Crime Statistics 2018 - Conclusions

Austria remains one of the most secure countries in the world
For the reporting year 2018 a new record high of solved criminal cases was achieved. 52.5 percent is a very high value and at the same time represents an essential contribution to crime prevention causing potential offenders to desist from their criminal intentions when looking at the excellent work of the Austrian police.

The trends of recent years have continued in the year 2018. In some of the classical fields of offences like domestic burglary, robbery and so-called volume crime offences like pickpocketing and thefts by trickery in public places a significant decline has been observed. This phenomenon can be explained by the high expertise and experience and by the well-coordinated specialist units within the police forces.

The largest decline has been seen in the numbers of the crime areas domestic burglary, robbery, pickpocketing and thefts by trickery.

The largest increase has been observed in the numbers for Internet fraud, crimes against sexual integrity and self-determination as well as extortion via the Internet. The numbers of criminal Internet offences and Internet based offences are expected to be on the rise for the coming years. An enormous increase of network-attached devices, which
due to their complexity are increasingly attractive targets for criminals, has been seen. In order to disrupt this development rethinking will be necessary, among users as well as among producers.

The accumulation of homicide offences that was seen during the last months of 2018 horrified the public but distracted from the general decrease of violent offences. Attempts have been made to counter this new quality of violence by establishing a screening group at Criminal Intelligence Service Austria tasked with analysing the homicide cases against women and by taking measures in the framework of the working group "Task Force Penal Law".

Factually, combatting all new forms of crime requires a national and above all an internationally networked approach. For our staff, working on crime control means thinking, planning and acting in an experienced way beyond borders. International and bilateral agreements, permanent access to international police databases and information as well as operational work in cooperation with foreign partners will even more than before become a daily routine on all levels of policing.

Conclusions:

Austria has managed to extend its high security standards and still is one of the safest countries in the world. Thanks to the professional investigative work of our police forces the already very high clearance rate was enhanced even more to 52.5 percent.

Continuous strong police presence and proximity to our citizens lead to a feeling of safety among the public.

With its consequent and strategically aligned security policy the Austrian Ministry of the Interior responds to social and technological developments:

- Targeted recruiting measures and reinforcement of staff for our police
- Modern training measures corresponding to crime trends and meeting the challenges of social requirements as well as technological developments
- State-of-the-art means of communication, protective equipment and facilities for our police officers
- Integrated operational concepts and innovative investigation methods