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**EPU contacts European Commission
to plead for setting up a platform to deal with matters of the greatest emergency
which affect police officers in today's period of great concern
in European countries**



The EPU (European Police Union), member of Eurofedop, operates under the direction of Gerrit van de Kamp (president of ACP, police trade union of the Netherlands). The EPU's president has sent a letter to Head of Unit Mr. Rob Rozenburg of the European Commission's Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs.

In the present times of COVID-19, Mr Rozenburg mentions in his reply the help which the EU provides, also financially, through the EERC (European Emergency Response Capacity). Nevertheless, as Mr van de Kamp underlines in a new letter, it is insufficiently clear how and where this help of material and financial support becomes reality in practice.

The EPU president understands that every country has its own responsibility in building an effective strategy in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, but the EU also has a shared mission in helping national police services in the fight against criminality. Especially in these times, there is a need for uniformity.



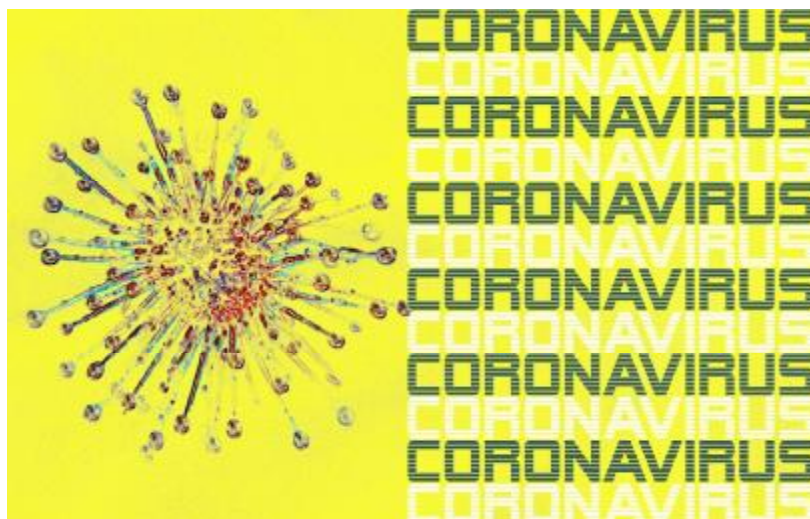
In particular, matters with regard to the personal protection, training and a fair remuneration for police officers are continuously missing in security priorities set forward by the European Commission. The EPU is well aware that the Commission takes these matters seriously, but regrets that, every time when matters of PPP (Personal Protection Police) are mentioned, EU institutions (among which the Commission) refer to the national authorities.



Maybe the time is right to set up a new platform, an EU-PPP platform in which all stakeholders would participate to discuss matters of current importance to the police (protection of police officers, training, police equipment, social-economic situation of police officers).

