



POSITION PAPER

COUNTER TERRORISM

European Confederation of Police

The European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP) recognises that Terrorism has always posed a threat to freedom and to the way of life enjoyed by our citizens in free democratic societies. The cornerstones of free and democratic society must be protected and the citizens of Europe must be resolute in the face of those intolerant to, and intent on destroying the freedoms we all cherish. Europeans have a proud record of being a tolerant, welcoming and open. The freedoms we have all fought so hard for and enjoy must be preserved for the benefit of our future generations.

EuroCOP believes that that intent on pursuing their terrorist ideals has a new determination as an increase in the frequency and severities have demonstrated.

Fear will not stop danger and no amount of planning and intelligence will ever guarantee to eradicate such barbaric attacks in the future. However EuroCOP believes that by having properly resourced police officers and police services working in and with the support of our communities, governments can mitigate and undermine the opportunities for such attacks in the future.



The men and women of the many police forces across Europe are at the forefront of the fight against those intolerant to, and intent on destroying our way of life. All of our citizens should be grateful that we have such courageous public servants prepared to put themselves in harm's way so that others don't have to. It is a consistent reality that when others run away from danger, police officers run towards it.

Whilst the courage of police officers is reassuring, it is not enough. Courage will not gather intelligence, courage cannot stop a bullet or a bomb and courage cannot provide reassurance to communities who are comforted by the presence of police officers.

The fight against terrorism needs tackled on three fronts;

- **Governments need to make sure the resentments and ideologies from which terrorism is born aren't given the opportunities to flourish.**
- **Governments must ensure that where they do, police forces have the intelligence capabilities and resources to gather evidence and bring prosecutions.**

- **Governments must make sure that in the event of a terrorist incident, police forces have the training, equipment and tactical capabilities to respond.**

EuroCOP recognises that all governments make choices and at this time polices are being pursued across Europe to drive down the cost of policing and security. We believe this policy is flawed and risks the safety and security of our nations and also undermines our future economic success.



Events in Paris, Belgium and in recent memory in the UK, have seen armed forces deployed on our streets at times of heightened threat. Armed forces contain some of the most courageous men and women and they provide a vital role in the defense of our nations but they are not and never should be considered as an acceptable patrolling response as a consequence of diminished police capacity.

Police officers are independent of Government. They are not subject to political control; our armed forces a not.

The freedoms and way of life enjoyed across Europe include the separation of the maintenance of law and order and justice from government. We should not allow that to change for any nation that needs to rely on its armed forces for a policing response is demonstrating that terrorism is already changing our way of life.

EuroCOP calls for a reassessment of the decisions taken to reduce police numbers across Europe. The delivery of public safety has to be the number one priority for any government. Reductions to police numbers have been driven by economic policy and not public safety. It is simply impossible to believe that reduced police numbers make us any safer when all our nations are facing a new level of threat.

EuroCOP considers that the delivery of policing requires to be considered as a whole package. The police should not be expected to divert resources from day to day activities to deal with the threat of terrorism. Removing police officers from routine street duties harms our communities and makes them less safe.



Police officers are highly trained, highly skilled, professional public servants and keeping citizens safe should be the top priority for any Government. Commitment to that priority cannot be demonstrated by replacing these highly skilled, accountable police officers with cheaper, more poorly trained and less accountable alternatives.

Properly funded, well-resourced and motivated police officers working in and with our communities have shown time and again that this is the best way of delivering safety and security. Safe communities thrive and prosper. They provide opportunities for our children and enrich our nations. They are the building blocks to defeating terrorism and extremism.

EuroCOP believes the time has come for a significant investment into training and equipment for police services in this increasingly uncertain world.

EuroCOP calls for all police officers to be equipped with adequate and effective tactical and personal protective equipment to enable effective responses to terrorist incidents. The police cannot protect the public if they themselves are not protected.

EuroCOP calls for all European police officers to receive practical and theory training and resources to deal with terrorism. We believe that this training should be coordinated by the European Police College (CEPOL) to ensure standardised training is designed and delivered in all police forces. We believe this training should be delivered to the highest possible standards in light of recent experiences.

EuroCOP believes that our nations have been reluctant to share intelligence in the past and that opportunities to detect those intent on harming our communities may have been missed. The sharing of intelligence should be a key consideration in the fight against terrorism. Terrorism knows no borders and our intelligence systems should not be hindered by them.

EuroCOP calls for the free flow of information and intelligence between all European police forces, InterPol and EuroPol. If investment in technology is required to facilitate this, it must be made without delay.

About EuroCOP

The European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP) is the umbrella organisation for 35 police unions and staff organisations in Europe. Based in Luxembourg, we represent the interests of over half a million police officers in 27 European countries. Today, EuroCOP is tackling issues from police cooperation across borders to a safer working environment for police officers on the street. We are determined to contribute to European policy debates and provide added value by giving a practitioners perspective. EuroCOP was established in November 2002, and is an independent, non-profit and secular organisation and has no affiliation with any government or political party. Financed through member contributions, EuroCOP is open to any organisation representing police officers in member countries of the European Union or the Council of Europe.