



National Security Plan
2016-2019
Synthesis

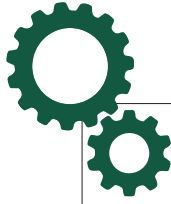
**Together to the
heart of the matter**



NATIONAL SECURITY PLAN 2016-2019



Police



Synthesis

The National Security Plan (NSP) is the ultimate strategic policy plan of the integrated police, the guiding thread of police functioning. All police services in Belgium, whether at federal level or local level, cooperate on the policies developed in this plan, in accordance with their respective competences and with the tasks assigned to them. The NSP does not stand alone; it is part of a cooperative process within a security context, a framework of rules, directives and forecasts and a constraining socioeconomic context. Police services are indeed an integral part of society.

Over the past few months, the international geopolitical context has had a significant impact on the security situation in Belgium. The terrorist threat and the migrants issue have put – and are still putting – tremendous pressure on police forces. It is in this difficult context that a new National Security Plan had to be prepared. And we did it. The new NSP reflects a **more sustainable, comprehensive and integrated police policy, at both national and international levels.**

A unique and well-balanced NSP

For the last fifteen years of the police policy cycle, we have gained extensive experience and expertise. However, this **‘seventh’ National Security Plan (NSP) 2016-2019 is innovative.** Indeed, it does not only fall into line with the Integral Security Framework Document, but it also reflects the opinion of the federated entities. Besides, with the integrated police functioning in mind, the Standing Committee of the Local Police (CPPL-VCLP) has presented the vision of the local police. The local, federated and federal aspects had indeed to be taken into account, as well as European and international dimensions. The whole process was systematically examined in terms of victims, perpetrators, society, authorities and partners in the security chain.

The title of this National Security Plan 2016-2019, **‘Together to the heart of the matter’**, places the emphasis on integral and integrated cooperation: ‘integrated’ cooperation between the local police and the federal police on the one hand, and ‘integral’ cooperation between the integrated police and their partners in the security chain, on the other hand.

It was therefore essential that this **police plan should be in full compliance with the Integral Security Framework Document (ISFD), which constitutes the framework of reference.** This framework document is stimulus for closer **cooperation and synergies** between the police and other government and security services. In other words, the ISFD determines the extent of involvement of other government services in the security approach. As a translation of the ISFD into police policy, the NSP reflects the contribution of the integrated police to the security policy. Police services are expected to be loyal and active partners in the field of security, but also to take initiatives against specific security issues. The following two **essential messages** form the basis of both NSP and ISFD.

¹ The ten security clusters mentioned in the Integral Security Framework Document are the following:
(1) Radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism,
(2) Trafficking in and smuggling of human beings,
(3) Updated integral and integrated drug policy,
(4) Social and fiscal fraud,
(5) Cybercrime and cybersecurity,
(6) Violent crime, violations of personal integrity and discrimination,
(7) Organised property crime and trafficking in prohibited goods,
(8) Environment,
(9) Road safety,
(10) Improvement of public order (nuisances, negotiated management of public space and illegal migration).

² Law of 6 January 2014 on the sixth State reform relating to the matters referred to in article 77 of the Constitution, Belgian Official Gazette of 31 January 2014. See also articles 37 and 37bis of the Law on the integrated police.



Building bridges between security actors

Firstly, the **choice of security phenomena** on which the police have to focus is based on **balance** and **support**. This choice is based on an objective 'analysis and scanning' of security issues and crime and on the 'political' guidelines laid down by the federal government and federated entities. The ISFD defines ten security clusters¹ that require an efficient and effective approach and, consequently, integral and integrated reflection and work. Both the authorities and the police give the same weight to those issues. Whatever the priorities and/or responsibilities, the Federal Police will fully cooperate to such integral and integrated approach within the framework of their missions and competences, while striving for quality and professionalism.

The **second** message is clear and deals with **commitment**. While in the past, one relied too often and 'exclusively' on the police or public prosecutors to solve security problems through a judicial approach, the different links of the security chain are now committed to solving problems together, within the limits of their respective competences. In the ISFD, judicial and administrative authorities indicate their 'intentions' at their respective levels of authority, but also their 'expectations towards the police'. The NSP therefore provides a response to the legitimate expectations of the different policy levels in the prevention of and the fight against crime, as well as for the maintenance of security and the viability of our society.

From strategy to action plan

In the light of the ISFD, the NSP constitutes a concrete action plan for the police. For every security phenomenon mentioned in the ISFD, this plan defines what will be the concrete contribution of the police in the security chain. The NSP includes the priority criminal phenomena and security issues, the strategic objectives and the projects of the federal police that result in many action plans.

As provided for in article 95 of the Law on the integrated police, it is important to determine **which programmes** the Federal Police will elaborate to address or monitor specific phenomena requiring an integrated judicial and administrative approach. A programme-based approach is appropriate whenever innovation is needed, whenever the implementation of additional means is necessary and/or whenever particular attention must be paid to coordination between several services. For a number of issues, it

is absolutely necessary to implement, at central level, an approach to supervise the whole process.

