



Report on the First Event of the Parliamentary Group for Police in the European Parliament

On March 4, 2025, the first event of the newly established Parliamentary Group for Police took place in the European Parliament. The group is presided over by Assita Kanko, with Lena Düpont, Jeroen Lenaers, and Malik Azmani serving as co-chairs. Thanks to Assita Kanko's dedicated efforts, the event was organized shortly after the group's formation. The event attracted 250 guests from the police, politics, and relevant associations, providing a platform for exchanging views on current security policy challenges. The main topic of discussion was organized crime and drug trafficking.

Welcome and Opening

The event was opened with a speech by MEP Assita Kanko, who emphasized the importance of close cooperation between the police, politics, and security authorities in Europe. She highlighted that the newly established Parliamentary Group for Police would contribute to improving the conditions for security forces at the European level.

Keynote Speeches

The event featured presentations from distinguished speakers:

- **Magnus Brunner**, EU Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration, spoke about the challenges of cross-border crime prevention and emphasized the role of EU institutions in creating secure frameworks.
- **Javier Zarzalejos**, President of the LIBE Committee (Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs), provided insight into current legislation and political initiatives supporting law enforcement agencies.
- **Catherine De Bolle**, Director of Europol, presented the latest developments in European crime-fighting and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation between member states. According to her, this collaboration has intensified in recent years, and trust in authorities has increased.

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Guest Speakers

In addition to the keynote speakers, guest speakers shared their perspectives on police work and the challenges faced in daily operations:

- **Jurgen De Landsheer**, Commander of the Brussels-Central Police, discussed the unique challenges of policing in urban areas and the importance of local cooperation. His district is home to people of many nationalities with diverse backgrounds. His goal is to help young people escape the cycle of violence and lead better, legal lives. Another major issue is the presence of various gangs controlling parts of the city and the ongoing efforts to combat street crime. He also emphasized that cooperation between police forces, especially within Brussels itself, must be strengthened.
- **Peter Smets**, President of EU.Pol, highlighted the importance of the new Parliamentary Group for European policing. He emphasized that EU.Pol was actively involved in the group's founding and was honored to participate in this first event. According to Peter Smets, the most effective approach to tackling organized crime is to follow the financial trails and disrupt illicit money flows. Everyone understands that such work is not the responsibility of routine patrol officers but rather of specialized personnel. IT and financial crime experts are therefore essential within our national police forces.

Reception and Networking

Following the event, EU.Pol invited attendees to an official reception at its offices. A particular focus was placed on welcoming the new member, the **German Police Union (GdP)**, which will play an active role within EU.Pol in the future. The reception provided an excellent opportunity for networking and strengthening cooperation at the European level.

Conclusion and Outlook

The first event of the Parliamentary Group for Police was a significant success, thanks to high-profile speakers and engaging discussions. It marks the beginning of enhanced cooperation between the police and political institutions at the European level. Assita Kanko's personal commitment was evident. Her enthusiasm and gratitude towards police officers were conveyed authentically, which was greatly appreciated by the audience. She already announced that the next event of this kind will take place on March 4, 2026. The positive feedback from participants demonstrates that this initiative has been widely welcomed and provides an important platform for security policy dialogue. Future events will build on this foundation and further strengthen cooperation. Many organizations took the opportunity to express their gratitude to EU.Pol and show interest in collaboration. As a result, the entire day was a great success for EU.Pol.

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