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Brussels, 16th September 2024

Mrs. Ursula Von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Dear Madam President,

We are contacting you on behalf of the European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP¹), the umbrella organisation for Police unions and staff organisations in Europe. We represent 30 police unions and staff organisations across Europe as well as over 230,000 police officers in 25 European countries. EuroCOP is tackling issues from police cooperation across borders to a safer working environment for police officers on the street. We are determined to contribute to European policy debates and provide added value by giving a practitioners' perspective.

On behalf of EuroCOP we would like to congratulate you on your re-election as President of the European Commission. During your last legislature you have proven that you have the necessary, moral fortitude, and determination to lead the European Union in challenging times and we wish you the same level of determination and ambition in the years to come.

As you are currently in the process of establishing the new College of Commissioners, drafting mission letters as well as setting detailed working programmes for the future, we would like to raise your attention to a topic that is the **number one priority for Police Officers in Europe**.

We want Europe to be the place, **where police officers are operating in an environment of equality, safety and support, provided with the rights, resources, and training** to keep Europe's citizens safe and secure. Unfortunately, in Europe we are experiencing an **increasing epidemic of violence against police officers**. This violence can include verbal abuse and hate crimes, sexual assaults and most commonly physical violence against police officers and police staff. Social media create their own specific challenges and the future will bring even more hybrid threats.

This deteriorating situation has been routinely ignored for many years. It is high time to take actions at an EU level, especially as **serious organised crime** is significantly rising, and there is a need for enhanced cross border cooperation between law enforcers. This is why EuroCOP is calling on policy makers to establish a **central repository of data in the EU regarding incidences of violence against police officers**.

¹ <https://eurocop.org>



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Collection of data at EU level would help understand the roots of the problem, exchange best practices between Members States and adapt safety awareness training programs for police officers.

As the voice of police officers in the EU, we would like to encourage you to take into account EuroCOP's priorities when identifying tasks for the new College of Commissioners and drafting working program of the European Commission for the future. So please find our EU manifesto attached to this letter. We remain at your disposal for any further questions or comments.

We wish you all the success in your new mandate and in bringing your new College of Commissioners in the office soon.

Your sincerely,

Jonne Rinne, President. Nigel Dennis, Head of Office