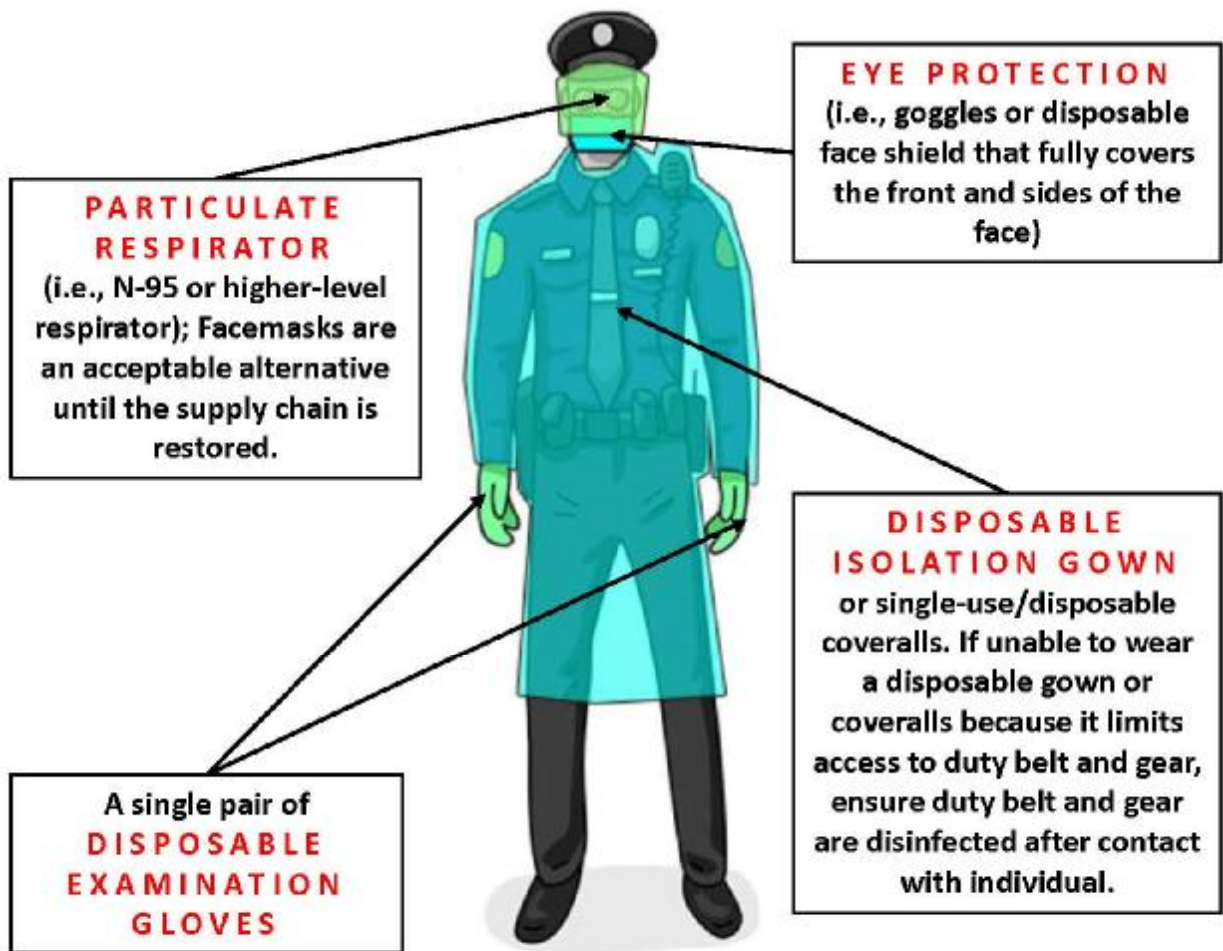
We are living in a time when Europe is preparing for after COVID-19. Criminality is expected to rise again. So is the arrival of new asylum seekers. The confrontation between the police and demonstrators can be very violent in European cities. When we add to this the growing feeling of insecurity among police officers, the fact they are understaffed and underequipped, the EPU president does not exclude that European police trade unions will take action at European level and go to the streets.

He appeals to the responsible European Commission officer for sending him an invitation to exchange views on his proposal for the creation of a new EU-PPP Platform.



On the next pages you will find the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), violence equipment and training of police officers

THE MINIMUM RECOMMENDED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR POLICE OFFICERS



RECOMMENDED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)



The minimum PPE recommended is:

- **A single pair of disposable examination gloves,**
- **Disposable isolation gown or single-use/disposable coveralls*;**
- **Any approved particulate respirator (i.e., N-95 or higher-level respirator); Facemasks are an acceptable alternative until the supply chain is restored; and**
- **Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face)**

***If unable to wear a disposable gown or coveralls because it limits access to duty belt and gear, ensure duty belt and gear are disinfected after contact with individual.**



COVID-19: Staying Healthy as a Police Officer

Take the following steps to protect yourself to reduce the likelihood of contracting COVID-19.

