



## **Polizei im Umbruch - Herausforderungen und Zukunftsstrategien**

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The future of police cooperation in Europe – views of an EU  
member state with an external border

Long version

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# THE FUTURE OF POLICE COOPERATION IN EUROPE – VIEWS OF AN EU MEMBER STATE WITH AN EXTERNAL BORDER

## SLIDE 1

Thank you so much Mr. Chairman and good morning to you all. It's a pleasure to attend such an important conference due to the topics in discussion and the challenges that we will address in future strategies concerning the EU security.

Firstly, a big thank you to the German Authorities for the organization and the welcoming feeling provided.

As you know, I am presently a Senior Police Official of the Italian National Police and up to last August Director of SCIP the Italian International Police Cooperation Service.

My new position is Senior Advisor to the Chief of Police for International Cooperation, responsible for the Strategic Law Enforcement Project of the Department of Public Security of the Italian Ministry of Interior.

Permit me to give my presentation, which is based on simple concepts.

European citizens request security in order to enjoy their freedom; so effective security requires stronger cooperation and information exchange among law enforcement and security agencies.

**SLIDE 2.** To do this, we must continue to step up the pace in joint operational actions and investigations, enhance our existing common strategy in order to counter future crime-related challenges in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

**SLIDE 3.** In years ahead, we will need to tackle phenomena such as cross-border crime, cybercrime and terrorism, the three main goals of the European Agenda on Security.

## SLIDE 4

Effective security depends on our capacity to work together, trust one another, share databases and information, and improve our investigative skills.

I believe that the European Community has sufficient resources to fulfil the growing number of the above tasks.

The world has been moving faster; crime complexity is increasing, serious and organized crime, cybercrime and terrorism are developing.

**SLIDE 5.** The future is leading us to face migration on a massive scale, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa.

A serious response, therefore, requires a comprehensive strategy, which reaches the root of the problems and not to be confined in handling sole emergencies.

## SLIDE 6

In this framework, our Countries need to continue to build up criminal information sharing supporting Member States investigations and increasing criminal analysis as a fundamental initial point in facing the described phenomena.

**SLIDE 7.** The gathering of criminality data is essential for the relevant stakeholders to have an initial correct evaluative point of view to target those policies of contrast.

Consequently, we must rely on crime statistics and the existing European legislative framework, also considering the differences between juridical definitions and investigative methods used by the Member States.

Another relevant point to consider is the fact that citizens prefer not to report certain crime to Police and the consequences are that we have no reliable, comparable data.

**SLIDE 8.** The changes in the wider global environment have provided new opportunities for an extension of criminal activities.

Increased trafficking in human beings (THB) for labour exploitation, the facilitation of illegal immigration or the worldwide cyber-attacks, are just a few examples of the new methods and tools used by organized crime groups.

Furthermore, the economic disparity is unfortunately leading individuals into a “shadowed area” that could pilot them towards organized crime activities, or encourage the broadening of the already existing criminal domains.

For example, the global economic crisis has created the possibility to expand the interest of criminal groups, involving EU and non EU citizens.

**SLIDE 9.** As a matter of fact, working together effectively will enhance our collective security, and I firmly believe that there is always room for improvement in terms of European/international cooperation and information sharing.

To support the work on security, action should be taken on two fronts:

- First, cut down the margin in which criminals operate, depriving them of the means they use (money and mobility).

This includes what we are doing on prevention of terrorism, on radicalization, on migration, on trafficking in human beings, on cybercrime and other serious crimes.

- Second, building our resilience, strengthening our systems by confining information gaps and critical infrastructures, particularly transport, energy and cyber security.

**SLIDE 10.** Bearing this in mind, I would keep along the following path:

- Analysis of criminal phenomena should be a European Union strategic function, paying particular attention to the requirements and suggestions of Member States.

In this prospective, I would foster a sub-regional approach, focusing on particular European geographical areas, to develop an in-depth analysis closer to Member States in order to capture different perspectives and expectations.

Regarding analysis, I believe that “hot” and not just “cold” data should be analyzed, so as to obtain additional information for investigations, complying with national laws on the confidentiality on inquiries.

**SLIDE 11.** Below are some statistics on the percentage variations of specific crimes - in particular, intentional homicides, aggressions and thefts - perpetrated in the European Union and in Italy between 2014 and 2015.

There is a generalized decrease in intentional homicides within Europe, while aggressions carried out on the entire EU territory has seen an increase of 6% in 2015 compared to the previous year. Italy is countercurrent because it also saw a decrease in this type of crime.

