



# Scottish Police Federation

5 Woodside Place Glasgow G3 7QF

## JCC Circular 37 of 2016

Ref: CS/LS

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Attachments:

EuroCOP Position Paper – Terrorism;

EuroCOP Position Paper – Refugee & Migration Crisis

Dear Colleague

### **European Confederation of Police – Information**

The European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP) held its Spring meeting in Spain on the 26 & 27 April. The meeting heard from a number of speakers and discussed issues of importance to police forces across Europe. A summary report from that meeting will be circulated shortly.

At the meeting, EuroCOP adopted two significant position papers and these are attached for your information. They are;

- EuroCOP Position Paper on Terrorism, and
- EuroCOP Position Paper on the Refugee & Migration Crisis

Yours sincerely

**Calum Steele**  
General Secretary



## 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.



## POSITION PAPER

### Refugee & Migration Crisis

European Confederation of Police

The European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP) recognises that Europe is regarded as a safe place to live and work. Our nations are welcoming of others and are intolerant to injustice and inhumanity. We also recognise that as a consequence of this, others have always sought to better their way of life whether purely on economic grounds or simply seeking refuge from persecution, danger or war by wanting to live and work in our countries.



EuroCOP considers that regardless of the reason for so many seeking to come and live in Europe that the impact and pressures on our nations and in particular our police forces, is the same.



Police officers are on the front line of seeking to manage a crisis that risks overwhelming many of our nations. No nation should be expected to deal single handedly with this problem simply because they happen to have a border on the periphery of Europe. The borders of the nations of Europe are European borders and should be regarded as such.

EuroCOP considers that in addition to the potential humanitarian problems presented by in excess of one million refugees/migrants entering Europe in 2015 alone, many policing challenges that are yet to be fully understood. We have no indications to expect numbers will be any less in 2016.

Police Officers have not been trained to deal with the complex issues created by the refugee/migration crisis and some of our police forces are simply overwhelmed by the volume of people coming to our shores.

Many of those arriving are traumatised and have lost loved ones (including children), many have been victims of crime. We have no doubt that many (including children) are being exploited and trafficked into slavery or prostitution and consider it likely that amongst those who are already here will be violent criminals whose identities may never be uncovered. We cannot imagine the horror that so many have witnessed and the psychological impact this has had.

Police officers are faced with duties that include shepherding fellow human beings behind fences and into camps or driving them to other places away from their own internal borders.



Police officers are dealing with fellow human beings who lack adequate clothing, food or shelter to be able to survive. It is and remains a key humanitarian challenge to all European countries to grant refugees a safe and decent shelter, even if only on a temporary basis.

management of refugees.

**EuroCOP calls** upon the European Council to put in place funding and the mechanisms to enable the development of specific police training for the

**EuroCOP calls** for the immediate creation of a pan European research initiative to measure the long term psychological impact on police officers who are dealing with fellow human beings in extreme circumstances.

**EuroCOP calls** for police forces to cooperate in the sharing of current best practice and that proper mechanisms are out in place to manage the health, safety and welfare of those dealing with this crisis.

EuroCOP believes it is incumbent on all European governments to find workable solutions to managing this challenge. It is not for EuroCOP to determine how many are accommodated and in which nation but we do not consider that at this time the European burden is being borne equally by the nations of Europe.

**EuroCOP calls** for the European Commission and the European nation states to implement existing contractual obligations and rules to ensure that the influx of refugees is better organised all over Europe. This will allow for a reduction of the tremendous daily strain for police officers and other public services.

EuroCOP continues to observe that the reduction in police officers throughout Europe is a policy driven by finance and not one driven by need or demand. It is impossible to believe that the new demands created by over 1,000,000 new people entering Europe in little over a year can properly be managed by police forces who were already struggling to cope with falling numbers and existing demand.

**EuroCOP calls** for an increase in police officers across Europe. At this time those that are left are heavily overloaded and there are simply far too few police officers to deal with the current challenges and effectively tackle illegal migration, human trafficking and international crime.

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