



Conseil Européen des Syndicats de Police

Organisation Internationale Non Gouvernementale au Conseil de l'Europe

Final Resolution

Executive Committee of St. Julian's (Malta)

16 and 17 October 2009

The European Council of Police Unions (CESP) – an International Non-Governmental Organization of the Council of Europe representing 300,000 policemen through 17 countries (13 members of the E.U.) representing 18 unions – held its Executive Committee in St. Julian's, Malta on 16 and 17 October 2009 on the topic:

“When somebody attacks a Police Officer, it's an attack on Democracy!”

“A few days away from the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall which carried a lot of hope, CESP is wondering about the democratic health of our societies.

Democracy is not just a political system, it is based in modern societies on concepts such as freedom, recognition of human rights, equal opportunities and the rule of law...

Democracy expresses itself through the citizens in different structures such as the level of politics, union activities and associations.

CESP claims that the police is the pillar of Democracy because it plays a significant role within the state to fight crime on a national as well as an international level. It therefore plays an important role in the rule of law by keeping its activities in close contact with the population and its effectiveness depends on the support of the people.

Currently, society is challenged with economical, social and moral crises, institutional values have been weakened.

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Not only authorities such as the police are rejected on a daily basis, but anyone else which represents the state, such as firemen, teachers or even emergency doctors, bus drivers etc.

This fact is proven by the increasing number of offenses and the number of injured or killed police officers while carrying out their duties.

At the same time the mass media plays an important role in order to increase their audience and they do not hesitate to trivialize daily attacks against police officers whereas they increase and intensify police actions which are there to keep the order are often blamed first when there is a social unrest and they are even burdened with the presumption of guilt.

One could therefore ask the question: who defends the defenders?

- Keep in mind that the police, as the keepers of freedom, must be given a large amount of social and economical rights and the protection of the state established by the European code of police ethics:
- They must have the right to union freedom, the right to receive appropriate remuneration, social recognition as well as health and security protection bearing in mind the particular character of police work.

CESP demands the generalization of sanctions in connection with offenses against persons of public authority such as police officers and their entitled beneficiaries must be become stronger; procedures must be started without delay.

The state must support police officers who are accused of wrongdoing while they were carrying out their duties. They must be provided with the assistance of lawyers, experts, psychologists etc.

CESP reminds that the police cannot be the “fire brigade” of the society

CESP believes that democracy is in danger and in order to protect it the state must give total support to the police, institutional as well as social.

The nature of the profession of the police officer plays a very important role in the interaction of society”.

***Executive Committee of CESP
Saint Julians (Malta)
18th October 2009***