Thefts saw a 4.25% decrease at European level, which in Italy reaches a -7%.

**SLIDE 12.** Eurostat has not yet published data for the year 2016, but this information is available in Italy: as you can easily see in these (**SLIDE 13-14**) slides, over the past three years a generalized contraction of the above-mentioned crimes and delinquency can be noted;

- **SLIDE 15.** Making full use of today's existing opportunities in consulting information systems, for example: the Interpol databases, the SIS, the Visa Information System (VIS), and EURODAC.
- Working to introduce new resources - like the Passenger Name Recorder and the EU Entry-Exit System - and to improve the way the different systems interact with each other: this is the "interoperability".

I would work towards an easy access to crucial police information, for the proper use of information systems.

One of our challenges, as you know, is to identify and tackle weak-points in the EU-wide information systems, which are very important for law enforcement and border authorities to permit them to carry out their job effectively.

**SLIDE 16.** Speed and data quality features are key factors for efficient and effective exchange of information, along with interconnected and interoperable databases.

**SLIDE 17.** Regardless of the many types of police models, we need to update methodologies and tools and uniform actions of the EU Member States, Law Enforcement and Security Agencies.

In this regard, priority should be given to a stronger collaboration among these different Entities ensuring exchange of information and operational activities; interaction and situation analysis should support solutions for strategic and operational developments according to the identified needs of Member States, sharing know-how in a proactive manner.

**SLIDE 18.** Simply put: we need to connect the dots to make police work efficient.

**SLIDE 19.** At the same time, optimizing and promoting new partnership building with private companies, Universities or other academic institutions will consent to explore new solutions for security issues.

**SLIDE 20.** It is obvious that crime fighting methods can be strengthened involving E.U countries, the European Parliament, the European Commission and other relevant partners. In this framework the Europol/Interpol partnership will play a prime role. Here interoperability will be the magic word for police efficiency not only at European level but at global level. This doesn't mean that more funds are to be database dedicated but simply to use those existing in a much better way, linking the European systems with other databanks worldwide.

This, of course, taking into prime consideration the strict respect of rules and the data protection regime.

**SLIDE 21.** Last, but not least, I wish to emphasize the necessity to build new partnerships with the countries of Africa so as to exchange information and build a new work relationship.

We must, of course, remember their lack of data-storage, training and operational experience and, therefore, assist them build up their police capacities with other international law enforcement agencies.

**SLIDE 22.** International police cooperation is carried out by several players, national and international Agencies, but lacks of a legal framework such as a common criminal law procedure. For example 'organised crime' is a general definition stated by the UN Convention against transnational crime.

I must say that in the last few years European Union has been working in common laws direction. In a nutshell there has been many Decisions, Directives, Conclusions, Regulations and legislative proposals all aimed at harmonizing the legal framework on security.

### **"Italian System"**

**SLIDE 23.** According to the priorities identified within the EU, Italy has for years focused on enhancing cooperation at national level sharing information and intelligence between the various Law Enforcement institutions, providing the Member States high quality data.

This brings me to describe the Italian approach to the security problem in the E.U.

In Italy the Chief of Police is the head of the Department of Public Security of the Ministry of Interior and responsible for public order and security , coordinating the Police Forces.

The Department of Public Security can be defined as a platform for developing strategic national and international security activities and for combating serious crime.

This entails the ability for the Chief of Police to make this office the central point in drafting policies and managing and organizing means and methods to tackle internal and external European threats.

**SLIDE 24.** In order to develop a more in depth approach we have enacted a new methods to better face common crime issues and terrorism and have adopted with international partners bilateral and multilateral agreements.

**SLIDE 25.** We have, therefore, enhanced the so called “partecipated urban security model” involving authorities, public and private institutions, citizens and law and order agencies interlinked to police prevention and territory patrolling. In this regard community policing has also been adopted.

**SLIDE 26.** A complete overview of the crime phenomena could be found in using a computerized system where mapping criminal events could be a possible solution in solving security problems for society. The Integrated Geocoding System represents a valid Platform for Police Forces for the identification of priorities, set up of working plans for crime prevention and control of the territory avoiding duplication.

Continuous developments of the Internet and related technologies has given new instruments for criminal groups to work with, uncovering vulnerabilities in our society. Due to the e-evidence and data retention issues, it is pivotal to rely on a fast reply mechanism to these emerging threats.

**SLIDE 27.** Since 2008 we have set up the *National Centre for Combating Online Child Pornography* that conducts and coordinates all online child abuse investigations and prevention activities. The Centre updates a *blacklist* of child pornography websites on a daily basis.

