

Conclusions of the day with presentation of the action plan 2015

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I have the honour to conclude the **second States-General Domestic Burglary**. The turnout for this 2nd States-General - 200 participants from the private sector, the police, provincial authorities, justice, prevention and from the academic world – clearly shows that there is an interest in the theme and that there is a need for new insights. For the policy regarding burglary prevention needs to be looked at from different angles – more in particular the proactive approach, prevention, repression and aftercare – and a broad spectrum of actors needs to be represented. By tuning the efforts to one another and by reflecting on an efficient prevention policy, we can achieve significant results.

In one year – after the 1st States-General – plenty of things have been assessed and I can say: in a good sense. As mentioned by the different speakers today, one has worked on different action points, yet the fight is not over. The fight continues, in cooperation with you. **The fact that you were here today** to reflect with us, shows that the fight against burglary is on the local and political agenda and continues to catch the attention of all persons involved.

Today a number of **experts and responsible persons from different links of the security chain** were asked to speak today. This choice was made deliberately because the approach of a phenomenon such as domestic burglary needs to be accomplished with a strong cooperation. An actual example is the action day “1 day not” that was supported by different public and private partners.

This States-General also had the **final conclusions of the European project “Domestic Burglary”** as a theme. This project, that was possible with the financial support of the European Commission, was developed in cooperation with different national and European partners, namely Bulgaria, Romania and Germany. I therefore want to thank all national and European partners within this project for their commitment in the past few months. With this European project one has started to work with different methods to come to a better view on the problematic phenomenon domestic burglary. For the future we can already conclude that it remains important to strive for this European dimension within the burglary prevention policy.

What does 2015 offer? What will be our goal for the coming year?

Our priority in 2015 consists of the approach of the fight against burglary with in the first place the update of the action plan Domestic Burglary in cooperation with all partners involved.

Yet, the emphasis will be on **sensitizing and alerting the citizens** who should also take their responsibilities in this fight themselves, because they are undoubtedly at the basis of the approach. Generally citizens underestimate their own role in the burglary prevention policy, although they really have a role, even a key role to play. Making the citizens responsible is of

crucial importance. Prevention is useless when citizens do nothing with the advices (door unlocked) or do not minimally invest in security (solid door).

2015 will also be the **year of the technologies**.

First we expect the results of the **scientific research regarding the new technologies**. When we think of wireless technologies such as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, but also of the use of home automation, ..., and the different apps one is bombarded with these days, it is important to check the effect of this on our prevention and security policy. How can we deal with this as an authority. That there is great interest in these technologies is already shown by the interest in this workshop this afternoon.

A technology we will develop ourselves in the coming months is a **virtual safe for the registration of goods**. Here we'd like to reach out to the citizen and give him the possibility to get an overview of his valuable goods. This inventory should enable him to provide a clear identification and/or description with regard to the police and/or insurance companies in case of damage or theft. This way we want to offer a solution for the large number of goods with an emotional and a financial value that cannot be returned to the rightful owner and therefore remain with the police. For the development of this tool we cooperate with the colleagues of the Directorate-General Institutions and Population, who manage the e-ID. The concept is now being developed further so that it can be launched together with a campaign to sensitize the citizens.

In response to the sixth state reform our **cooperation with the regions** will be strengthened as well. Within the theft prevention there is here more specifically a task in the framework of the standardization of prevention measures. Currently all citizens can decide themselves whether they want to protect their houses, but we have to dare to take the next step. Different tracks are considered and discussed with the responsible persons within the regions. It is shown that taking prevention measures strongly reduces the risk of domestic burglary.

Next year we will organize again the States-General Domestic Burglary to take stock of the actions done and the development of the phenomenon. 2015 will thus become the year of the cooperation between all partners involved in burglary. We therefore hope that the trend will eventually be bent and that our efforts will be rewarded.

And to conclude I want to remind you of the **action day "1 day not"** that could not be organized on a better moment than during these dark months. Organize it also within your municipalities, police zones or regions to make sure that there are no burglaries on 11 December. "1 day not"... that is what we are aiming at!



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