



## EuroCOP RESOLUTION

The EuroCOP Committee,

Considers it is not the job of police officers to offer any view on the rights or wrongs of the decision to hold a referendum on the question of Catalonia's independence. It is however entirely right that we highlight the impossible situation of thousands of police officers across Catalonia found themselves in as they were expected to intervene and prevent the referendum from taking place.

Every possible effort should have been directed to seeking a political resolution to the different constitutional positions of the Spanish and Catalanian governments so that police officers were not placed in positions of conflict.

Due to the increasing and conflicting political tensions in Catalonia, EuroCOP is deeply concerned and troubled by the use that is being made of the different police forces that are carrying out their duties on the territory: the Spanish National Police, the Guardia Civil, the Mossos d'Esquadra and the Local Police.

The substantial increase in officers of the Civil Guard and the National Police deployed in Catalonia has come at great personal cost to them. Many officers have had to be temporarily relocated to Catalonia to carry out their duties and have been separated from their families and friends. Their deployments have had little regard for their personal wellbeing.

Poor planning has also added significant pressures to police operational deployments. Many of our colleagues are carrying enormous workloads and find themselves working in environments where they are at risk of physical harm. They are working in conditions below that which should be considered acceptable for any worker.

**EuroCOP** believes that police trade union organisations must be involved in helping to ensure the strategies and different operational considerations of each police force are developed to ensure that they meet criteria that guarantee labour rights, safety, and legal security of our colleagues.

**EuroCOP** recognises that some incidents on the 1st October led to a considerable loss of confidence in the police. Many of the reported examples of violence have done a great deal of damage to the public's confidence in the police and it is right that violence is strongly condemned.

**EuroCOP** believes that politicians should pursue a strategy which concentrates on dialogue and resolution and avoids enforcing solutions through the use of different police bodies.

**EuroCOP** has often praised the resilience of our citizens to stand up for fundamental freedoms and rights. We firmly believe that police officers have a crucial role to play in safeguarding those rights. We regret that the current crisis remains unresolved and urge our elected representatives to find political solutions that will resolve the current crisis without further loss of confidence in policing or the political institutions.

While no one can change the past, it is now clearer than ever that considerable political will and action should be directed towards restoring trust with communities and working to undo all and any damage to police-public relations. Our communities and those in charge of protecting them deserve nothing less.

The tensions in Catalonia are palpable. The duties and activities of officers in the different police forces are under intense daily media scrutiny. It is a sad reality that many police officers and their families have been subject to harassment and intimidation. This is completely unacceptable. We strongly condemn all intimidation and harassment and especially that against the children of police officers in our schools, who in most cases have been fully integrated in Catalonia for years.

**EuroCOP** offers its full support to police officers working across Catalonia.

**EuroCOP** calls for the senior police officers in the Mossos d'Esquadra to be held responsible for their decisions and orders to police officers dealing with the actions on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. We recognise the challenging and occasionally hostile environment in which they are working and urge the current political crisis is resolved through political means.

Adopted at the EuroCOP Autumn Committee meeting

Bilbao, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017