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## EPU International Conference

Sofia (Bulgaria), 04.04.2018

### Minimum standards for maximal security



The creation, protection and further development of the European Union as a values-based community in a space of peace, security and the rule of law is one of the outstanding achievements of the past and a major challenge for its future. Police officers in the member and candidate countries of the European Union contribute considerably to the realization of these goals with their personal commitment, in many cases even at the risk of their own health and lives. Therefore they should all be fully and equally entitled to the political solidarity and social security in order to be able to accomplish their daily difficult and risky tasks and to provide for themselves and their families. Priorities in this are adequate income creation and regulation,

working hours and conditions, social benefits, health care and the protection in case of accidents (worker's compensation). The European Police Union protects the interest of police officers in the whole Europe and is strongly committed to the creation and improvement of their social security in line with the living circumstances and working conditions in the respective member and candidate countries of EU.

The EPU's project: "Minimum Standards for Maximal Security" is divided into sub-studies (phases) for the purpose of easier overseeing and further development.

#### **The first phase of the research focuses on adopting minimum standards of the uniforms, equipment, training and retraining of European police officers in patrol.**

The results of our research and the proposed minimum standards (phase I) will be presented to sectoral institutions of the European Union. Based on EPU's findings, after reading these analysis, they should be convinced of the need to implement necessary structural reforms and to make investments to implement the recommendations from the first phase of the project not solely for the countries' security interests, but especially for bearing the responsibility and protection obligation of the police officers and the citizens in Europe.

**The second phase of our project will focus on the socio-economic factors in which income (salaries, allowances etc.) and the social security systems (including health insurance, retirement, worker's compensation etc.).**

The introduction and adoption of minimum standards for police officers in Europe, for the purpose of raising the safety within the EU to the required level, can only be achieved if adequate financial resources are made available in the EU budget.

Through regular national and European consultations (social dialogue), and negotiations between stakeholders and employees it is possible to make policy agreements about the form and content of guaranteeing minimum standards for police officers in Europe with the aim of bringing the safety and security system for Europe to a necessary and acceptable level. After all, every inadequately equipped police officer is a security risk by itself. Finally, EPU pleads for a better budgetary surveillance and responsibility in the financial administration and spending of the EU's money flows for the security sector.

Setting up an annual requirement to report to the police trade unions for monitoring of the financial policy in the sectoral budget can stimulate the security of European police officers and citizens and generate better guidance on the spending pattern of the available budgets on safety and security measures at national and EU levels.



With this message, EPU / EUROFEDOP organised an international conference on 04.04.2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria, the country which is currently assuming the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Participants in the opening session were: Valentin Popov, President of TUFEMI; Gerrit van de Kamp, President of EPU, the Deputy Minister of the Interior and Fritz Neugebauer, President of EUROFEDOP.

In addition to the aforementioned items, there was also an informal meeting with members of the EPU to discuss concrete actions to be taken to reduce the violence against police officers in Europe.



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