

## Tackling EU security threats through training

Budapest, 15 February 2017

**On 14th February 2017, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) convened ambassadors to Hungary from 33 countries, the Head of the European Commission Representation to Hungary, and high level representatives from the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, the National Police, the National University of Public Affairs, the Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Prime Minister's Office to obtain information on the achievements of the agency in 2016, whilst looking ahead to address the challenges for the EU security.**

Prof. hc. Dr. Bánfi Ferenc explained how CEPOL contributed to a safer Europe through training, with a special emphasis on tackling pressing security issues, such as terrorism, illegal migration, cybercrime and drug trafficking. CEPOL worked closely with EU Member States (first and foremost via the dedicated CEPOL National Units), countries in Eastern and South-East Europe, Middle East and North Africa, Justice and Home Affairs agencies and international organizations such as Interpol, OSCE and UNODC to create a portfolio of activities that supported the EU political priorities in terms of security. This demonstrated the growing importance of external relations within CEPOL's new legal mandate and the high level CEPOL's appreciation at global level.

In 2016, CEPOL has reached new records in terms of participation: over 18 000 officials from 39 countries were trained during 87 residential activities, 492 exchanges, 87 webinars and other e-learning tools. The satisfaction rate is excellent and raises at 95%. Another important milestone was the XIII Research and Science Conference held in October 2016 in Budapest. It brought together law enforcement professionals from all around the world, amongst them the Secretary General of Interpol and the Director of Europol.

Mr Gábor Zupkó, Head of the European Commission Representation to Hungary, took the floor and congratulated CEPOL to the achievements. He emphasised the need for the EU Member States to work more closely together on two issues: economic innovation and security. He highlighted the fact that Hungary hosts two EU agencies, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and the European Institute for Innovation (EIT), that are active in both these fields, which gives Hungary a strategic position at EU level. Moreover, he announced the future visit to Hungary of Sir Julian King, EU Commissioner for Security Union, to discuss EU security issues.

Mr. János Szacsúri, Head of Department at the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, praised the good cooperation with CEPOL. He underlined that Hungary has a long tradition in law enforcement training and he declared that, in this respect, it was the right decision to move CEPOL to Budapest, especially in light of the achievements of the agency since 2014. He reaffirmed that Hungary will continue to support CEPOL in its work to make Europe safer.