



# Conseil Européen des Syndicats de Police

Organisation Internationale Non Gouvernementale au Conseil de l'Europe

## Executive Committee of Sarajevo

15 and 16 May 2009

### Final Resolution

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 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 15 and 16 May 2009 on the topic of *"The Economic Crisis: its influence on the labour relations and social status of the police officers as well as its influence on the possible rise of crime."*

The economical crisis is not just a theory anymore; we are experiencing it in reality. Apart from opinions and assumptions which are theoretical, there are figures which show very clearly that this phenomenon has an effect on the whole of Europe. We call on all the European Institutions and all national Governments of the member states of CESP to take into consideration information which has been gathered in the meeting of this Executive Committee.

With the deepening of the economic crisis, the crime is raising which has a strong effect on the police work, they are exposed to more difficult circumstances; less material means/equipment is available to them. In order to cover the hours necessary to secure public safety, a duty of the police officers written in the legislations of all European countries, he/she have to work overtime.

The members of CESP insist on the current preferential retirement system of the police officers as well as on a long-term professional model and the current system of benefits. With the increased criminality, police officers are facing more difficult work surroundings without having the appropriate allowances and benefits.

This situation creates dissatisfaction and frustration and affects the police officers in society. He/she has less time for his family and less financial means.

The lack of funds provided for the law enforcement will lead to malfunction of those institutions and will expose police officers to danger, e.g. cutting of running costs of vehicles, maintenance of police buildings, lack of protective equipment, etc. The authorities must not use money that is reserved for police personnel costs.

Authorities must make choices in the activities of their police forces to economize on their expenditure (instead of taking money that is reserved for police personnel) Above is not only a case for the police forces but also for local and national authorities. Safety is not only a responsibility of the local and national authorities but also at the European level.

In many cases demands that had been made by our unions and had been met and granted by the governments have now been postponed due to the financial crisis. CESP underlines that cuts in budgets assigned to the police force are a short term vision and instead of savings the price to pay at the end will be much higher, what seems to be a short term improvement of the financial situation could end up being much more costly for the society. And for these reasons CESP demands:

- Maintaining the original budgets assigned to the law enforcement, or even increasing them due to more of delinquency
- In case cuts are made, the government must take over responsibility for the safety of its citizens. In a crisis situation it isn't possible to attribute the lack of public security to the responsibility of the police.
- Governments of all countries of CESP members must refrain from taking any activities which may result in the decrease of the number of police personnel due to the economic crisis, having in mind that the specificity of the police profession and the absence of opportunities for their employment in other spheres.

***Sarajevo, 15 May 2009***

**Secretary General  
Gérard Greneron**