



Jonne Rinne

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Brussels, 10th February 2025

Members of the Intergroup on the Police

Dear Members of the Intergroup on the Police,

We are contacting you on behalf of EuroCOP¹, the umbrella organisation for police unions and staff organisations in Europe. We represent 30 police unions and staff organisations across Europe as well as over 230,000 police officers in 25 European countries. EuroCOP is tackling issues from police cooperation across borders to a safer working environment for police officers on the street. We are determined to contribute to European policy debates and provide added value by giving a practitioners' perspective. Together with ETUC we are working towards improvement of working conditions and safety of police officers.

EuroCOP would like to welcome the establishment of the Intergroup on the Police and thank you for your engagement and support for police forces in the EU. We truly hope, that this Intergroup will be a platform for cooperation between MEPs and police representatives and that we will have various occasions to work together and deliver on common goals. **EuroCOP and its members remain at your disposal and are ready to actively support you in your role as Members of the Intergroup.**

The establishment of this Intergroup is very timely. Not only because of the increasing organised crime but also due to **the recent LIBE debate on “the need to establish profession of police officers as a high-risk profession”, that took place on 28 January**. The majority of the speakers agreed, that police officers require high level protection of their employment and social rights as well as health and safety at work. Adequate wages and pensionable age, health insurance coverage, mental health support and adequate equipment have been mentioned as indispensable elements, that shall be guaranteed to police officers all around Europe. A lot attention has been paid to the increasing violence against the police and **the need to start collecting data about cases of violence against police officers at EU level**, something that EuroCOP has been advocating for since a while.

We want Europe to be the place, **where police officers are operating in an environment of equality, safety and support, provided with the rights, resources, and training** to keep Europe's citizens safe and secure. Unfortunately, in Europe we are experiencing an **increasing epidemic of violence against police officers**. This violence can include verbal abuse and hate crimes, sexual assaults and most commonly physical violence against police officers and police staff. Social media create their own specific challenges and the future will bring even more hybrid threats.

This deteriorating situation has been routinely ignored for many years. It is high time to take actions at EU level, especially as organized crime is on its rise and there is a need for enhanced cross border

¹ <https://eurocop.org>



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cooperation between law enforcers. This is why EuroCOP is calling on policy makers to establish a **central repository of data in the EU regarding incidences of violence against police officers**. Collection of data at EU level would help understand the roots of the problem, exchange best practices between Members States and adapt safety awareness training programs for police officers.

European police forces are also facing enormous challenges with regards to the recruitment and retention of police officers. Therefore, EuroCOP calls to provide police officers with **appropriate support, training and resources** needed to carry out their duties. We need to guarantee to police officers **adequate wages, adequate working time provisions** as well as **mental health** support.

As one of the voice of police officers in the EU, we would like to encourage you to take into account EuroCOP's priorities when identifying tasks and mission for the Intergroup on the Police. So please find our EU manifesto and Position paper attached to this letter. We stay at your disposal for any further questions or comments.

Representatives of EuroCOP would be also happy to meet you at your earliest convenience.

We wish you all the success in your new role and in bringing police issues higher on the EU agenda and look forward to our future cooperation.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name "Jonne Rinne".

Jonne Rinne, EuroCOP President



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