



European Police Union: Give priority to the corona vaccination and recognize Covid-19 as an occupational disease for police officers in Europe

Law enforcement officers are part of a high-risk group that is at heightened risk of contracting and spreading the Corona virus while performing their duties, especially when faced with shortage of protective equipment, which is the case with this ongoing pandemic. In its early stage, we have realized that there is an alarming shortage of capacity and personal protective equipment (PPE) within European police forces, which has led to a situation in which guaranteeing security and stability was and still is increasingly difficult.

Police officers are required each day to face risks as they serve our communities. The virus presents a new and significant risk to all citizens, and especially for police officers who have a vital profession and are expected to fulfill their daily duties even in these uncertain and unprecedented times. As millions of people around Europe and rest of the world were ordered to shelter in place, police officers in every single country continued to perform their duties each and every day with selfless acts of service to others. For most of the world, life is lived indoors with the virus visible only through their front windows. For police officers, nothing has changed. They cannot shelter in place and wait for the pandemic to go away. Instead all of them come to work, fight crime, and protect the community, all while knowing that they are exposing themselves, and their families, to this potentially deadly disease. They do it because it's the life and profession they've chosen. Simply, they do it because they're the guardians for those they've sworn to protect.

Police officers have a high-risk occupation, which means that police officers' contamination and infectivity with the Covid-19 virus is considered high. For that reason, it makes sense that police officers deserve extra protection. The EPU is pushing for priority to corona vaccination for police officers in Europe.

In Europe, police officers have died from the effects of the Covid-19 virus and become unnecessarily ill due to insufficiently protected contact with a carrier of the virus. Because it is plausible that a large number of infections took place during service, it can be concluded that infection of the Covid-19 virus among police officers must be recognized as an occupational disease and must be treated as such.