard where it matters.

Most recently, as well as meeting Bulgarian politicians and Ministers, I attended a conference organised by the National Police Trade Union of Bulgaria on the theme of Effective Police. The coming Prague conference in October will be a particularly busy time for us all. First, I want to thank everyone who has contributed their feedback in the questionnaires for the Committee meeting. The majority of members

responded, so we have now a fairly accurate picture of the state of policing across Europe as the basis of our workshops. Secondly, we are preparing an agenda for Prague which will not only address European police issues but, if accepted by the Committee, will reshape EuroCOP making it more fit for purpose.

I look forward to seeing as many as you as possible in Prague.

Best wishes,

Anna Nellberg

President

A Call for Action to EuroCOP from the European Commission

“The European Commission would like to invite you to contribute to the debate on which steps the EU should undertake in the coming years in order to consolidate the EU as an "area of freedom, security and justice" by providing your insights, ideas and knowledge.

As practitioners involved in fulfilling security and safety duties, your experience and knowledge are valuable to us, as it would contribute to determining: the **concrete needs for EU support**, what works and does not work in **cross border cooperation** and opportunities for better cross border cooperation. Considering the external dimension of Home Affairs policies, your reflection could include the external aspects of the challenges to be addressed.

Your input will be taken into account by the Commission when preparing a Communication to be presented in March 2014 and **proposing ideas for the EU Home Affairs agenda for the years to come**. This strategic document will be discussed next year with the European Parliament and the Council to reflect on future challenges and the steps the EU should undertake to tackle them.

We thank you in advance for your kind support.”

EuroCOP looks forward to responding to this call for action on behalf of its members, based on the outcome of the October Committee meeting

EU snapshot

Croatia officially joins the EU

On the 1st of July 2013, Croatia officially became the 28th Member of the European Union, a bit more than 20 years after the country gained independence. Croatia has held observer status with the EU for some time now, while it adapted its laws and customs to become in line with EU procedures, ultimately resulting in accession. Customs posts were removed at the country's land borders with EU Member States Slovenia and Hungary, but limits on the free movement of people remain as the country has not joined the Schengen area yet.

A dispute over the European Arrest Warrant, whereby countries have to extradite people to another Member State when they are wanted in connection with a serious crime, has cast a bit of a shadow over the celebrations. Croatia changed the law so that it would not apply to crimes committed before 2002, which would effectively exclude a number of war criminals who are still at large. The European Commission has proposed sanctions.

UK opts out of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) measures

On the 10th of July, UK Home Secretary Theresa May announced that the UK is choosing to opt-out of 100 EU Justice and Home Affairs measures and to subsequently ask the EU Commission to be allowed to opt-in again on 35 measures, including on the European Arrest Warrant, Europol, and Eurojust. This re-accession could be problematic as each of these opt-ins would have to be negotiated with the European Commission and other Member States separately.

If the UK would not be able to use tools like the European Arrest Warrant anymore, while still having to apply EU free movement rules, it would risk having all the negative effects without having any of the tools available to tackle cross-border offences.

European Parliament enquiry on electronic mass surveillance of EU citizens

Since the revelations about US intelligence services spying on EU institutions and citizens, the European Parliament's LIBE Committee (which deals with internal security matters) has instigated an official enquiry into the matter. The revelations came out at a sensitive time, as the EU and the US are starting talks on a comprehensive trade agreement. The matter will keep Brussels' politicians very busy in the coming months, especially as the European elections in 2014 draw nearer.

Meet a colleague

In this issue: Katia Ganeva, Bulgaria



Function: Head of Secretariat of NPS Bulgaria and responsible for International Cooperation, Secretary General of the Association for promoting lifelong learning in Police Unions.

City, country: Sofia, Bulgaria

Has been with the police since: 1 March 1984

What are your biggest challenges at the moment?

I am committed to ensure opportunities and conditions for lifelong training and qualification of the members of NPS and the successful implementation of the project "Effective Police".

With regard to the legislation that concerns us, our Union actively participated in the drafting of the new law of the Ministry of Interior and will now take part in the debates of the Parliamentary Committees on the new Home Affairs Law.

Together with Mr. Emil Rashev, Head of the National Police Union, we are focusing our efforts on creating an International Police Institute - an Institution that will unite the intellectual capacity of the Police unions and will work on the harmonization of the Police legislation in Europe.

What keeps you motivated?

The profession of “policeman” motivates me. Along with the profession of the “man of law”, I consider the profession of the police officer as one of the most important in public life.

Police work is responsible - because it may change destinies, risky - because of the contact with criminals and complex - just because of the two definitions above put together. It is clear that the “man of law” will always find a way to protect himself, but the policeman, without being protected, will remain the "Don Quixote" on the street.

In my daily work, being useful to colleagues who are contacting me and rely on my professional expertise, advice and effective intervention highly motivates me.

What would your top recommendation be for Europe’s politicians?

To work for the establishment of a uniform standard for the police in Europe and to prevent police officers – those who take care of the security and peace of the European citizens – not to be discriminated in any way.

To maintain social dialogue at national and European level because there is no understanding without dialogue.

From a philosophical point of view, the social dialogue in the police has a dual effect and should be developed in two directions - the government on one side and the citizens on the other.

Police needs dialogue with the government in order to assure effectively its mission – the security for the citizens. Police need as well a dialogue with the citizens – in order to be assured the security for the police. For its mission Police needs both the support from the government and from the citizens.

“Police for security – security for the Police”.

Which international colleague would you like to hear from next?

Our colleague from France – Mr.Claude Choplin. To my assessment, France has one of the best legislative frameworks for the Trade Unions in Europe, a rich tradition and achievement in the development of the social dialogue.

Three questions for...

In this issue: Agustin Diaz de Mera, Member of European Parliament from Spain.



Mr Diaz de Mera is part of the Christian-Democrat group in the European Parliament, the EPP group, and is a member of the Partido Popular in Spain. Between 2002 and 2004, he was Director-General of the Police in Spain.

1. *How can the EU help improve the lives of police officers on the street?*

According to Mr Diaz, this issue is within the competence of each of the EU Member States and covered by the principle of subsidiarity. That principle is a core element of the EU as it means that any issue should be arranged “at the lowest level possible” to avoid unnecessary international legislation. That being said, there is a role for the EU when it comes to sharing best practices and experiences.

2. *How could EuroCOP members, representing more than 500,000 police officers, assist EU policy and what information would be welcome by the police?*

“It is difficult to answer this question due to its general and ambiguous nature”, Mr. Diaz said, referencing the fact that work in the European Parliament takes place on many different policy areas and, depending on the area, a different Committee is involved. These Committees deal with either internal security, legal affairs, foreign affairs, and budgets. The issues faced by the police obviously cover a broad spectrum, so their input would need to be tailored to specific European audiences.

3. *As a Spanish member of the European Parliament, how concerned are you about the impact budget cuts are having on the public sector in general and police in particular? Is this something you plan to address in your campaign for the European elections?*

“Budget cuts in the area of security are very worrying, although the sacrifices are general and common across the entire public sector. In terms of elections, there are specific working groups preparing the electoral programs of the EPP and the Spanish Partido Popular.” Mr Diaz outlined that he would be happy to receive suggestions and initiatives that the group could study, for potential inclusion in the programmes.

Calendar

Event	Date	Location
KPU Kosovo	9-11 October	Kosovo
Autumn EuroCOP Committee Meeting	29/30 October	Prague, Czech Republic

For a list of upcoming CEPOL trainings click [here](#), for webinars, click [here](#).

The next issue of the newsletter will be published in December.