



Calum Steele

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Ylva Johansson
Commissioner – Home Affairs
The European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

By email to: cab-johansson-contact@ec.europa.eu

14 April 2022

Dear Commissioner Johansson

Ukraine and CEPOL

I refer to the above, my letter dated 24th February, and to your response dated 12 April. I am heartened that you share the concerns of EuroCOP and am reassured by the content of your reply.

However, I simply cannot accept that EuroCOP has ever depicted or suggested (either in the public eye, or elsewhere) that CEPOL has performed tasks which could be regarded as illegitimate and against EU policies, in any way, let alone in respect of Ukraine.

On the contrary, EuroCOP has been a strong supporter of CEPOL. We have advocated for it to have an enhanced role in setting and driving standards for police training at a European level, and have suggested such an enhanced role, alongside a refreshed European Code of Police Ethics could play a critical part in enhancing confidence in policing across member states. I respectfully suggest your information in this regard is therefore entirely erroneous.

EuroCOP has however long held deep reservations in respect of the location of CEPOL within Hungary. We regret that those reservations continue and following our Spring Meeting on the 6th April, our members unanimously supported that I write to you seeking the withdrawal of CEPOL from Hungary. It is therefore precisely because we value what CEPOL stands for, what CEPOL can, and should be that we therefore have to ask you to act accordingly.

Policing is a cornerstone of any modern and progressive democracy. Policing is the defender of liberty, and the protector of human rights. Policing constantly has to manage the balance between safeguarding individual freedoms and the restrictions imposed by laws. It is the impartial investigator of crime, and without confidence in policing, our communities would not prosper.



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Hungary has a shameful record on human rights. It is the only country in Europe which has not only failed to condemn, but has remained silent on, the horrors of war, criminality, and genocide being visited on the people of Ukraine. This is simply unforgivable.

Whether we like it or not, the continuing operating of CEPOL from Hungary legitimises the actions of the Hungarian government, whilst simultaneously causing considerable harm to the reputation of police officers across the continent. How in all consciousness can the delivery of European Police Training from a centre in Hungary, a country which remains silent on the rampant criminality on its very doorstep, be defended?

EuroCOP appreciates that Hungary is a member of the European family. It is precisely because of that familial obligation that EuroCOP has supported this action. When any member of our families finds themselves on the wrong path, it is incumbent on us all to steer them in the right direction.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Calum Steele

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