



Berlin, 17. April 2023

SAVE THE DATE! GdP Expert Event in Brussels

What Europe must do to combat child sexual abuse

Berlin. Under the title „Politics meet Police Practice: How can the EU and its Member States enhance their fight on sexual abuse of children?“, the German Police Union (GdP) will address a sensitive area of crime and criminal behavior in an evening event open to the press on April 25, 2023 in Brussels. „Given the increasing number of cases and the inevitably growing number of victims of these despicable crimes, the GdP believes that a significantly improved fight against sexual abuse and exploitation of children, especially in the European context and its legislation, is necessary,“ emphasized the GdP federal chairman Jochen Kopelke.

Against this background, the GdP, in cooperation with the representation of the state of Hesse to the European Union, invites participants to its annual political expert event in the heart of Brussels' European Quarter. Union members from all over Germany will also be present, bringing not only their own experience of working with the crime of sexual abuse of children, but also ideas on where European and national legislation should focus to better protect children and strengthen police investigators in the fight against sexual abuse of children.

High-profile guests are expected to attend the evening event. Hesse's Interior Minister Peter Beuth will welcome guests. The GdP federal chairman Kopelke will give a greeting. Subsequently, the topic will be discussed in a panel discussion. European policymakers Lena Düpont, MEP (CDU/EPP) and Jan-Christoph Oetjen MEP (FDP/Renew) will participate. Police expertise will be provided by Chief Superintendent (Polizeiobererrat) Lars Oeffner, Head of the Department for Cybercrime and Digital Traces (State Criminal Police Office Schleswig-Holstein).

Cathrin Bauer-Bulst, Head of Unit for Combating Cybercrime and Child Sexual Abuse at the European Commission, will report on the European Commission's pending legislative initiatives. In May of last year, the European Commission made a legislative proposal to protect children from ongoing abuse, prevent the reemergence of material on the internet, and bring offenders to justice. The victim protection perspective will be represented by Petra Klein, Vice President of the organization „Victim Support Europe“.

Key information at a glance:

Date: April 25, 2023 - Evening event (7:00pm - 9:00pm)

Location: Mehr-Regionen-Haus of the Representation of the State of Hesse to the EU, 21 Rue Montoyer, B-1000 Brussels

Language: German/English (simultaneous translation)

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