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TITLE:

**The use of force by the police and less lethal weapons – Acceptability and Applicability**

ABSTRACT:

The use of force by the police and the development of new less lethal weapons raise numerous questions relating to acceptability as well as applicability of these latter.

Besides a difference between the traditional Anglo-Saxon and European paradigms as regards the managements of the use of force by the police, other issues should be tackled.

Indeed, if we base our judgement on the available data, the introduction of less lethal weapons seems to suffer a lack of scientific rigour as regards real deployment as well as the assessment of their impact. It also seems to be depending on a phenomenon of fashion.

The absence of a rigorous methodology often gives way to intuition. The research team has set up modelling tools in order to try and remedy this shortcoming. In this prospect, we decided to base our procedure methods on induction, thus first determining the real needs of the users as well as taking real situations where the police intervene into account.

In consequence, besides a close study of theoretical researches on the culture of the police and the norms of applicability, an utterly pragmatic method has been set up.

It is based on panels of users, active observation during some interventions by officers from the local police and special units from both the local and federal police (during planned actions such as controls or making and maintenance of public order, and unplanned interventions); debriefing after those interventions and reconstruction of certain situations in training sessions.

In the subsequent analysis, we have managed to determine applicability indicators and norms. These various elements also contribute to setting up doctrines of use as well as to evaluating these.

The proposed communication will discuss the methodology used and the first results.

KEYWORDS:

POLICE, APPLICABILITY, ACCEPTABILITY, INDICATORS, DOCTRINE

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