

# Directie Criminaliteitspreventie

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**SOME RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT  
THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE POLICE  
IN CRIME PREVENTION**

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## **SOME RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE POLICE IN CRIME PREVENTION**

**Background document for The Second Conference On Urban Safety, Drugs And Crime Prevention on 18, 19 and 20 November 1991 In Paris, prepared at a pre-conference seminar in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, organized by the Department of Crime Prevention of the Ministry of Justice of The Netherlands and the city of Eindhoven, under the auspices of the European Forum of Local Authorities for Urban Safety.**

### *Introductory notes*

Crime prevention in many European countries is recognized increasingly as a partnership between central and local governments, local communities, business and the police. This is necessitating a review of the approach to crime prevention within police forces bringing prevention to the forefront of activity.

During a two day seminar in Eindhoven some fifty crime prevention and police experts representing Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, France, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and The United Kingdom discussed the future role of the police in crime prevention. During the opening session the participants were addressed by the Secretary of State of Justice of The Netherlands, Mr Kosto, the Mayor of Eindhoven, Mr Van Kemenade, Mr. Bonnemaïson, President of the European Forum, Mr. J. Calhoun, director of The National Council of Crime Prevention in the USA, and Mr J. Horn, National Crime Prevention Coordinator of the Dutch Police Forces.

The organizing agencies, The Department of Crime Prevention of the Ministry of Justice and the city of Eindhoven, are pleased to make the conclusions of the seminar available for further discussion during the International Conference in Paris.

Conclusions of the seminar about the future role of the police in crime prevention:

### INFORMATION

- 1 Police forces should, within the framework of the protection of privacy and individual rights, improve the collection, processing and analysis of crime data with the help of modern technologies, as a tool for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of crime prevention projects.
- 2 All police data, such as those registered in incident logs, those of reported crimes and those collected in the course of criminal investigations, should systematically be utilized for crime prevention purposes.
- 3 Conventional police data about crime should, where appropriate be supplemented by data about unreported crimes, feelings of insecurity and opinions of the public about policing priorities and crime prevention initiatives, collected through local crime surveys among the public and among special target groups such as local businesses, schools, hospitals, museums et. al.
- 4 Police units carrying out preventive patrols should, as much as possible, be assigned to fixed areas of limited size, in order to implement the principle "to know and be known". Such units should methodically collect and analyse data about criminogenic situations or social factors in their areas and alert responsible municipal or private agencies to take appropriate action.
- 5 Computerized systems with aggregated data about crime should be harmonized with relevant data systems of other public agencies such as those of departments responsible for cleaning, traffic control or lighting for the purpose of planning concerted actions and with due regard for the privacy of individual persons.

- 6 Police forces should make aggregate data about crime and other pertinent data available to other agencies cosharing responsibilities for the prevention of crimes, for instance through the preparation and dissemination of detailed crime maps of local areas or regular trend reports about local crime with due regard for the dangers of adverse publicity about high crime areas. If requested, such data should also be made available and understandable for community organizations.
- 7 Studies should be undertaken into the feasibility of special arrangements in accordance with national law allowing police forces to exchange personal data about youth at risk with other public agencies, in the interest of the community and with due regard for the protection of the privacy and individual rights of the persons involved.

#### PLANNING

- 8 Police forces should share responsibility for crime prevention with other public agencies, local communities and the private sector, for instance through participation in local steering committees or crime prevention councils.
- 9 Crime prevention initiatives should be based upon a careful analysis of available statistical data about the crime problems at hand and their distribution in time and space as well as about the profiles of both the offenders and victims.
- 10 In crime prevention activities attention should in principle always be given to factors likely to affect motivations to offend as well as to those determining the opportunities to commit offenses.
- 11 Crime prevention activities should as much as possible be based upon plans with unambiguously stated goals, a clear assignment of responsibilities, a fixed time table and provisions for monitoring. Provisions for an independent evaluation and the dissemination of results to all parties concerned should be made an essential part of such plans.
- 12 Crime prevention activities should as much as possible be supported by directed patrolling, and by law enforcement and prosecution policies, where appropriate.

#### MANAGERIAL AND OPERATIONAL TASKS

- 13 Crime prevention should be a basic philosophy of the police and, where necessary, police culture should be modified to reflect this.
- 14 Crime prevention should not be seen as a specialized task. It should be part of the general responsibility of management. It should also be an integral part of police training at all levels.
- 15 In partnership with other agencies and the community, police forces should implement crime prevention activities which embody current knowledge from research and best practice. They should also take the initiative for innovative programmes to improve the quality of life where appropriate.
- 16 Police forces should contribute to the assessment of environmental and urban planning and of building designs on their likely impact upon crime.
- 17 Participation in crime prevention activities should be made an important element of police performance assessment and promotion procedures.

#### INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- 18 Police forces and national ministries responsible for police and/or crime prevention should exchange information about practical experiences with crime prevention, including drugs policies, e.g. through the use of international databanks and computerized bulletin boards and the participation in the various activities of the European Forum on Urban Security.

- 19 Police forces and national ministries should make an effort to increase the international comparability of crime statistics.
- 20 Competent international organizations should review existing documents about crime prevention and monitor their implementation.
- 21 Governments of member states of the European Economic Community should consider an extension of the mandate of the Commission with a view to the establishment of a European Urban Safety Fund for the financing of demonstration projects, comparative evaluation studies and the development of common standards .

Eindhoven, May 3, 1991