

Barcelona, 19 november 2024

## Communication

In recent days, EU.Pol, the European Federation of Police Unions, had the honor of being hosted by our member SPC Catalonia in the vibrant city of Barcelona for our autumn General Assembly. While it is always a pleasure to visit Spain, this occasion was marked by a somber backdrop. Over the past month, Barcelona and other regions in Spain have faced devastating storms, leaving streets submerged and communities heavily impacted.

EU.Pol extends its heartfelt support to the officers who are courageously managing this crisis on both professional and personal fronts, as many of their own homes have also been affected by these unprecedented floods. The remarkable solidarity shown across Spain to assist the affected regions stands as a beacon of hope and a lesson for all European citizens. This serves as a stark reminder of the pressing reality of climate change. In response, EU.Pol calls on police forces across Europe to embrace innovative and environmentally conscious approaches in their daily operations.

This General Assembly in Barcelona holds particular significance as it marks exactly one year until the elections for a new board. Key steps to enhance the functioning of our federation have been prepared and will be presented during the assembly. The inaugural board is nearing the completion of its mission, established three years ago with the creation of EU.Pol. A core element of this mission is building a robust federation that represents all police officers, bringing the European Union closer to its law enforcement community. We are proud of the solid foundation laid thus far.

I am delighted to announce that we have received and approved applications from two esteemed organizations: VIGI Police (France) and the Gewerkschaft der Polizei (GdP, Germany). Welcoming them as our newest members fills us with optimism and pride.

www.eu-pol.eu







Their inclusion strengthens our federation, bringing invaluable expertise, networks, and professionalism. These contributions will propel EU.Pol into a new era, enabling us to attract more members and foster unity among Europe's police forces. Only through collective strength can we achieve lasting change.

The addition of these two organizations underscores the spirit of solidarity that defines EU.Pol. Delivering this message in Barcelona—a city emblematic of resilience—further amplifies its importance.

Police work is a highly specialized field, and Europe's police community is relatively small. Collaboration is essential to drive meaningful change. Thanks to our political advocacy, the EU recognizes the need for reforms, particularly in addressing crossborder crime, which remains a challenge for law enforcement despite the borderless nature of criminal networks.

EU.Pol now comprises 13 organizations from 10 countries, and we continue to grow. Together, we aim to transform the police landscape, ensuring a safer Europe and setting a global standard for policing. Our European police forces must be equipped to address geopolitical threats at our borders. By adopting innovative techniques and ensuring favorable working conditions, we can make law enforcement an attractive career choice for young, motivated talents.

A special thanks to Jerôme and Jochen for their confidence in our young federation.

With kind regards, Peter Smets President, EU.Pol





Belgium



