BERLIN DECLARATION: Internal Security in *Zeitenwende* – Facing Threats Together

Berlin, 3 November 2026

A Shared Commitment to Security, Resilience and Democratic Policing
Europe and its international partners face an increasingly complex security environment. Hybrid threats, terrorism, extremism, cyberattacks, sabotage and disinformation transcend national borders, challenge democratic institutions and place growing demands on law enforcement. The boundaries between internal and external security are becoming increasingly interconnected, requiring stronger cooperation, modern capabilities and resilient societies.

We are living in times of profound change. This evolving security landscape calls for a *Zeitenwende in Internal Security* – a fundamental shift in how we respond to emerging threats and challenges. Yet new responsibilities must be matched by adequate resources, strong international partnerships and an unwavering commitment to democratic principles.

Gathered in Berlin on the occasion of the International Side Event of the German Police Union's Federal Congress 2026, the undersigned organisations jointly call for:

1. Stronger International Law Enforcement Cooperation
Strengthening cross-border cooperation, joint threat assessments and the rapid, secure and lawful exchange of information. Particular emphasis must be placed on connecting institutions at the operational level, supported by harmonised national systems, interoperable technologies and reliable interfaces between authorities.

2. Joint Preparedness and Exchange of Best Practices
Expanding international exchange, joint exercises and specialized training to address hybrid threats and protect critical infrastructure. Sharing operational experience between police forces in democratic societies is essential to strengthening collective preparedness.

3. Responsible Digital Transformation
Investing in secure, interoperable digital infrastructure and modern policing capabilities. Artificial intelligence must be deployed lawfully, transparently and responsibly, with human oversight and full respect for fundamental rights.

4. Countering Extremism, Radicalisation and Disinformation
Standing firmly against all forms of violent extremism, radicalisation and targeted disinformation that threaten democratic societies. Strengthening international cooperation and prevention while recognising that police officers must not be left to bear the consequences of political action or failure to act.

5. Democratic Policing, Public Trust and Solidarity

Reaffirming democratic, accountable and adequately resourced policing as a cornerstone of resilient societies. We stand in solidarity with police officers facing violence, including during riots and violent unrest, and strongly condemn attacks on those protecting public safety. The rule of law, fundamental rights and the civilian character of policing must remain protected.

6. Investing in Police and in Security Personnel

Ensuring that growing security responsibilities are matched by adequate staffing, sustainable funding, modern equipment and continuous training. In the face of today's security challenges, sustained investment in policing and internal security is not an option, but a necessity. Good working conditions, the physical and mental health of employees, and the meaningful involvement of their representatives in policymaking are indispensable.

Our Shared Commitment – A *Zeitenwende* in internal security must strengthen not only our capabilities, but also the people, institutions and democratic values that safeguard our societies.

We call upon governments, European institutions and international partners to translate these priorities into concrete action, sustainable investment and lasting cooperation. **Together, we stand for stronger international cooperation, resilient democratic societies and a well-equipped, democratically accountable police service.**

Initiated by:

Gewerkschaft der Polizei

German Police Union (GdP)

EU.Pol

European Federation of Police Unions (EU.Pol)

Endorsed by:

OTHMTC – Online Terror and Hate – Monitoring and Training Center

Nezávislý odborový svaz Policie České republiky – NOS PČR

Odborový zväz polície v Slovenskej republike – OZP v SR

NPPSS

VSPB · FSFP
Verband Schweizerischer Polizei-Beamter
Fédération Suisse Fonctionnaires de Police
Federazione Svizzera Funzionari di Polizia

SIAP

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