



Issue 1, Wednesday 26 June

## Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Foreword from the President .....  | 1 |
| EU snapshot .....  | 2 |
| EU reaches agreement on Schengen governance .....  | 2 |
| Upcoming political initiative on combating illicit trafficking in firearms in the EU .....         | 2 |
| New legislative proposal wants to boost Europol's role as the European law enforcement agency..... | 2 |
| Meet a colleague: Claus Redder Madsen .....  | 3 |
| Calendar .....   | 4 |

## Foreword from the President

Dear all,

Welcome this first issue of the EuroCOP newsletter. As you may know, we have seen a lot of developments since the extraordinary congress took place in Barcelona in the beginning of March. As planned we have now begun our professional approach to lobbying at EU level in Brussels and we will continue to raise the profile of EuroCOP and the issues faced by police organizations across Europe. The reaction so far from EU officials at all levels has been very encouraging.

As a further step in getting our message across we decided to set up this newsletter to communicate on progress to you, our members, on a more regular basis. Any input you can provide is warmly welcome and I think it is worth reiterating that we can only be the best we can be with your support and contributions.

In the past weeks, I have been in Brussels for a few intensive days of meetings with European policymakers, such as high-level officials in the European Commission's Directorate General for Home Affairs. The Commission will be working on the follow-up to the Stockholm programme and is very keen to receive more facts and figures from EuroCOP and its members to support their proposals. We will be asking you all for suggestions at the Autumn EuroCOP Committee Meeting! The value of EU cooperation on policing needs to be reiterated to Member State governments. EuroCOP can fulfill an active role in this regard and it is great that the Commission will be looking to us for advice. We also met Member State representatives, from Lithuania (who will hold the next Presidency of the EU) and Sweden, as well as Members of European Parliament Bendt Bendtsen – who is a former police officer from Denmark – and Wim van de Camp (Netherlands). The outcome of these meetings was extremely encouraging and we look forward to taking some of the action points which came out of them forward this autumn.

Next to that, I have also attended events and meetings in Northern Ireland, the UK, Spain, and Lithuania. One thing that strikes me all across the board is the commitment and dedication of police officers who are often working under extreme and difficult conditions. Financial austerity measures continue to affect the operations of the police all over Europe.

Looking ahead, on behalf of the Executive Committee, we look forward to welcoming many of you to the Autumn EuroCOP Committee Meeting in October. At the meeting, we will organise a workshop on EuroCOP's engagement in Brussels and ahead of the event, we will be circulating a short questionnaire to member organizations. I would like to take the opportunity to stress that your answers will be crucial to the workshop's success. Until then, have a great summer and enjoy the updates below.

Best regards,

Anna Nellberg, President

## **EU snapshot**

### **EU reaches agreement on Schengen governance**

After a year of negotiations, the European Parliament and EU Member States reached an agreement on a revised set of rules for governing the Schengen area. Part of the agreement is reinforcing the mechanism which is used to assess whether EU countries apply the Schengen rules correctly. If, under the new evaluation mechanism, serious problems in the execution of external border controls are identified, the European Commission can recommend the country concerned takes specific measures. These consist, for example, of the deployment of European border guard teams, or potentially the full closing of a specific border crossing. The new system will prevent EU Member States from unilaterally deciding to reintroduce unnecessary controls at the internal borders without any European verification.

In a reaction to the agreement, EurCOP issued a [statement](#) on its website, welcoming it as a step in the right direction. Hopefully, this will lead to border governments investing more in their obligations to implement Schengen, because for the Schengen Agreement to maintain its effectiveness the border countries must be fully committed. The benefits that joint minimum standards for police and law enforcement could bring in terms of more efficient police cooperation should not be underestimated and are especially important in view of Member States in the process of joining the Schengen area.

### **Upcoming political initiative on combating illicit trafficking in firearms in the EU**

The European Commission is working on a new EU common approach for more effective controls and tracing of firearms within the EU. The EU already has rules for transfers of firearms within the EU, these are laid down in the Directive on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons. The Home Affairs Directorate General of the European Commission, responsible for internal security, is currently collecting opinions about new action needed at EU level. They are concerned about the link between legally-owned firearms and illicit trafficking and worry that the current Directive facilitates illicit trafficking. The results of this exercise will inform an official EU Communication which will be adopted later this year, and which might lead to future legislative and other initiatives.

### **New legislative proposal wants to boost Europol's role as the European law enforcement agency**

The European Commission has proposed to enhance the role of Europol as the European law enforcement agency and suggests to merge the European police training college (CEPOL) with Europol to combine knowledge and make the two agencies more efficient. The Commission wants Europol to

become the European hub for information exchange and analysis on serious crime. In order to achieve this, Member States should be obliged to provide sufficient and good quality data to the Agency. However, the proposal has not been warmly welcomed by everyone involved. The Directors of both CEPOL and Europol are concerned that it will lead to less funding for the Agencies, which are already strapped for cash. The proposal now has to be negotiated by the European Parliament and Member States.

## Meet a colleague: Claus Redder Madsen



**Name:** *Claus Redder Madsen*

**Function:** *Union Secretary in the Police Union in Denmark. Secretary for the Nordic Police Union.*

**City, country:** *Copenhagen, Denmark.*

**Has been with the police since:** *1 March 1984.*

### **What are your biggest challenges at the moment?**

*The financial crisis! But our core priorities as union representatives are – as always – salaries, rights, and working conditions for the members. Having said that, I find it essential, that EuroCOP assists in promoting “best policing practices” in Europe and is active in ensuring the external borders into the EU to secure Europe in a secure world. Furthermore, we will have to combat the increasing demands from the politicians to „outsource“ police tasks, only focusing on the economics. The only way to raise the level of policing in these “hard times” is to have a professional political backing and focus – in relation to the international collaboration and EuroCOP - and to strengthen the chain, which cannot be stronger than its weakest link.*

### **What keeps you motivated?**

*Like other wage-earners, police officers have the right to safety and health in the performance of their duties. Our “own security” is the priority for all police officers, avoiding violence and threats. I know a lot of police officers who have experienced severe injuries in the line of duty – and it has been a great pleasure to me to be able to serve these colleagues and to help them as much as possible. They have offered the police everything and suddenly their life change in a second. Among others, their gratitude keeps me motivated.*

### **What would your top recommendation be for Europe’s politicians?**

*As Bruce Springsteen says it in his latest Album “Wrecking Ball” and the song “We take care of our own” – the EU politicians should take care of their own police officers all over Europe. Unfortunately, we have seen a lot of cuts in salaries, police budgets, etc. since “the global financial crisis” “hit” almost all countries in Europe. The politicians have to be aware of the fact that they have to raise the level and the awareness of police welfare as well as combating internal and external corruption. Corruption is not acceptable in a modern democracy and does not have a positive impact on public respect. Therefore -*

*“take care of your police” and do not continue lowering the standards – then you will get the respect from the public!*

**Which international colleagues would you like to hear from next?**

*Our Bulgarian friends, Emil Rashev and Katia Ganeva, who have taken the initiative to establish the “Balkan Police Institute” related to the harmonization of Police Laws of the Balkan countries, and to promote the “best practices”. I am looking forward to hear about the progress they will experience in the project.*

**Calendar**

| <b>Event</b>                        | <b>Date</b>   | <b>Location</b>              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Europol Chiefs of Police convention | Mid-September | The Hague, Netherlands (tbc) |
| Autumn EuroCOP Committee Meeting    | 29/30 October | Prague, Czech Republic       |

For a list of upcoming CEPOL trainings click [here](#), for webinars, click [here](#).

The next issue of the newsletter will be published in September.