



Issue 4, April 2014

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Foreword from the President

Dear all,

Spring has most definitely arrived and with it a new drive to continue the important work of our members. For the past couple of months, we have been working hard on producing new materials to communicate EuroCOP’s point of view to policymakers, politicians, and others.

We now have a comprehensive overview of EuroCOP’s official positions on issues such as austerity, Schengen, health & safety in our position paper on the future of the EU’s Stockholm Programme and will be using these to develop more detailed advocacy materials in the month to come.

I am pleased to say we also have a new brochure (which will soon be available for all members to print at their wish), a banner, and lots of new content on the website.

Of course all this would be of no use if we weren't 'out there' spreading the word and the Executive Committee has certainly been doing so. Among others, members of the ExCOM attended the European trade union summit, "European trade union in dialogue for a social Europe" in Brussels, a European Commission debate on the future of Justice and Home Affairs, and events on the EU and 21st Century security, as well as on cross-border crime and corruption in Europe. At all of these events and on other occasions we have made connections, fostered existing relationships, and promoted our key messages.

With our April Committee meeting fast approaching, I look forward to seeing as many as you as possible in Vilnius to reflect on our priorities and activities for the coming months.

Best wishes,

Anna Nellberg-Dennis

President

EU snapshot

First EU-wide anti-corruption report published

DG HOME published the EU first ever [anti-corruption report](#) in February this year. The report found that corruption affects all Member States in one way or another. Separately, a Eurobarometer survey on citizens' attitudes to corruption found that 76% felt that corruption was wide-spread and 56% felt that corruption had increased in their country over the past three years.

In terms of criminal aspects the report found that although all Member States have national anti-corruption laws in line with EU standards; rules on tackling private-sector corruption have not been made into consistent national law by EU Member States. There were also significant differences identified between countries in the area of law enforcement and persecution. DG HOME also found that in some Member States, comprehensive corruption crime statistics were found to be lacking.

Member States and European Parliament reach deal on new European Investigation Order (EIO) directive

The European Parliament and the Council have come to a provisional agreement on the European Investigation Order (EIO) directive. The EIO should make it easier for judicial authorities in one Member State to request counterparts in another Member State to carry out investigative procedures the results of which would be used as evidence in another Member State.

The EIO would also impose a lower administrative burden with a single form for investigative requests. The EIO will also include deadlines; authorities will have thirty days to decide whether or not they will accept the EIO, if affirmative they will have ninety days hence to conduct the investigation. The UK will take part in the EIO, however Denmark and Ireland will not. Once the text is adopted Member States will have three years to transpose the legislation into national law.

Meet a colleague

In this issue: Claude Choplin, France



Name: Claude Choplin

Function: Secrétaire Général Fédéral, FPIP

Country: France

Has been with the police since: 1st October 1981

What are your biggest challenges at the moment?

I think that the biggest challenge is the problem of violence against the police forces in all Europe. There is no more respect for policemen because our politicians, whoever they are, are always working for their re-election, and not busy with the real problems faced by police officers. We need more police officers, but obviously, according to my own opinion, we need a stronger political will first of all.

What keeps you motivated?

For FPIP, we never accept any injustice, it is always our duty to fight against all the biggest problems of the police. In my 33 years of work I have never seen so much injustice: further efforts to lower pensions, more violence against peacekeepers, we have chiefs who are more interested in their own careers than in the protection of the police troops! They ask us to do more for less!

What would your top recommendation be for Europe's politicians?

To vote laws which support the power of the police, to have criminals serve the full time of their sentences in in jail and to stop treating police officers with suspicion.

Which international colleague would you like to hear from next?

My friend Orlando Bernardi Monaco ASAPPEM

Special feature – EuroCOP feeds into the EU's Justice and Home Affairs Policy

Pan-European priorities in the area of Justice and Home Affairs have been determined by the EU's Stockholm programme over the past 5 years. For the past couple of months, the EU executive has been working on the follow up to the programme, trying to determine what the focus of the coming years should be. The new policy framework running from 2015 until 2020 includes important issues such as cross-border police cooperation, law enforcement training, information exchange, and building mutual trust between countries. EuroCOP has fed into this process from the beginning to the end, thanks to the valuable input from its members, with notable results as outlined next.

EuroCOP position paper on the Future of the Stockholm Programme

In the late Autumn of 2013, the European Commission's Directorate General for Home Affairs published a public consultation on their future policy framework, with the aim of gathering as much feedback from a variety of interest groups. Perfectly timed after the Prague ExCOM workshop on members' priorities and vision for the future, the EuroCOP team was able to put together a policy paper with members' combined views on the future of European Justice and Home Affairs Policy. The paper is an extensive overview of EuroCOP's position on a number of areas and can be found [here](#). This was submitted in the official consultation process, as well as distributed to a number of key Brussels policymakers.

Executive Committee presents key issues in Brussels, Berlin, Rome and beyond



Accompanying EuroCOP's written input to the process, members of the Executive Committee travelled to participate in key events and attend meetings arranged with important EU policymakers and politicians to discuss EuroCOP's views on the future EU policy on Justice and Home Affairs. In November 2013 for example, ExCOM members attended a conference on the EU and 21st security, with speakers from national governments, the European Commission, NATO, the Council of Europe, Europol and others. The results of their discussions fed

directly into the development of the future EU Justice and Home Affairs policy framework.

And finally, in February 2014, individual meetings were set up in Brussels between ExCOM and Member States' permanent representations from Belgium, Germany, Slovakia, Greece, as well as the European Commission's DG Home Affairs and a European affairs journalist. These meetings offered EuroCOP an opportunity to highlight the challenges police officers are facing in Europe, build relationships with key EU representatives and to profile the organisation as actively contributing to finding a solution to problems in European policing.

In March, EuroCOP's President met with the Commission's DG Employment to talk about health & safety issues specifically.

Presentation of the new policy framework

The new [EU Justice and Home Affairs policy](#) was presented on the 11th of March. Overall, it focuses on the implementation of existing legislation and enhancing practical cooperation, rather than setting out a completely new agenda. A number of key points in relation to law enforcement, as outlined in EuroCOP's position paper were noted by policymakers:

- Operational **coordination** between Member States is essential
- Mutual trust should be **strengthened**
- The use of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) should increase, **supported by EU funds**
- Divergent national rules on **investigative techniques** should be examined
- **Information exchange** between authorities should be stepped up, with Europol acting as a hub
- EU level training of law enforcement should be further developed – benefiting officers **from all ranks**
- Corruption should be tackled through measures identified in the first EU **anti-corruption** report

Press release and media coverage

Following the release of the new framework, EuroCOP sent out its reaction in a press release, which was distributed to some 300+ journalists. In the release, EuroCOP welcomed the new policy package, but expressed concerns that the Commission's lack of concrete actions fails to address some of the serious issues facing European police officers today. EuroCOP's President also addressed some of these issues in more detail in an op-ed for think tank Friends of Europe, which can be read [here](#).

Reflections & what next?

The review of the EU's policy framework in Justice and Home Affairs was an important opportunity for EuroCOP to make its voice heard in Brussels and to determine what issues should be prioritised, from a policing perspective, in the coming years. Through meeting policymakers and politicians, attending events across Europe and getting media coverage, EuroCOP became one of the most visible organizations involved in the debate. The momentum that this has created, both in terms of visibility and positioning EuroCOP as a voice on key issues, provide a great platform for future activities.

Calendar

Event	Date	Location
EuroCOP Committee Meeting	29/30 April	Vilnius, Lithuania
JHA Council Meeting on 2020 Priorities	5/6 June	Luxembourg

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

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