

# Audit of interdepartmental cooperation regarding contributions for extraordinary protection tasks of the cantons and cities

Federal Office of Police, Joint Operations Command DDPS, FDFA  
State Secretariat

## Key facts

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The Federal Act on Measures to Safeguard Internal Security obliges the Confederation to take preventive police protection measures to protect the federal authorities, persons protected under international law and permanent diplomatic missions. The Federal Office of Police (fedpol) delegates this task to the cantonal and city police forces. For embassy protection, fedpol is supported by the Joint Operations Command of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS). If a force takes on such tasks on a large scale, the Confederation concludes an agreement with the relevant canton or city and pays compensation. In 2022, this compensation totalled around CHF 74.1 million. The Geneva cantonal police force also receives an annual payment of CHF 1 million from the State Secretariat of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). This is based on the provisions of the Host State Act.

The audit outcome was positive. The calculations relating to the amount of compensation are transparent and no duplications were found in the various payments.

### **The agreements between the federal actors prevent duplications**

The protective measures ordered by fedpol can be divided into embassy protection and periodically recurring or permanent protective measures, e.g. for Federal Councillors. There are also measures in the case of extraordinary events. Consultations between the federal actors and the police forces take place on a monthly basis.

The division of tasks and the commissioning of the police forces are well organised. No relevant and untapped synergies were identified.

### **Compensation is calculated in a comprehensible manner, and differences in approaches are justified**

fedpol has concluded agreements with four cantons (Geneva, Bern, Ticino, Zurich) and the city of Zurich for periodically recurring and permanent protection tasks. Two of these agreements contain some provisions that are no longer up to date, but at the time of the audit this did not entail any risks for either party in terms of commissioning and invoicing. The amount of the lump-sum compensation for the police forces concerned is re-defined every three years based on the average expenditure in the previous years.

The DDPS, represented by the State Secretariat for Security Policy, usually concludes agreements every three years with three cantons (Geneva, Bern, Vaud) and the city of Zurich.

These agreements regulate the forces to be deployed and the compensation for embassy protection.

The FDFA's contract with the canton of Geneva regulates the existence and financing of the Diplomatic Security Brigade of the Geneva cantonal police. This unit acts as a link between the diplomatic community in Geneva, the cantonal and city authorities, and the Confederation.

The police forces record their deployments using statistics; for the Diplomatic Security Brigade, these are documented in the annual report. This documentation is suitably checked by the competent federal authorities.

The compensation calculations are transparent. Individual hourly rates are used for periodically recurring and permanent protection tasks, and this means that the different salary levels of the police forces are taken into account. Embassy protection is remunerated at a standard rate for all forces. In view of this, there is no need for action with regard to the existing compensation models.

**For the periodic adjustment of compensation levels, fedpol should clarify powers and signature rules**

The adjustments to the lump-sum compensation for periodically recurring or permanent protection orders, which are made every three years, are communicated to the police forces by fedpol in letters bearing a single signature. The Federal Department of Justice and Police has the legal authority to agree the terms of the compensation. fedpol has not been formally delegated this power. Furthermore, two signatures are mandatory for transactions of this financial magnitude.

**Original text in German**