



Letter of support

The Netherlands, 4th July 2017

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are aware that the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Bulgarian Government has refused to conduct negotiations related with the payment of the employees and equipment with the biggest Bulgarian police trade union – TUFEMI. We are also aware that the current working conditions, equipment and clothing provided to police officers do not comply with requirements of European Union. It is totally unacceptable, the starting basic salary of Bulgarian police officer and fire-fighter to be around 330 euros. These are a fundamental requirement when exercising the role of police officer and fire-fighters.

In addition, there is insufficient compliance with legislation set out in the Police Act.

These are signs of a poor employer and a failure to honor the duty of care and personal protection for all security workers. The Bulgarian Government should be aware that neglecting the problems and demands of the biggest trade union in the Ministry of Interior of Bulgaria is placing the safety and security under unprecedented pressure. And not only security and safety of your country but whole Europe.

The developments above have not gone unnoticed by employees within the police force. EPU is following the situation with the social dialogue in Bulgaria with serious concern, having in mind that these problems have been placed since years and the Bulgarian politicians have not undertaken any development of this important issue.

The EPU thus firmly requests the Bulgarian government to:

- To undertake urgent measures to increase the salaries of the employees within the MoI;
- To undertake urgent amendments in the Ministry of Interior Act to ensure the clothing and equipment of the security workers
- A new law on the Ministry of Interior to be consensual and to be drawn up in partnership with the trade unions;
- Honor, in its capacity as employer, its duty of care and personal protection for police officers.

Dear colleagues, we assure you, that you have the unreserved support of all Police Trade Unions EPU members of on all legal protest actions which you are determined to take in defence of your social status.

European Police Union has already taken steps towards referring the matter to the European institutions and informing the European media and governments about the situation in Bulgaria concealing a grave risk for the (social) safety of Bulgarian police officers and it will further use all possible means in your support.

President of the European Police Union (EPU)

Gerrit van de Kamp