



Dear Police colleagues in Europe,

These are extremely difficult times for us all. Police work is a vital profession and indispensable during the Covid-19 crisis.

Despite the dark times for many citizens, who have been infected with the coronavirus, who are fighting for their lives in Intensive Care units or whose loved ones have passed away, the world has shown its limitless capacity for heart-warming initiatives and solidarity.

You have all made a contribution to this, which you and we can be proud of!

As chair, and on behalf of all staff of the European Police Union (EPU), I would like to express my deep thanks for the enormous efforts of all police agents across Europe who are fighting 24/7 to conquer Covid-19. We understand that this is a difficult time for you, and that it has a major impact on your private lives and your family members.

In Europe, we are also facing a shortage of personal protective equipment for police agents. We are very concerned about this. Sick police agents cannot protect citizens. To prevent the risk of spreading Covid-19 (infection of police agents, and infection by police agents), it is essential that police agents across the globe are properly protected at work.

On behalf of all my colleagues at the EPU, for the police of Europe, I once again urgently call on national governments and European institutions to eliminate the real risk of infection of and by police agents, to take responsibility for this and to really ensure that there is sufficient personal protective equipment for police agents in Europe. This is the only way that we as police can make an important contribution to tackling the Covid-19 crisis.

I also wish to give the European institutions a stark warning for the period after Covid-19. The security of Europe will be subject to even greater pressure. Criminals will also want to earn money again, and poverty and unemployment automatically lead to greater criminality. This will make great demands on the work and capacity of European police organisations. As such, I call on European institutions to anticipate this now.

After all, for many years, the security of Europe has depended to a great extent on the sense of loyalty of police agents. But at a certain point, their capacity and patience will be exhausted. More capacity is required, along with sufficient and good weapons, training and fair pay.

Waiting longer or ignoring our message means playing Russian roulette with the safety and security of the police agents and citizens of Europe.

Thank you police agents of Europe, thank you for playing your part!!!

Gerrit van de Kamp

President European Police Union (EPU)

