

"The FIEP Project on Victims Protection and Assistance"

Executive Summary

"The FIEP Project on Victims Protection and Assistance" represents a first step in a long process which could lead to an integrated FIEP perspective over this field.

The present work must be considered as a primary analysis and an assessment of the current situation, which needs to be further supported and improved.

However this Project has the advantage of the first impact and it contributes to raise awareness of the current gaps in the Members' perspectives and approaches, the need for an unified view and it represents an opportunity for the community of Gendarmeries and Police Forces with military status.

The FIEP Commission for Human Resources, in accordance with art.12 of the FIEP Statutes, is in charge, inter alia, of organizing annual meetings, intensification of contacts among specialists and refresher courses for personnel. For that purpose the Conclusions of the *"The FIEP Project on Victims Protection and Assistance"* should be taken into consideration.

Conclusions of the Project

1. Wherever there is a breach of human rights, a crime, a disaster or a war / conflict /crises, there are victims. In this respect, it is paramount to acknowledge that the extent of this domain is given by the variety of possible situations which generate uncalled suffering. Stronger awareness is needed.
2. The new trends in the international legislation related to victims' assistance and protection (based on legal provisions and courts decisions) create new responsibilities for the Law Enforcement Agencies by enhancing the rights of the victims.
3. As Police Forces with Military Status, the FIEP members represent useful instruments which are already frequently used by their respective States in

order to limit and as much as possible to remove the consequences of natural or manmade disasters. From this perspective, most Forces already developed some operational procedures, despite the limits of their competencies. As robust, disciplined, flexible and strong forces, the gendarmeries are very much at hand, always available and logistically fit to bring a certain level of response to disasters, to provide stability and security in the affected areas, and to aid, protect and assist the victims.

4. There cannot be a General competence to exclusively deal with all victims. The special competences do not belong to one institution, but to many stakeholders, according to their level of involvement in different fields. Cooperation plans with all concerned institutions, similar First Intervention Procedure for protection and assistance of the victims are needed.
5. The Member Forces currently have different views on the victims' protection and assistance. Different Members have developed operational concepts and procedures in specific fields. However, a certain lack of uniformity in approaching this field would make very difficult, for the time being, the existence of an eventual common doctrine. A more thorough analysis is needed in the matter, in order to create a clear picture on the related cooperation possibilities at FIEP level.
6. Individual experiences showed that projects in the matter can be very effective. The main actors of International Community extensively support initiatives in this field (Human Rights related) and provide numerous opportunities (including financial support) for the development of dedicated structures and training of personnel.
7. At FIEP level, most Members clearly indicated a strong willingness to further cooperate in the matter.