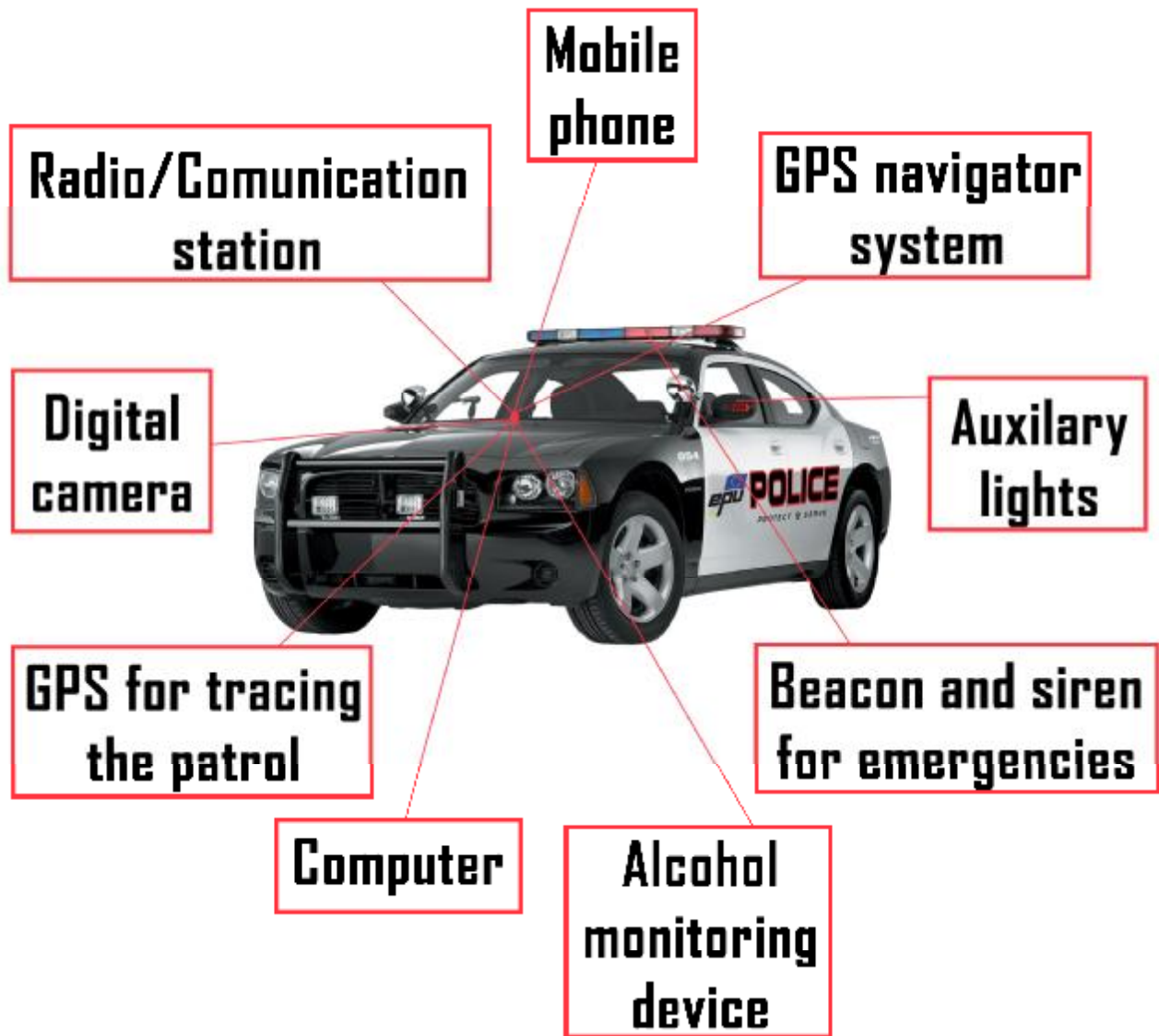
- Practice proper hand hygiene by promptly washing or sanitizing hands after coughing, sneezing, or physically interacting with others. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your face (eyes, nose, and mouth).
- Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Make sure to dispose of the tissue immediately. Wash your hands with soap immediately after sneezing or coughing.
- Avoid close physical contact with others, including shaking hands and hugging.
- Maintain at least 2 meters distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing, when possible.
- Promptly disinfect your gear including your duty belt after physical contact with any individual.
- Keep disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer in an easily accessible place while on-duty.
- Only wear a mask if coming into contact with someone who has the COVID-19 virus and make sure to know how to properly use and dispose of it.
- Educate yourself and participate in training on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for respiratory protection, if available at your agency. Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate PPE have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19.
- Make sure to know your agency's plans and protocols for exposure control.
- Seek medical care early if you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing.

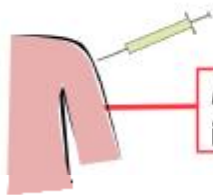
COVID-19-infected droplets may be able to live on nearly any surface.

Consider sanitizing items you frequently touch during a shift:

- Phone
- Laptop
- Clipboard
- Patrol car equipment
 - Steering wheel
 - Gear shift
 - Dispatch radio module
 - Door handles and edges







All police officers should be vaccinated on regular basis against infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis, TBC and other health hazards.

All police officers should be retrained regularly on:

- Use of firearms (shooting ranges minimum 10hr per year);
- Use of coercive measures/public and self-defense (counter-violence);
- Updates on the regulation changes;
- Driving under extreme circumstances (speed chases and etc);
- Communication & Community Policing



For those who are motivated and able to pursue career advancements, departments should provide additional training in: communications, medical (first aid), IT courses, foreign languages, Schengen regulations, monitoring, documents forging, forensics, etc.

