

Dear Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister,

Under the Lisbon Treaty, the Government must decide by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 whether Britain will remain part of existing EU police and judicial cooperation measures. As former members of the British policing, justice and security community, we wish to indicate why we support remaining within those current structures.

The growth in cross-border criminal activity within Europe is both an inevitable bi-product of the free movement of goods, services, capital and people under the single market, and a serious policing and security challenge. Responding to an increasingly international criminal environment requires modern international legal and policing tools, fast and effective cross-border cooperation, and the ability to raise standards and share best practice with our closest security partners.

Britain has been a leader in this area over many years, driving forward work to build a modern international policing and judicial tool kit, building cooperative networks and raising standards across Europe. Today, a former British law enforcement officer is the Director of Europe's Police Intelligence Agency (Europol); a senior British prosecutor has just completed a two year Presidency of the European Judicial Cooperation Unit, (Eurojust); and Britain hosts the European Police College, training officers across Europe in modern international policing techniques. British law enforcement bodies are now constantly communicating, cooperating and collaborating with EU agencies and other national policing partners in pursuing serious organised criminal and terrorist networks.

This hard work is producing real results today. Take 'Operation Rescue': a 3 year operation launched by British police and coordinated by Europol across 30 countries that led to the discovery of the world's largest online paedophile network, producing 184 arrests and the release of 230 children, including 60 in the UK. There are now hundreds of similar cross-border police and judicial success stories and Europe as a whole is a more hostile environment for serious organised criminals to operate, making Britain safer and more secure in the process.

This is an active agenda, and we must continuously improve our international policing and justice instruments as criminal activity develops and to ensure they remain necessary and proportionate. This includes the European Arrest Warrant, a totemic issue for some. The Warrant has been improved in recent years and further improvements may be needed. But scrapping it altogether would be entirely self-defeating. It has become an essential tool in the fight against cross-border organised crime delivering fast and effective justice across Europe. Since 2009 alone, the Warrant was used to return to the UK 71 foreign nationals over serious crimes including 4 robberies, 5 murders, 5 rapes, 6 child sexual offences, 9 cases of GBH and 14 cases of fraud.

The Government's decision must be based on the evidence about how best to deliver justice and security for the British public in an integrated Europe and an interconnected world. Britain must be able to operate against cross-border organised crime and security threats effectively and efficiently in partnership with European and other international agencies, and to help shape this agenda in the future, as we have done so to date.

Signed By: -

**Lord Blair:** Former *Metropolitan Police* Commissioner. Formerly Chief Constable of *Surrey Police*.

**Sir Stephen Lander:** Former Head of MI5 and Chair of SOCA.

**Lord Imbert:** *Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service* from 1987 to 1993, and prior to that appointment *Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police* from 1979 to 1985

**Bill Hughes CBE QPM BSc:** Former Director General of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. Formerly Assistant Chief Constable in the *West Yorkshire Police*, then Deputy Chief Constable with the *Hertfordshire Constabulary*.

**Robert Wardle:** Former Serious Fraud Office Director 2003 – 2008.

**Peter Neyroud CBE QPM:** Former Chief Executive of the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) from 2005-2010. Former Chief Constable of *Thames Valley Police* and Deputy Chief Constable of *West Mercia Constabulary*.

**Baroness Hilton:** Former *Metropolitan Police* Commander and Director of National Police Staff College.

**Michael Gordon-Gibson:** President of Crimestoppers International Executive Committee, Former Detective Sergeant in the Specialist Crime Directorate (Criminal Intelligence) *Metropolitan Police Service*.

**Lord Carlile of Berriew, CBE, FRSA, QC:** Top UK Criminal Justice Lawyer. In 2001 he was appointed the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation.

**Lord Mackenzie of Framwellgate:** Former President of the Police Superintendents Association. Former Chief Superintendent in the *Durham Constabulary*.

**Lord Harris of Harringey:** Former chair of the *Metropolitan Police Authority* from 2000 to 2004. Former Home Secretary's representative on the Metropolitan Police Authority with responsibility for overseeing the work of the Metropolitan Police in countering terrorism and in security.

**Baroness Henig:** Chair of *Lancashire Police Authority* from 1995 to 2005 and chair of the Association of Police Authorities from 1997 to 2005, when she became the Association's president. She was also a member of the National Criminal Justice Board from 2003 to 2005.

**Baroness Angela Harris:** Former Chair of the *North Yorkshire Police Authority* (1994 to 2001). Former joint Chair of the Association of Police Authorities (1997 to 2001). Former member of the Service Authority National Crime Squad and Police Negotiating Board.