



Freedom, Security, Law, Justice

Resolution of the European Police Union (EPU)

On the occasion of its General Assembly in Berlin, the European Police Union (EPU) expressed its full and unanimous commitment to the objectives and values of the European Union as enshrined in Article 3 of the Treaty of Lisbon and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The EPU member organisations feel directly committed to these objectives and values. They stand up for human dignity as an inviolable foundation of all fundamental rights which must be respected and protected.

For decades now, the challenges for internal security in Europe have been increasing, repeatedly causing concern to millions of people every day. All of these people are united by a desire to live in a peaceful, democratic and cosmopolitan society governed by the rule of law and to shape their lives and well-being in freedom. This calls for greater efforts on the part of security authorities, whose employees are making an outstandingly important contribution to social cohesion through their commitment to internal security.

Not least the war in Ukraine is a drastic reminder that peace, freedom and prosperity cannot be taken for granted, but must be fought for and defended time and again. Europe's strategic orientation as well as its ability and willingness to form alliances and its will to provide the necessary structures and capabilities on its continent through its own efforts serve this goal.

To this end, the EPU considers the following to be essential:

- The employees of the security authorities have a right to recognition and appreciation of their work, to adequate pay, necessary equipment and social security. The previously huge differences in the individual countries of the European Union must be overcome in favour of an overall structure that recognises the employees' performance. The EPU considers it its primary task to strengthen, consolidate and future-proof the working and living conditions for the employees of the security authorities.



- The inconsistent equipping of the employees of the security authorities, for instance, at the external European borders, but also within countries, is absolutely unacceptable. The EPU refers to its study 'The Minimum Standards for Maximal Security Project' (2017) and calls for effective initiatives by member countries to improve service clothing and tactical equipment for the officers.
- A unified security strategy in Europe that goes beyond the year 2025 and the resolution https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0378_DE.html to formulate common goals as well as instruments and approaches. In numerous legislative acts and the establishment of police cooperation bodies, the European Parliament and the European Commission have shown their determination and ability to face the threats of crime and terror together.
- The development of a common operational capability to protect the EU's external borders. The single area without internal border controls calls for reliable and assertive EU border management, which must also be organised under unified leadership. It goes without saying that this includes a uniform asylum and immigration policy that prevents individual countries from going it alone and enables a joint approach.
- The fight against illegal migration to Europe must be fought with united forces and goals. Above all, the fight against internationally organised trafficking cartels is a paramount joint duty of the member states. Failure to significantly reduce illegal migration will irreparably damage internal security in Europe, internal peace and social cohesion.

In the past, there have already been numerous EU initiatives on police cooperation which the EPU welcomes and recognises. These initiatives must be accelerated and expanded. Agencies and other bodies of police cooperation must be given greater possibilities to act, and this also applies to us, especially for Europol and Frontex.

Berlin, 10 October 2023