In addition, to protect Critical Information Infrastructures the CNAIPIC (*National Anticrime Center for the Protection of Critical Infrastructure*) was established within the Police Postal and Communications Service.

**SLIDE 28.** We have also created a on line *Commissariato di polizia (Police station)* to assist and support citizens wanting to report an illegal infraction to the rule of law by providing guidelines , best practices and furnishing alerts on new crime trends.

In the battle against terrorism, Italy has established the CASA ( Strategic analysis committee on terrorism ) following the terrorist attack to the Italian Military base sited in Nassyria (Iraq) in 2003. It is a permanent forum for meetings between Police and Intelligence Agencies where they can share and analyze information on domestic and international terror threats. The committee is tasked to prevent terror actions, monitoring prisoners, assessing financial means, identifying and expelling dangerous subjects and monitoring cyber space.

Furthermore, to prevent illegal migration and contrast smuggling and trafficking of human beings, the National Coordination Center has been place in action. The center handles eventual alerts regarding possible departure of migrants, sighting vessels suspected of traffic or transport of migrants, monitors migration flows and overlooks ongoing operational sea search and rescue of human beings.

A brief mention of the Italian legal system concerning the principle so called “dual track”, aimed at the identification and recovery of illegal assets linked to organized crime. This procedure allows the seizure and subsequent confiscation of those assets belonging to organized crime groups as a prevention measure.

**SLIDE 29.** All these instruments have been put together considering the policing international needs and based on the challenges faced by EU.



In this regard, I would like to mention the very positive experience I had as Director of the International Police Cooperation Service in Italy, we set up a 24/7 International Operations Room providing access to national and international databases, established and opened in 2012 in occasion of the Interpol General Assembly held in Rome.

**SLIDE 30.** The centre handles the emergencies and coordinates Police operations of the Italian Police Forces and other international bodies, receiving approximately 800 communications daily.

**SLIDE 31.** I consider the centre a significant success in the field of interoperability due to the gathering of the three major international communication and cooperation channels (Interpol, Europol and Sirene) and the Italian national databases.

**SLIDE 32.** An additional direct link to the center are the four Police and Customs operation centers located in the North of Italy, bordering Austria, with the German participation, France, Slovenia and Switzerland, all staffed with Italian and bordering country police officers.

**SLIDE 33.** The International Operation Center functions as the coordination platform for Italian liaisons officers network and is (**SLIDE 34**) the point of contact for PRUM agreement, Swedish initiative, ARO, FIU and other EU actions.

**SLIDE 35.** The important aspects are: faster exchange of information and an increase of Police checks, which have passed from 3000 to 8 million a month with a future expectation of 20 million a month.

In fact we have created an automated interconnection between the centre and Italian borders, hotels, and other location of interest.

Since I believe in the importance of such instrument, access to international data –

bases has been extended to all law enforcement users across Italy, about 140.000 police officers.

I have to say that determinant have been the new automated mechanisms and updated aspects of information exchange, which avoids duplication, gives better results and cuts down costs.

I consider the centre a model of interoperability.

**SLIDE 36.** On the other hand, bilateral agreements have also permitted to create Task Forces and joint patrolling with numerous countries such as: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Poland, Netherlands, USA, Spain, Romania, Switzerland and others.

**SLIDE 37.** In relation to these partnerships, let me mention some positive results obtained after the (**SLIDE 38-39**) Duisburg massacre in 2007 with the consequent arrest of the offenders thanks to the joint investigations of the German-Italian Task Force, collaborated by the

Dutch Police. SLIDE 40-41. In 2015, in Brazil Italian national Pasquale Scotti was arrested for extradition following the common investigative action on behalf of the two national police.

SLIDE 42. At the end, I wish to say a few words on training and technology. It is necessary to understand above all, the significant role of police training, developing in particular modern technologies. We must identify the requirements of Member States in order to support the police officers' abilities in investigative work. Nowadays the prime tools for investigators are information gathering and management with data processing and its quality and availability give the possibility to analyze and share them. In this aspect I see the need to collaborate with public, private and academic institutions where the EU Establishments (The European Parliament, The Council and The Commission) should take initiatives in guiding and supporting Member States.

In this regard, the Italian National Police has opened in the city of Caserta the International advance training center for the prevention of and fight against organized crime.

SLIDE 43. Finally, let me say that working together as a team brings about important results and is the best way to win over crime and protect our citizens.

SLIDE 44 e 45