



PRESS STATEMENT

European Confederation of Police

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International Anti-Corruption Day: Say "No" to corruption

EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer concerned that cuts of police budgets might have a negative impact on the fight against corruption

On the occasion of the international anti corruption day on 9 December EuroCOP President Heinz Kiefer has warned EU Member States not to cut police budgets in response to the economic and financial crisis.

"EuroCOP and its member organisations are firmly committed to high professional and ethical standards in the police. We know that the police have a key role to play in the fight against corruption.

We are extremely worried that the severe budget and pay cuts for police that are being discussed in some EU Member States, such as Latvia, Lithuania, Ireland, Poland and the Czech Republic could have a negative effect on these country's efforts in the fight against corruption," Kiefer said following a protest meeting of police officers in Prague, earlier today.

"Cutting budgets and pay sends the wrong sign into the service. Especially in difficult times police officers need be able to trust that their loyalty is rewarded with reliability on the side of the government," Mr Kiefer continued.

Within the European Union all Member States share a common responsibility for the fight against corruption and crime. As early as May 2009 EuroCOP has called for an EU Stability Pact for police in order to prevent Member States from cutting police budgets to the detriment not only of their own citizens but to that of citizens in other Member States as well.

The European Confederation of Police, EuroCOP, is the umbrella organisation of 37 national Police Unions and Staff Organisations from 26 European States. It represents the interests of over 500.000 police officers in Europe. www.eurocop.org