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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS (CDPC)

Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP)

Draft Conclusions

17th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison Administration (CDAP) with the participation of Directors of Probation Services "Foreign Prisoners" (Rome, 22-23 November 2012)

Document prepared by the Secretariat

The participants in the 17th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison Administration with the participation of Directors of Probation Services "Foreign Prisoners" (Rome, 22-23 November 2012):

Endorsing Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2012) XX concerning foreign prisoners and the principles contained in it;

Drawing the attention of the national authorities to the increasing numbers of foreign offenders detained in the prisons of many European states;

Underlying the difficulties this situation creates for the prison administration in terms of management, treatment and preparation for release of these prisoners and also in terms of quality of intervention and treatment of the rest of the prison population under their responsibility;

Underlying the related difficulties faced by the probation services in reintegrating such prisoners after their release;

Mindful of the specific problems these persons often encounter while detained abroad due to differences in language, culture, customs or religion, as well as due to disrupted family relations and contacts with the outside world:

Mindful of the need to treat all prisoners independent of their origin or nationality with due respect for their fundamental rights and with regard for their particular situation and individual needs:

- request the Ministries of Justice to devote attention and to contribute to developing national penal policies and practices allowing for efficient, proportionate and humane dealing with foreign offenders including by providing sufficient staffing and training of professionals working with such offenders;
- **undertake** to provide foreign prisoners upon admission to prison with information, in a language they understand on the internal prison regulations and on their rights and duties including regarding transfer, legal advice and assistance;
- **undertake** to facilitate, as far as practicable, family relations and contacts of foreign prisoners with the outside world:
- **undertake** to endeavor to improve preparation for release and social reintegration of foreign prisoners by maintaining contacts with all relevant agencies working with such prisoners, including, as necessary, in their country of origin;
- **invite the Council of Europe** to assist its member states in exchanging and promoting best practices regarding dealing with foreign offenders.