

Strasbourg, 20 December 2012

PC-GR-DD (2012) 5 EN

# 1st MEETING of the AD HOC DRAFTING GROUP ON DANGEROUS OFFENDERS (PC-GR-DD)

17 -19 December 2012

Council of Europe, "Agora" - Room / Salle G.02

#### **SUMMARY MEETING REPORT**

# Document prepared by the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law

#### **BRIEF FOREWORD**

#### The PC-GR-DD:

- elected Mr Sławomir Buczma as its Chair;
- adopted the agenda;
- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on reasons to deal with the issue of dangerous offenders:
- considered the Council of Europe's legal instruments to be taken into consideration in view of a future recommendation in the field of dangerous offenders;
- considered the report prepared by prof. Nicola Padfield on "The sentencing, management and treatment of "dangerous offenders"" and held a discussion on the main items of the report, notably the ways to define dangerousness;
- considered the information presented by the scientific expert to the CP-GR-DD on the current trends in Europe in the field of dangerous offenders;
- held a discussion regarding the ways used in some European countries to identify "dangerous offenders", in particular through clinical assessments by psychiatrists, psychologists and other experts as well as actuarial tools;
- considered and defined the scope, definition and basic aspects of the future non-binding legal instrument on dangerous offenders;
- decided not to consider the issue of juvenile offenders;
- considered to present a preliminary draft recommendation at its next meeting.

1. The Ad hoc drafting group on Dangerous Offenders (PC-GR-DD) held its first meeting in Strasbourg on 17-19 December 2012. The list of participants is appended to this report (Appendix II).

#### I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. The agenda was adopted (see Appendix I).

#### **Election of the Chair and Vice Chair**

- 3. The PC-GR-DD elected Mr Sławomir Buczma as its Chair for the duration of the mandate of the ad hoc drafting group.
- 4. Each representative of the PC-GR-DD introduced herself/himself with a view to getting acquainted.

## IV. <u>Information by the Secretariat</u>

- 5. Mr Carlo Chiaromonte, Head of Criminal Law Division, presented the terms of reference of the European Committee on Criminal Problems (CDPC) which include the elaboration of a non-binding legal instrument on dangerous offenders in 2013.
- 6. He also presented the terms of reference of the PC-GR-DD as adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 November 2012, in particular the three items to be tackled by the non-binding legal instrument (the risk and threat assessment, the treatment and conditions of detention and the measures for the prevention of re-offending); He finally introduced Mr Oscar Alarcón, who will be the Secretary of the PC-GR-DD.

#### V. Council of Europe related work on dangerous offenders

7. The PC-GR-DD took note of the different Council of Europe legal instruments linked to the area of dangerous offenders, which should be taken into consideration when drafting the non-binding legal instrument.

## Preliminary considerations on dangerous offenders

- 8. The PC-GR-DD took note of the presentation provided by the scientific expert on the current trends and main concerns in Europe in the field of dangerous offenders; it also considered the report prepared by prof. Nicola Padfield on "The sentencing, management and treatment of "dangerous offenders" and held a discussion on the main items of the report, notably the ways to define dangerousness.
- 9. The representatives of the PC-GR-DD informed in a *tour de table* of the existing legislation in their national systems in the field of dangerous offenders.
- 10. The PC-GR-DD considered the means used in different European countries to identify "dangerous offenders", in particular by using both clinical assessments by psychiatrists, psychologists and other experts as well as actuarial tools.
- 11. The PC-GR-DD, considered the case-law related to preventive detention (in particular, M v. Germany) as well as the relevant domestic, comparative and international law and practice presented by the Secretariat of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). The participants expressed their interest in the key case-law of the ECtHR on dangerous offenders, and also agreed to invite a representative of ECtHR at its next meetings.

#### <u>Drafting a recommendation on dangerous offenders</u>

- 12. The PC-GR-DD agreed on the scope, definitions and some basic aspects of the future recommendation. It considered tackling mainly those offenders convicted for serious sexual or violent crimes who present a high probability of re-offending.
- 13. In the light of the discussions, the participants considered whether the question of treatment and conditions of detention should be considered; the extent of conditional release (parole); whether the

- issue of people with mental disorder should be considered; the effects of risk and needs assessment; not to expressly mention juvenile offenders in the scope of the recommendation;
- 14. The participants agreed that the question of the measures taken for the prevention of re-offending are closely related to the different stages of the criminal proceedings; in this regard, they also considered distinguishing those measures applied in prison, *inter alia* electronic monitoring, treatment programmes, vocational training, education measures and case-management, as well as those other measures applied during the post-prison stage, *inter alia* surveillance, electronic monitoring, reverse violence alarm, vocational training, multiagency co-operation relationship, working opportunities measures.
- 15. The PC-GR-DD agreed on the draft skeleton of a future recommendation on dangerous offenders.

## **Other business**

- 16. The PC-GR-DD took note of the work plan to be followed for the presentation of the non-binding legal instrument. It decided to present a draft preliminary recommendation at its next meeting as a basis for discussion.
- 17. The next meeting of the PC-GR-DD was scheduled for 24-26 April 2013.

## **APPENDIX I**

Strasbourg, 17 December 2012

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## AD HOC DRAFTING GROUP ON DANGEROUS OFFENDERS (PC-GR-DD)

Strasbourg, 17 December 2012, 10 a.m. - 19 December 2012, 1 p.m.

## Agora, Room G02

## **AGENDA**

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING	
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	PC-GR-DD (2012)OJE
3. ELECTION OF A CHAIR	
4. INFORMATION BY THE SECRETARIAT	
4.1 Terms of reference of the European Committee on Crime Prob	lems (CDPC) CDPC ToR
4.2 Last meeting of the Bureau of the European Committee on Crin 5 October 2012	me Problems, 4- <u>List of Decisions</u>
4.3 Terms of reference of the Ad hoc Group on Dangerous Offender 4.4 Background document prepared by the Secretariat on the reas	PC-GR-DD ToR
the issue of Dangerous Offenders	PC-GR-DD (2012)1
5. COUNCIL OF EUROPE RELATED WORK ON DANGERO OFFENDERS	ous
5.1 Recommendations and Resolutions	Resolution (62)2 No. R (82) 17 Rec(2003)22 Rec(2003)23 Rec(2006)2 CM Rec (2010)1
5.2 Report on "The sentencing, management and treatment of "dan offenders" by Nicola Padfield	ngerous" PC-CP (2010) 10 rev 5
5.3 European Court of Human Rights case law	ECtHR Case law
5.4 Discussion	

## 6. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION ON DANGEROUS OFFENDERS

- 6.1 Presentation by the scientific expert on the current trend and main concerns in Europe in the field of Dangerous Offenders
- 6.2 Presentation by each member of the Ad hoc drafting Group on Dangerous Offenders of any (legislative) measure existing in his/her country of origin on Dangerous Offenders

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6.3 Discussion

## 7. DRAFTING OF A RECOMMENDATION ON DANGEROUS OFFENDERS

- 7.1 Main items to be included in the forthcoming recommendation
- 7.2 Discussion

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Forthcoming meetings of the PC-GR-DD
- 8.2 Other

#### **APPENDIX II**

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

#### Members of PC-GR-DD / Membres du PC-GR-DD

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