

Mr. the Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

I am proud to represent the European Council of Police Unions on the occasion of KRIPO INTER in Munich, the theme of which is « *Fighting the Mafia* ».

The theme chosen this year has been in the heart of the concerns of the CESP since its creation, 20 years ago at the end of this year. It is the proof that this fight is a long and exacting fight and that we should never give up.

These last months, important actions were successfully carried out against the Italian Mafia.

Recent police operations in Italy and in the USA against the "Cosa Nostra" have highlighted the police cooperation beyond the European borders.

Recent interventions against the «N'drangheta" in Italy succeeded to the arrest of the chief of the Calabrian mafia, actively wanted for about twenty years.

We don't question the power of the Mafias and particularly the mafia of Calabria that is famous in activities of drug traffic and extortion of funds and that became lately – according to some experts – the most powerful in the peninsula.

The other activity of the Mafia, and not the least, is the laundering of money resulting from its various illicit activities.

On the European level, it seems that the Commission wants to reinforce the guideline that currently only aims the traditional bank deposits. The project consists in including other forms of saving as the actions, the funds of placement and investment and the foundations.

The European commissioner to the Finances, Laszlo Kovacs, declared recently:
"The bank secret must be abolished in fiscal matter to avoid criminality"

Let's wish this declaration is followed of concrete effects thus reinforcing the police and judicial actions against all the Mafias.

The event gathering us today is also the opportunity to remind us that women and men before have been able to stand up to fight against the organised crime, even sometimes until the supreme sacrifice.

Their testimony and their abnegation give us the strength - today – to continue non-stop the combat against any form of organised criminality.

I pay a supported homage to them.

The opportunity is given to me to underline the commitment of the police unions of the CESP that are the BDK and the Sindacato Autonomo di Polizia as well as their determination in this fight against the Mafia:

“The organised crime that wants to dictate us its Law. Their actors who try to submit the Democracy while attacking until the most precious of the rights, the respect of Life”.

All of us, European Citizens, have the duty to honour the memory of those who often sacrifice a lot and sometimes have sacrificed even to their life to defend the intangible values of the Democracy and the State of Law.

It is with a message of hope that I want to conclude and to remind us that there is no fatality face to the crime.

We must mobilise our intelligences and our strengths to defend the democratic values that built our societies through the centuries, it is there a superior engagement.

To end, I have two wishes to European governments and parliamentarians:

- **First, give us the opportunity with full union rights of fighting with you the MAFIA and the organised crime in best conditions;**
- **Secondly, improve cooperation and law.**

Please, stop the “step by step” system whereas the organised crime uses the lift in their activities! Give the right, also to us, to use it...

Thank you for your attention.

Gérard Greneron
Secretary-General of the CESP

Munich, 4 June 2008