



RESOLUTION OF THE EURO COP COMMITTEE  
IMPACT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS ON POLICE SERVICES IN EUROPE

**The Police Unions and Staff Organisations gathered in the European Confederation of Police**

- declare their solidarity with fellow officers throughout Europe that are unfairly asked to pay for the effects of a crisis that they have not caused.
- express their concern in view of drastic cuts into the budgets of police and law enforcement in a rising number of EU Member States
- emphasize that the police services of many of these Member States lack adequate resources already today and that further drastic cuts will endanger progress that has been made in the past in the fight against crime and terrorism and reinforcing the trust of the population in its police service.
- stress that the internal security and the level of protection of citizens against crime and terrorism in a Europe of open borders depends of the capacities of the weakest link in the network of police services and law enforcement services in Europe
- warn, that budget cuts will also negatively effect the capacity of some Member States to fulfill their obligations in the fight against cross border crime and terrorism.
- point out that high rates of corruption and crime are an obstacle to economic growth. Maintaining the capacity of the police to fight crime and terrorism efficiently is a necessary precondition for economic recovery.
- observe that the effects of the current financial and economic crisis clearly show that the European Union lacks a common and binding framework that sets minimum standards for public administration in general and law enforcement in particular below which no Member State may fall.
- recall that the Council of the European Union in 1993 has agreed the 'Copenhagen Criteria' and that the standards for democracy and the rule of law they establish are valid for all Member States.
- recall the EuroCOP Executive Committee's call of 12 May 2009 for a Stability Pact for the Area of Freedom Security and Justice.



**... call upon all Member States of the Schengen Agreement, especially the EU Member States as well as the EU Institutions:**

1. to accept that the high standards achieved by law enforcement agencies in the European Union is a competitive advantage for Europe and that the maintenance and further improvement of these standards will be an important contribution to reach the goals the EU has set with its 2020 strategy for intelligent, sustainable and integrative growth.
2. to search solutions through negotiation and social dialogue instead of resorting to measures that unilaterally impose pay and pension cuts on police and other public service workers in order to close budget gaps.
3. to provide an assessment through the European Commission with full participation of the European Parliament of any negative effects of cuts into police and law enforcement budgets on the capacity of Member States' police services to protect the population against crime and terrorism and to contribute to the joint fight against cross border crime.
4. not to rely exclusively on an approximation of laws in order to develop the common area of freedom security and justice but to complement this with a mechanism to ensure that the law enforcement service of Member States retain the capacities required for an efficient implementation.
5. To breathe life into the 'Copenhagen Criteria' for democracy and rule of law by developing shared minimum standards for law enforcement services in the European Union in the form of a Stability Pact for law enforcement that ensures that citizens will not only on paper be protected against crime and terrorism with the same high standards throughout the Union

adopted by the 2010 Spring EuroCOP Committee,  
Krakow, Poland, 10 May 2010

The President