



AEPC, THE FUTURE

Strategy Document

Introduction

Since the foundation of AEPC as a network of the directors of European police colleges in 1996 the situation of international co-operation within police training in Europe has changed. The Board of the AEPC felt the need for repositioning the AEPC in the light of recent developments.

An important event in this respect was the foundation of the European Police College (CEPOL) as a body within the European Union structures. Therefore, the necessity for optimum co-ordination of the activities of the European police college (CEPOL) and of the AEPC in their respective working fields has led on the 13th of February 2002 to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Governing Boards of the two organisations.

The vision, the mission, aims, methods and original activities of the AEPC, written in 1996, are still pertinent (chapter I).

In chapter II co-operation, future perspectives, membership and funding are described.

Chapter III describes very briefly the purpose of this paper.

I. The vision, the mission, aims, methods and original activities of the AEPC, written in 1996, are still pertinent

Vision

Overall, the intention is to assist the police services of member countries throughout Europe to provide the best possible policing for their communities whilst, at the same time, addressing the challenge of international crime by implementing the mission of the AEPC.

Mission

AEPC is arranging, where appropriate, joint training, conferences and seminars for senior police officers on matters of mutual concern and relevance, exchanging information and maintaining contact on appropriate areas of training and development.

Its main focus in these activities will be on students, experts, trainers and senior staff members of its member colleges.

Aims

The AEPC by making use of its network:

- maximises co-operation and co-ordination on police training between member colleges and facilitates the sharing of best practice and research, thereby making best use of the resources ;
- will enable greater exchange of students and staff between national training establishments;

- is focussing upon the provision of training assistance by means of joint programmes wherever appropriate.

Character

Flexibility, simplicity and minimum bureaucracy are inherent in the structure of the AEPC. The Governing Board empowers member colleges to work either individually or in collaboration with others to deliver activities promptly and expeditiously.

Methods :

The AEPC will :

- co-ordinate action and joint activities ;
- organise joint conferences and related activities ;
- provide a focal point for the gathering and dissemination of information ;
- provide a secretariat for the annual meeting of the Heads of European police colleges ;
- monitor action on decisions reached at such meetings ;
- each of these activities should be beneficial to all European police services.

Activities :

(see **Annex 1**)

II. Co-operation, future perspectives, membership and funding

Co-operation

The AEPC has reached significant milestones in the field of co-operation :

- the AEPC has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Middle European Police Academy (MEPA) and with the Nordic Baltic Police Academy (NBPA) ;

- a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between CEPOL and the AEPC (see **Annex 2**) ;

- the AEPC has carried out an inventory of non-operational bilateral police assistance from EU member states to the ten Middle and Eastern European applicant countries ;

- the AEPC has implemented a training programme to assist the Candidate countries in Middle and Eastern Europe in preparing them for EU membership, the ENFOPOL 118 training programme ;

- the AEPC has provided training modules for the South East European countries within the framework of the “Stability Pact” (Working Table III);

- the AEPC has implemented, on request of CEPOL, training sessions for police officers in the Western Balkans in the framework of the EU CARDS regional programme.

The AEPC is available for future co-operation with other International Organisations like the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

In the past, co-operation in police training was mostly split between West and East. Consequently duplication has occurred in certain areas, for instance Eastern and Western European Heads of Training conferences.

The AEPC has successfully taken initiative to bring together these conferences in the East and West.

Future perspectives

Currently, CEPOL covers training activities for the EU Member States and the Candidate countries.

Countries not belonging to that group still need to co-operate in the field of police training. International police co-operation must encompass the whole of Europe as one “criminal-geographic space”.

CEPOL is, given its remit, primarily focussing its activities to the EU Member States and the future members. Therefore the AEPC could bridge the gap between that circle and third countries around. As there are close bilateral relations between a lot of national training institutions, there is a solid basis for that co-operation within the framework of the AEPC.

Membership

Membership of the AEPC is open to all National Colleges for senior police officers training from countries, which have signed the *1950 European Convention for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR)*.

According to the MoU establishing AEPC, the Governing Board will decide upon requests for membership.

Funding

Additionally to Chapter III of the MoU establishing AEPC, the AEPC and its members are trying to get external funding, especially from the European Union programmes.

III. Conclusion

By adopting this document the Governing Board have set out the general strategy of the AEPC for the future.

A.E.P.C. ACTIVITIES

- editing an annual calendar of training courses available to police officers from European countries
- organising conferences of experts and similar events on specific policing issues
- under its auspices the organisation of the yearly European senior police officers course (ESPOC)
- organising the annual European Heads of Training conference
- organising language courses
- organising mutual information seminars on the structure and organisation of the various police services in Europe
- involving expert groups as appropriate
- providing a central information point on police training matters
- running training projects for a multinational audience on request

Per January 2008 45 national police colleges for senior officers training from 37 European countries have officially joined the AEPC.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)
BETWEEN CEPOL AND AEPC

the European Police College (CEPOL), represented by the chairman of its Governing Board

and

the Association of European Police Colleges (AEPC), represented by its president.

Considering that both institutions seek to contribute to the professionalisation of European police services and to the development of training programmes for senior police officers throughout Europe, their governing boards see the need for optimum co-ordination of their activities in their respective working fields.

To encourage co-operation between CEPOL and AEPC, according to article 6,2 of the Council Decision of 22 December 2001 (2000/820/JHA), both institutions agree to establish:

- regular communication about their planned activities
- co-ordination to avoid duplication
- sharing of professional knowledge in respect of the legal and organisational framework, as well as the practicalities, of the international police co-operation
- complementary work in fields which both institutions cover only partly, e.g. the training programme for the South Eastern European countries within the framework of the Stability Pact and training programmes for European countries which are not members or candidate members of the European Union
- co-operation in the field of police science and research
- mutual support in efforts aimed at harmonisation of training programmes.

Both institutions agree that whenever CEPOL is in a position to undertake activities previously covered by AEPC, those activities will be implemented by CEPOL and the AEPC will cease to undertake them.

The co-operation between both institutions as stipulated in this Memorandum, will be implemented through regular contacts between the CEPOL and AEPC secretariats.

Done at Madrid, 13 February 2002

For CEPOL

For AEPC

The Chair of the Governing Board
J.F. Hernández Díaz

The President
U. Göransson