



PRESS STATEMENT

European Confederation of Police

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Protection against long and irregular working hours must continue to be main goal of the Working Time Directive

EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer: "Revision of the Working Time directive must not lead to a dismantling of the directive."

"Police officers throughout Europe have been looking towards Europe in order to improve their working conditions," says EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer in a first reaction to the consultation initiated by the European Commission earlier this week. "We are concerned that they might fear Europe in the future if it will stand for longer and even more irregular working hours."

EuroCOP will continue to press for a Working Time Directive that opens the way for modern, sustainable and negotiated solutions that respect both the need to provide a high quality service to society on a 24/7 basis and the need to reconcile work and private life as well as the need to protect police officers' health and safety.

Mr Kiefer: "Police officers throughout Europe want to do a good job. They will only be able to do this if their health and safety is protected. Deteriorating working conditions and pressure to work longer ultimately lead to a lower quality in the service provided to citizens."

EuroCOP fully supports the position adopted by the ETUC as early as 2004, when it was first consulted on the revision of the Working Time Directive (WTD):

According to John Monks, ETUC General Secretary "there is a clear link between long and irregular working hours and increased work-related health problems. Although the world of work has changed, this evidence has not changed since the first legislation on working time, nor since we last discussed the revision of the working time directive. Protection of the health and safety of workers must therefore remain the primary goal of any review of the working time directive. This is of crucial importance for all workers, but in particular where workers in the performance of their jobs can affect the lives of 3rd parties, for instance in healthcare professions or transport."

EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer: "Tired and overworked police officers make mistakes. A high quality policing service depends on the ability of police personnel to recuperate and be health, alert and awake on the job."

The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, is the umbrella organisation of 35 national Police Unions and Staff Organisations from 26 European States. It represents the interests of over 500.000 police officers in Europe. www.eurocop-police.org