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Foreword from the President

Dear all,



At our EuroCOP Committee meeting in sunny Torremolinos last month, I had the pleasure of meeting many of you and giving you an update on recent EuroCOP activities and most importantly our achievements over the past few months!

As most of you know, EuroCOP prepared an Open Letter to European policymakers in the aftermath of the French terrorist attacks earlier this year.

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 I 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 and double page spread in EU newspaper New Europe. The policymakers that EuroCOP met in February also read the Open Letter with great interest. The European Commission Director for Security (DG HOME), Mr Luigi Soreca, 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!

In February, EuroCOP took the opportunity to further strengthen existing relationships and build new contacts with EU policymakers in Brussels. EuroCOP had 8 meetings with different policymakers to introduce EuroCOP as the voice of European Police Officers and present our key policy positions. The main topics addressed during these meetings were the EU Internal Security Strategy and the health and safety of police officers. As a result, EuroCOP was invited to speak at a technical hearing in the European Parliament on anti-terrorism that will take place on 14 April – a sign of EuroCOP's growing status as a respected and valuable contributor to the EU security debate. Another important achievement was the meeting with the European Commission official in charge of preparing the new EU Internal Security Strategy. As one of only two stakeholders invited to speak with the European Commission, she highlighted how important and helpful EuroCOP's contribution to the Commission Public Consultation on the new Strategy had been.

Following the positive feedback from policymakers on EuroCOP's contributions to EU policy discussions (for example: the Open Letter, the Internal Security Strategy consultation response and the position papers on health and safety and trade union rights), it is vital that we continue to share our positions on and solutions to the challenges European police officers face today. I would like to emphasize that in preparing these positions and materials, the input from members, for instance by contributing to the questionnaires, was of utmost importance as policymakers are always looking for examples and real stories. We therefore look forward to hear more from you and to receive input on topics for further position papers.

Looking ahead, on behalf of the Executive Committee, we look forward to welcoming many of you to the next EuroCOP Committee meeting in Prague after the summer!

Best wishes,

Anna Nellberg-Dennis

President

EU snapshot

EuroCOP participation in European Parliament anti-terrorism hearing



As a result of EuroCOP's constructive engagement with EU policymakers, EuroCOP was recently invited to speak as a panellist in a European Parliament [hearing](#) on "The fight against terrorism and the challenges for EU internal security". 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 resources
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.

You can find Anna' speech [here](#)

EuroCOP February outreach meetings in Brussels

On 25-27 February, EuroCOP took the opportunity to further strengthen existing relationships and build new contacts with EU policymakers in Brussels. On 25 February, Anna provided an [interview](#) with New Europe, an online and printed newspaper with 20 years of history and good coverage in Brussels and across Europe, to further discuss the Open Letter to Policymakers following the recent terrorist attacks. The video of the interview was immediately published online and two days later the interview, together with the Open Letter, appeared in the printed version of the newspaper! A free double page spread is a big win demonstrating the importance of EuroCOP's voice on the EU stage.

EuroCOP held eight meetings with different policymakers to introduce EuroCOP as the voice of European Police Officers and present the key policy positions. The main topics addressed during these meetings were the upcoming EU Internal Security Agenda and the health and safety of police. In only

two days, we met with representatives from the European Commission, representatives from Luxembourg and Latvia who hold this year's EU Presidencies, a Spanish Member of the European Parliament and 4 parliamentary political advisors.

Police Health & Safety and Trade Union Rights

EuroCOP met with several political advisors of political groups in the European Parliament. The political advisors gave us 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 for instance very interested in receiving EuroCOP's position paper on data retention and said that the EPP would support EuroCOP's position. She also invited EuroCOP to speak at an anti-terrorism hearing. The political advisor from the Liberals was keen to hear more from us about the experiences with the Working Time Directive.

European Commission grateful for EuroCOP contributions

EuroCOP met with Ms Hamalainen from the European Commission who is in charge of preparing the new EU Internal Security Agenda 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 Internal Security Agenda. She even shared that 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.

