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Terror threats, refugee crisis, crime – what do the police in Europe need?

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European minimum standards for maximum security

Two significant challenges are impacting the security in Europe over the past few years. The first of one is the challenge presented by Islamist terrorism and the other pertains to coping with the refugee crisis. What's more, cross-border crime is another factor necessitating close cooperation on the part of European security services.

Nevertheless, not all police forces in the individual EU member states have the requisite basic equipment or similar working conditions. There are considerable differences in terms of uniforms, equipment and training. These differences have been subjected to scrutiny within the compass of a study carried out by the European Police Union (EPU) – a consortium of 15 police trade unions in Europe – and minimum standards for police officers in Europe have been formulated.

Addressed the media: **Gerrit van de Kamp** (Chairman of the EPU) EPU is member organisation of EUROFEDOP's European police sector, **Rainer Wendt** (Federal Chairman of the German Union of Police Forces), **Niksa Nikodinovic** (Criminologist from Serbia), **Sven Seliger** (Expert from W.L. Gore & Associates).



Gerrit van de Kamp, Chairman of the EPU: *on behalf of more than 15 police unions throughout Europe, I would like to welcome you. The EPU is an independent police union in Europe serving the interests of in excess of 800,000 police officers each and every day. Police officers who practice their risky profession on a daily basis so as to ensure safety and security for all of the citizens of Europe. Order, peace and security are essential for living and working in Europe. The police unions affiliated with the EPU are dedicated to both the intrinsic policing profession and the employment conditions and relations. We do this by working together at local, national and European level. The EPU is characterized by amicable cooperation on the basis of equality. In addition to influencing European Parliament, the European Commission and European government, our trade union work entails supporting our colleagues, e.g. educating and training executives from the affiliated trade unions and fostering Social Dialogue. In this regard, national culture and customs are primary. Thus in recent years we have achieved plenty of engaging results, more on which can be found on this website or on the sites of the affiliated police unions. To date, this has given more and more police unions in Europe cause to join forces with us. Thus the strength of the EPU lies in performing trade union work for and with one another with the aim of striving towards a high-quality, social living environment for our members and a safe and secure Europe for the citizens. On behalf of the affiliated police unions I would like to invite you to join us in striving towards this goal or to support us in doing so.*