

emergency help

**in connection with
meetings during
the Danish EU Presidency
in 2002**



DANISH UNION OF JOURNALISTS
DANSK JOURNALISTFORBUND

In connection with EU meetings, journalists, press photographers, etc. must be present to do their work. Never the less situations may arise where authorities or others will try to prevent them from working freely.

Experience, particularly from recent years, shows that – especially in connection with demonstrations – conflicts may arise between media workers and the police.

The intention of this little folder is to clarify the guidelines to be followed by the media and the police if conflicts arise between the roles and tasks of the media and the roles and tasks of the police.

Access Through Police Cordons

The task of the media is to be present to be able to report from the centre of events. It is therefore important that the police respect the fact that press cards in Denmark grant access through police cordons.

If the police attempt to put obstacles in the way of your work, you must show your press card. If you are in a turbulent situation, it is a good idea to wear your press card in a visible place.

If you are asked to leave a place even after having shown your press card, you should ask for a reason.

The Media Must Follow Police Instructions

Police instructions must be followed. You should ask for a reason, but there is no point in starting a discussion. If the police insist that you leave a place, you should ask for the police officer's name, service number and unit so that you may complain about the episode later if necessary. You can also ask to talk to the police representative responsible on the location.

You should know that the Danish Police and the media agrees that the police cannot deny journalists, photographers and TV teams access through police cordons solely on the grounds that their safety is at risk. It is the overall rule that media and media employees take responsibility for their safety themselves.

Press Cards from Other EU Countries Will Also Be Respected

The Danish police have stated that, in addition to Danish press cards and official international cards, they will also respect press cards from other EU countries in connection with the forthcoming summits. Please note, however, that – in addition to a press card – accreditation is also required as a condition for access to meetings and special events organized by Denmark in connection with the EU Presidency.

In connection with the EU meetings, police will be recruited from units, not all of which have experience from situations in which conflicts may arise in connection with the presence of the media. However, all police officers will be informed of the rights of holders of press cards and the police will have a specific press officer stationed in all special situations. Furthermore, the police have telephones manned by 10 persons who have the special task of dealing with the specific questions and episodes involving the media.

If the situation is very tense, it may happen that some police officers react negatively if press workers insist on their rights. In such cases, make your own observations in order to substantiate the identification of the police officer in question in the event that you subsequently wish to complain.

Seizures, Demands for Surrender, Copying, etc.

If the police demand that film, diskettes, etc. be handed over, developed, copied or destroyed and/or that cameras or other equipment be seized, you must protest and demand to be taken along to the police station. If the police maintain their demands, you must demand that cameras, films, etc. be sealed until a judge has deci-

ded whether the seizure or other surrender is lawful.

Arrest and Any Rough Treatment

If you refuse to comply with police instructions, you risk being arrested. The conditions for arrest are as follows:

- 1) the police must be able to justify a charge against you,
- 2) the charge must relate to a criminal offence subject to public prosecution,
- 3) and the arrest must be necessary to prevent further criminal conduct.

Even if these conditions are met, still no arrest may be made if the circumstances suggest that it would be a disproportionate intervention. The police have a special duty to respect and give leeway to the medias work as news communicators, even if this involves a portrayal of the police's own work.

The police's judgement cannot be examined in situ (unless a superior officer in situ does so). The principle in Denmark is that you have the right to contact a lawyer and to contact family, friends and employers. However, this must take place with due consideration for the work of the police. Before questioning, you are entitled to contact a lawyer.

If you are kept in custody for more than 24 hours, you must appear before a judge. The police may only employ the force which is strictly necessary to perform the arrest and must comply with requests for medical assistance, visits to the toilet and (within reason) food and drink.

The Danish Union of Journalists' Emergency Line and Special Emergency Line and Special Emergency Summit Help

The Danish Union of Journalists' emergency line on +45 33 42 80 10 is available for the union's own members and also for foreign press workers during the summits. If an episode occurs in connection with coverage of the EU meetings that causes you to have an emergency need for media-related legal assistance, please phone the emergency line immediately. You will receive prompt advice and may be referred to one of the external attorneys who have agreed to be available during the summit. The consultants on the emergency line and the external attorneys are experts in the field of freedom of expression and media law.

The emergency line is open 24 hours. Between 0900 and 1600, the calls are forwarded to the Danish Union of Journalists, where the union's lawy-

ers will answer your queries promptly. Before 0900 and after 1600, the call is transferred to a mobile phone where you can leave a message which will be answered as soon as possible by the lawyers on duty.

Legal Costs

If the emergency line refers you to one of the external attorneys, this service is free for members of the Danish Union of Journalists. Foreign press workers have to pay the costs of an external attorney.

Contact the Danish Union of Journalists If You Have Any Questions on the Emergency Measures

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact the Danish Union of Journalists by phone on +45 33 42 80 00 or by e-mail at dj@journalistforbundet.dk. You can find this leaflet and any other special information on the media and the summit at www.journalistforbundet.dk.

The Danish police have set up a special web site in connection with the summit. Its address is www.copenhagenpolice.dk

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