Luxembourg justice and home affairs attaché *"could have exchanged with EuroCOP for hours"*

EuroCOP also met with Jean-Louis Bordet, Home Affairs Counsellor for the Luxembourg Permanent Representation to the EU. Luxembourg will hold the Council Presidency in the second half of 2015. When holding the Council Presidency, Member States have the power to set the agenda and it is therefore of interest to meet with the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg now in order to hear more about its Presidency ambitions and if it is willing to put any of EuroCOP's issue on 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 and he emphasized that he 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."*

Next steps

Following the positive feedback from policymakers on EuroCOP positions (for example: the Open Letter, the Internal Security Agenda consultation response and the position papers on health and safety and trade union rights), EuroCOP will have to continue to prepare these type of materials. With the technical support from FleishmanHillard we are in the process of finalizing yet another position paper, on data

retention, and we look forward to hear your input on topics for future position papers. We will review the different pieces of upcoming legislation that the political advisors referred to in order to assess whether and how EuroCOP can contribute.

As always, in order to achieve these goals, EuroCOP depends on the invaluable input from members. We very much appreciate the answers you have provided to the recent questionnaire. In addition to the questionnaire, we will also assess if there are other ways to get your input, for instance by organizing a workshop, as we did two years ago in Prague.

European Agenda on Security

On 28 April, at the European Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg, First Vice-President Timmermans and Home Affairs Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos presented the new [European Agenda on Security](#). The European Agenda on Security addresses Member States' cooperation in tackling security threats and steps up common efforts in the fight against terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime for the five years to come (2015-2020). The clear call from the Commission was for the EU to make better use of existing tools and agencies to fight crime and terrorism and for the EU's Member States to enhance cooperation and share more information, especially in dealing with crime of a transnational nature (both within the EU and outside).

Of particular interest, the Commission highlights in the document 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. In this context, 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. According to the Commission, 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 terms of next steps, the Commission is now calling on the European Parliament and the Council to endorse the Agenda as the renewed Internal Security Strategy, with a view to the forthcoming European Council of June 2015. The Commission invites active engagement in implementation of the Agenda, in close cooperation with all relevant actors and encourages EU institutions and Member States to take the agenda as the basis for cooperation and joint action by the Union on security in the next five years. However, certain MEPs already expressed their concerns about the limited time to review the Strategy.

The Commission's intention to create a European Counter-Terrorism Centre within Europol also sparked some concerns. The centre's purpose would not be limited to intelligence-sharing; it would also manage passenger data at European level in the framework of the European Passenger Name Record (PNR) system. MEP Jan Philipp Albrecht (Greens, Germany) acknowledged for instance the usefulness in order to "gather and share data," but not for collecting massive amounts of data on citizens.

March Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA) met on 12-13 March 2014. Data protection was at the top of the agenda for the meeting, where ministers reached a partial general approach on specific issues related to the draft regulation setting out a general EU framework for data protection. The Council also approved the European Police College (CEPOL)'s [Work Programme 2015](#) and forwarded it to the European Parliament and the Commission for information. Discussions also focused on the fight against terrorism and managing migratory flows. Ministers agreed to strengthen surveillance at external borders and to reinforce the resources and the operational capacities of Frontex. The reinforcement of cooperation with third countries remains essential for the efficient management of migratory flows.

European leaders call for revision of Schengen Border Code

On 12 February 2015, European leaders met in Brussels to discuss a "targeted amendment" of the Schengen Border Code. Member States believe that a revision is necessary to give external border guards more powers, but the Commission and Parliament disagree and believe it risks prompting a full-scale dismantling of EU free movement rights. The aim of the amendment is to allow for systematic checks of EU citizens entering the Schengen area's external borders against *"all relevant databases in order to detect and disrupt suspect movements, notably of foreign terrorist fighters"*.

