

## Results of the action plan 2014 with reference to the 1st States-General Domestic Burglary

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First and foremost I want to welcome you at this **second States-General Domestic Burglary**.

This second States-General Domestic Burglary is not organized without reason. The starting shot for this was given already on 1 June 2012 with the big Security conference in the provincial government building of Antwerp. The provinces of Antwerp and Limburg, the Public Prosecutor's Office of Antwerp and we, as the Directorate-General Security and Prevention of the FPS Home Affairs, have united and pleaded then already for a common approach of domestic burglary.

Next, we organized the following year, on 21 October 2013 to be precise, our First States-General Domestic Burglary. The goal of this States-General is to initiate **a common vision to reorient the existing burglary prevention policy**.

The different results and conclusions drawn from this first conference – one year ago – have led to the development of an **action plan for 2014**.

Different pillars had a central place within this action plan:

- Conceptualization and assessment
- Cooperation
- Innovation and technology

I am pleased to be able to present the first results of this action plan today.

Within the pillar of **conceptualization and assessment** we can mention different action points.

A first result is the **development of a monitor 'domestic burglary'**.

Until now there was no clear conceptualization of the phenomenon domestic burglary and the related policy approach by the different actors. An integral security reporting regarding domestic burglary became imperative.

From this angle one reflected on formulating an answer to this lack. In the framework of domestic burglary, various data are available at different levels. Nonetheless no univocal image is available. To resolve this, the Directorate-General has started the development of an application that bundles the different data regarding domestic burglary. The application – that will be available through the website [besafe.be](http://besafe.be) – provides all interested persons with the possibility to consult different data in the framework of domestic burglary in one place. In the

workshop conceptualization and assessment we'd like to give you a first idea of the possibilities of the application 'Monitor domestic burglary'. This tool is being further refined and extended to be able in the long term to generate a connection between specific data and/or actions in order to be able to organize better aimed sensitization. Therefore we are open for all your remarks and additions.

The **organization of expert meetings with academics** too, is included in the part "conceptualization and assessment" of the action plan.

We had a constructive consultation with academics of different universities. On the basis of our contacts in the field we experience the importance to strive to optimally link practice and science. We want to tackle this in a broader manner than just the phenomenon domestic burglary, for crime prevention in general. Concrete action points that result from this cooperation with the academic world are: inventory, amongst other things of the research groups within our country within different research fields, but also inventory of scientific research and publications related to domestic burglary amongst other things. Besides we want to stimulate as much as possible a structural exchange of information between our directorate and the academic world.

The second domain within the action plan Domestic burglary, in which we continue to actively strive for, is **innovation and technology**.

In that respect we can say that **the scientific research regarding the impact of new technologies** on crime control was launched on 1 November. The research is being conducted by the VIVES College and the University of Antwerp. The citizens are ever more confronted with new technologies in their daily lives and these technologies are unfortunately being abused by people with evil intentions. The perpetrators often have sophisticated material to commit their crimes through. Through this research we try to inventory the most used new technologies and to see how we can protect ourselves against the abuse of these technologies.

Another important outcome is that this research will allow us to adapt our knowledge and strategies regarding prevention to this. For the government policy regarding crime control needs to be adapted to the rise of these new technologies.

I want to ask you to take note of the goal of this research and to formulate your first impressions during the workshop "New technologies" that is organized this afternoon.

Another important action point is **facilitating the registration of goods and data through a technological solution**.

These days it is often hard for the police to return stolen goods to the rightful owner. People cannot provide a detailed description of their stolen goods in yet too many cases. For this too we try to offer a solution, through a “virtual safe”.

For this we work together with the Directorate-General Institutions and Population, that is responsible for the e-ID. The e-ID is a familiar medium that has ever more applications. With this medium we want to allow for the registration of goods too. We try to develop a digital database that needs to be filled by the citizen himself. In this database all data regarding valuable goods can be stored: from electronics to jewels, works of art and other valuable goods. The database is protected from any views and is thus very confidential. When citizens become the victim of a burglary and/or fire, they can easily give an overview of the valuable goods to the police and/or insurance company.

This tool is currently in full development and will be presented by the end of 2015. Your input on this subject is always very welcome though.

A last – but not less important – pillar within the action plan is the **cooperation with other instances and policy levels**.

A first aspect within this pillar is strengthening the European dimension in the approach of domestic burglary.

During the European presidency in the autumn of 2010 already, we have put the focus on “a secure home in a secure neighbourhood” through the project “a secure home in a safe community, through prevention, community policing and restoration”.

We are definitely not the only member state that is confronted with the issue of domestic burglary. Therefore our directorate launched on 1 October 2013 the **European project “An integral methodology to develop an information-led and community-orientated policy to tackle domestic burglary”**, for short “Domestic Burglary”. This project - financed with the support of the European Commission – wants to stimulate an integral and integrated approach of burglary prevention at the European level. By providing best practices and development tools, other EU countries too can acquire or expand knowledge and expertise and to put work into the prevention regarding domestic burglary.

The goal of this European project “domestic burglary” is to develop a methodology to control domestic burglary. It aims to develop an approach regarding domestic burglary in a structured manner, creating a broader framework and placing these measures in a broader framework. The project has a duration of 15 months and ends thus next month on 31 December 2014. This conference is also the final piece of this European project. This afternoon the results are presented in detail in one of the workshops.

A second aspect is **building bridges with the regions**. For these partners are seldom consulted in the framework of the development of a prevention policy, yet their role is therefore not less crucial. We have met the different representatives of the regions in the framework of urban development and the protection of council housing to outline the chalk lines of our future cooperation. Taking into account the sixth state reform, this aspect of cooperation with the regions will be developed further in the future.

**The cooperation with the provinces and the local authorities** is also a point we wanted to extend. In this respect the DG Security and Prevention wants to support every local or provincial prevention project wanting a scope on the national level. One of the best examples for this is the excellent cooperation at all levels for the national action day '1 day not'. However, I let the province of Limburg tell you more on this subject later today.

We found that the authorities are not alone in the fight against burglary. **The private sector** too plays a key role in this matter. Contacts have already been made with different private partners to bring about an enduring cooperation. We definitely continue the cooperation with other private partners in the coming months.

I also want to put the emphasis on **our communication regarding domestic burglary prevention**, that ever more focusses on the use of social media. The use of social media in the police services and prevention services has been examined. We regularly ask our partners to spread our prevention messages through those communication channels.

With this overview of the state of affairs and of results of the Action plan 2014, I now want to **give the starting shot for this 2nd States-General**. Again speakers from the different links of the security cycle and from different policy levels will give their vision on the approach of domestic burglary.



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