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European Police Union's Blue Battle: Zero-tolerance policy for violence and aggression against the Police in Europe



The European society and public authorities expect that, in all cases, the Police act in a professional way to maintain public order and security. Due to the increasing number of violent attacks on police officers we are growing towards a social problem: the authority of the police is affected by failing policies of our European governments.

The shortage of qualified people, equipment (or insufficient quality) and powers within the police organizations, ensure that the practice of police work is becoming more and more riskier, violent and more complex. Not only through social unrest and radical changes that pose a serious threat for safety in our European society but also because of the loss of respect for police officers.

The perpetrators are also getting younger, minors (even children under the age of 14-15 years old) already use violence or show disrespectful behavior against the police.

We can therefore safely call the current, mild/soft punishment climate for committing violence against the police (including aggression, insult, spitting) an encouragement policy for this misconduct.



If European governments and government leaders do not show respect for police officers and do not protect them by law and with good equipment and social rights than eventually an expensive price will be paid for it. Too many police officers and innocent victims have already fallen (seriously injured or killed) due the failing security policy of our European Institutions.

The European Police Union launches a package of preventive measures for targeting violence, aggression and disrespect behaviour against police officials in Europe.

The 13-points plan is unorthodox which can be preventive in nature:

- Minimum standards for maximum security for police officers in Europe (according to the analysis of EPU's research);
- Every police officer working the streets in Europe are adequately equipped or protected;
- Additional training for police officers in self-defence;
- Interventions on the behaviour of young persons (minors) who use violence against police officers;
- Separate sanction system as well as the formulation in the Code of Criminal Procedure of separate trial guarantees aimed at the approach of persons who use violence against police officers;
- Immediately fine disrespectful behaviour (spitting, verbalizing) against police officers;
- Database in which attackers of police officers are registered;
- Frequent offenders of violence against police officers come to the internet with a photo;
- Registration of violation cases (nature of violence) against police-officers;
- Law protection for police officers, given the risks of their tasks;
- All costs related to violent police incidents are for the account of the perpetrator (medical costs, destruction, overnight stay in the cell, etc.) Including confiscation of personal belongings, seizure of bank accounts and in case of serious violation the perpetrator is no longer eligible for social protection, housing and other benefits);
- Permit policy for municipalities is applied more strictly for parties and events. If there is not sufficient police capacity to guarantee public order, no license will be issued;
- Develop a European Protection program and campaign around Zero-tolerance policy violence and aggression against police officers in Europe; **(A campaign will be developed from the European institutions with the message that violence, aggression and disrespectful behaviour against police officers is a serious offense and will therefore also be severely punished)**



The European Police Union and all its members are calling upon European governments and government leaders to avoid further escalation in the identified problems under the motto: Do not look away, but act now! By starting with a serious further research of EPU's 13- points plan as guidelines to significantly reduce violence and aggression against police officers in the future.

EPU (European Police Union) is an umbrella police union in which police trade unions from the Netherlands (ACP), Germany (DPOLG), Austria (KDEO), Romania (SNPPC), Bulgaria (TUFEMI), Serbia (PUS), Croatia (SPH), Spain (CEP), Ukraine (Police TU of Ukraine), Moldova (Demnitate), Lithuania (TU of Constables and Police Employees), Latvia (United Police TU), Poland (NSZZP) and Bosnia Herzegovina (Sindikats Granicne policije) cooperate and collaborate. Together, the member organizations of EPU represent more than 800.000 police officers in Europe. EPU is affiliated to Eurofedop (European Federation of Public Service Employees)