Both the Commission and the Parliament are telling Member States that they need to ensure that existing security measures are implemented and to make full use of the tools already available to them before adopting new measures. According to the Commission and Parliament, Member States are still not fully using the information-sharing capabilities in the Schengen system, and are blocking other information-sharing proposals in the Council such as laws strengthening EU policing agencies Europol and Eurojust and the data protection directive.

CEPOL and EUROPOL strengthen cooperation to combat crime in the EU

In February 2015, EUROPOL director Mr. Rob Wainwright visited the European Police College (CEPOL) in order to discuss further cooperation between the agencies. The aim of the [cooperation](#) is to enhance the effectiveness of police forces in the fight against crime by conducting common trainings for police officers to increase knowledge of national police systems, of European cooperation instruments and mechanisms, as well as of a wide range of specific subjects. The two agencies emphasize that it is in the interest of the European Union and its citizens to be prepared and fight against terrorism, trafficking in narcotics and organized crime, illegal immigration, and border control or trafficking in human beings.

Meet a colleague

In this issue: **Henry J Bautista, Gibraltar**



Name: Henry J Bautista

Function: Chairman of the Gibraltar Police Association

Country: Gibraltar

Has been with the police since: 1984

What are your biggest challenges at the moment? Internally we are looking to evolve from an Association to becoming a Federation. Our aim is to become a constituted legal body, recognized within statute, to be in a completely independent position to address the needs of our members and organisation.

Gibraltar, although a small city, is situated at the gateway to the Mediterranean between the continents of North Africa and Europe. We have a Frontier, Port, Liner Cruise Terminal, Airport and a successful and evermore expanding Financial Centre. Especially with the added possible terrorist threats, all these, as you may appreciate, demand proper manning, and a strain in our resources and controls. Added to this, we must continue to deliver the high standards expected in our day to day policing and needs of our community.

We are currently striving to find a proper working shift pattern that is EU compliant and that addresses the needs of our members, that is family friendly and that meets the needs of our organisation and the community. Unfortunately, to date, this has not been possible. Studies have already identified that we require more resources and manpower. Representations have nevertheless been made to the proper quarters.

What keeps you motivated? In my policing career I have witnessed injustices and unfairness. This was one of the main reasons that made me join the police syndicate and to try and bring that bit of a difference. This has seen me to date as Chairman of the Police Association for the past six years. Through our intensified efforts, the journey has been slow but positive. Nevertheless, experiencing this slow consecutive progress has kept me motivated.

My aspirations are to update our police officer's terms and conditions in keeping with our European counterparts in trying to modernize the policing concept and its approaches.

The full backing of my membership and the good help of my good working committee team have kept me motivated to date.

What would your top recommendation be for Europe's politicians? Gibraltar is an integral part of Europe and so should its policing jurisdiction be recognized, respected and included in all Europe's policies and strategies on labour rights and the fight against crime.

I do not want to re-invent the wheel, but as cuts and resources everywhere are being affected what might be of assistance is for neighbouring countries to assist each other with their resources to fight crime in a unified front. This would require the need for a proper constituted and funded European Police working framework group that will ensure, encourage and streamline working practices between European countries in the fight for drug trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, illegal immigration and human trafficking. The Straits of Gibraltar are continuously used for these illicit purposes with very little coordination between stakeholders.

In respect to Policing labour rights – the minimum Policing standard of employment and conditions should be expressly stipulated in law and vigorously upheld and enforced by European Legislation.

Which international colleague would you like to hear from next? I would like to hear from Mr. Victor M Duque Leon, Secretary General for Union Federal de Policia or from Mr. Ramon Rodriguez Prendes, Secretary General for Union Guardia Civil both members of UPOL and EuroCOP.

Calendar

Event	Date	Location
JHA Council meeting	15-16 June 2015	Brussels
EuroCOP committee meeting	2-3 September 2015	Prague
EuroCOP congress	16-18 November 2015	Dublin

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

The next issue of the newsletter will be published end of June.