Besides this programme-based work, the Federal Police will also integrate **improvement projects** in their everyday tasks. These projects mainly concern security issues that are already dealt with in the organisation but whose approach is likely to be renewed and/or improved. This, however, requires coordination with local police services and especially the Standing Committee of the Local Police (CPPL-VCLP). Effective coordination still has to be reinforced at district and local levels through zonal security plans. This is a unique opportunity to tackle security issues in an integrated way. Besides, newly adopted legislation provides for the development of a regional security plan for the administrative district of Brussels². The top-down approach will consequently be completed by a bottom-up dialogue and further refinement. In this way, the police aim to become more professional, both in terms of basic and special police function and in terms of integrated functioning.

Key points

The approach to these security phenomena and cross-cutting themes can be summed up in the following key points:

REGARDING THE CROSS-CUTTING THEMES:

1. applying the administrative enforcement intensively as part of the approach against crime, while ensuring an efficient exchange of information with the various stakeholders;
2. improving the police's approach to computer crime while taking account of developments in the field of Internet, innovation and new technologies;
3. paying more attention to identify fraud (for the whole chain of criminal activity) and domicile fraud;
4. promoting the assets-oriented approach, not only with regard to social and fiscal fraud, but also with regard to all the other types of crime generating illicit gains;
5. using the various law instruments related to international police cooperation and continuing to operationalise them if necessary;
6. extending the concept of investigation management to, inter alia, local investigation services, in synergy with the judicial authorities ;
7. destabilising as much as possible poly-criminal criminal organisations, including by better identifying them.



REGARDING THE SECURITY PHENOMENA:

1. making special efforts to counter radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism, paying particular attention to the exchange of information between stakeholders;
2. destabilising human trafficking organisations and depriving them of the benefit of their crimes, disrupting the smuggling of human beings and detecting smuggling networks;
3. contributing to implement the updated integral and integrated drug policy in all its forms (cannabis, synthetic drugs, cocaine, etc.);
4. contributing to seize the proceeds of crime by combating social and fiscal fraud and all the other types of crime generating illicit gains;
5. implementing coordinated measures to approach cybercrime and cybersecurity and strengthening the expertise and knowledge of the police in this field ;
6. fighting against violent crime, violations of personal integrity and discrimination. In this respect, special attention needs to be paid to society's vulnerable groups;
7. implementing a highly deterrent policy in the field of property crime, with an emphasis on residential burglaries committed by itinerant criminals and on the identification of the weapons used in this context;
8. continuing to implement – together with all our partners – an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to environmental crime in the widest sense (waste traffic, animal welfare, ecofraud, endangered animal and plant species);
9. ensuring, in cooperation with our partners and authorities, sufficient and quality traffic enforcement by properly trained and equipped staff members, with the aim of significantly reducing the number of road accident fatalities;
10. pursuing efforts to combat nuisances and implementing the so-called negotiated management of public space; continuing the fight against illegal migration.

Resources and conditions

The NSP is **very ambitious**. The further **professionalisation and modernisation** of internal management (personnel, logistics, ICT, finances) are essential to its success. By implementing their optimisation plan, the Federal Police have already begun that process. Efficiency gains are also the objective of the police's core tasks plan, whose implementation started in 2016. The implementation of programme-based work, on the one hand, and of improvement projects as part of everyday missions, on the other hand, is another key element to the success of the NSP.

These conditions require a wide-ranging approach which goes beyond boundaries. At the same time, we also have to take into consideration the new needs and structural and/or organisational initiatives that are developed elsewhere. Some new tendencies are predictable, but others require new ad hoc initiatives or more flexibility. The Federal Police and the Local Police both have to **think and act in a future-oriented manner**.

The Integral Security Framework Document determines the extent of involvement of other government services in the security approach. Police services are expected to be loyal and active partners in the field of security, but also to play a leadership role in coordinating operations in the fight against specific security problems.

The integrated functioning – both vertically and horizontally – and mutual support remain the basis for implementing this NSP. The Coordinating Committee of the integrated police has a significant role to play in this; it should work to improve the relation between the two components of the integrated police.

AMBITIONS

The 2016 – 2019 National Security Plan pursues three main goals:

1. Together with all its entities at all levels, the integrated police aim to provide a **quality service to the public**. All citizens have the right to have their file or requests handled in an appropriate and qualitative way and must be able to count on our commitment to ensuring their safety and combating all forms of crime.
2. The integrated police's approach to security phenomena is based on **cross-cutting themes, programme-based work and improvement projects** as part of everyday missions.
3. The integrated police organise their **internal management control** system through their policy and support processes in order to be able to deploy staff in an effective and professional way, so as to combat crime and insecurity on the ground in an efficient and effective way.