2.1. lobbying

The expression might raise dual edged feelings regarding ethics and morality. We nevertheless consider that, as a legitimate public actor operating within the scope of a Code of conduct, with high ethic standards and in no way corrupting the law, it is our duty to use all opportunities in a responsible and honest way, under objective considerations, to enforce the law and deliver outstanding general Police services to the citizen.

Best case scenario: consultancy

Law enforcement and general policing have reached a very complex and highly technological and scientific level. We cannot always expect politicians, mostly coming from different backgrounds, to be experts in

our field. At many occasions there is even a request for explanation and information from the political side.
This is our best case scenario, Police operating as a more or less straight consultant to the political authority or to the legislator / regulator.
Our network potential is key to this kind of procedure, that takes place either on a very personal level (which happens quite often in the small Luxembourgish environment), or through the numerous political advisory committees, institutions and organisations, of which Police is an official member.

Consultancy on a personal level

The daily working basis with judicial authorities, to be considered as a privileged and socially highly esteemed partner, might be used to set up joined solutions, to be presented to the political level, when it comes to law making in the field of law enforcement.
International and European structures (Interpol, Europol, CEPOL, Luxembourg's permanent representation to the EU Council ...) offer excellent think tank structures and communication channels to address the political authorities and pass on Police messages and desiderata.

We all know that in this crisis shaken period, Police achievements on all levels are more requested than ever, for the sake of social coherence and the maintenance of public order. Through our consultancy, decision takers are provided with answers to tricky and sensitive public questions, they will have to face. Most of them are aware of it. It is our goal to build a trustful relationship, position us as experts and convince them that the invested public means are fully justified.

Consultancy through external sypply

Once all these more or less personal conviction based ways exhausted or not achievable, we might consider external supply: the voter and the media or both combined (e.g. the letter to the editor column).

Media campaigns probably are the quickest and the most striking and massive way to bring a topic to public debate. Politicians and decision makers have a constant interrelation with the media. They use them and they get used by them. This ambivalent relationship leads to a very cautious and even respectful, sometimes fearful attitude towards the press.

Media are obviously an actor who might be able to set the agenda, to convey messages, but unfortunately the fourth estate is very jealous of its independence and beyond control.

A media policy should be based on transparency and on a friendly and open relationship with the press (like the Luxembourg Police). A proactive strategy, taking in account all legal and ethical aspects, putting the journalist in a privileged position, between the voter and the political

decision centre, can be very helpful at times, but can also be very risky, regarding the non-control of the contents.

Concrete example 1

Luxembourg Police has undergone a major change of mentality since it has been reorganised, more than 10 years ago, in 2000. This change affects all activity sectors and has progressively led to a strengthened self-confident attitude. While, for years, the force merely considered itself as an uncommunicative recipient of orders, it has meantime developed into a highly considered public actor, vested with a unique experience and knowhow in the field of public safety.

This positive evolution has definitely led to a rather open dialogue with politics, which is part of our sustainable transparency led governance.

Today the attempt to gain substantial influence on public safety relevant matters is no more an option, but has become an obligation in the framework of our accountability towards the political authority and the general public.