



23/11/2012

17th Conference of Directors of Prison Administration
with the participation of
Directors of Probation Services
"Foreign Prisoners"

Rome, 22-24 /11/2012

CONCLUSIONS

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, 22-24 November 2012):

Endorsing Committee of Ministers' Recommendation (2012) 12 concerning foreign prisoners and the principles contained in it;

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

Underlining 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;

Underlining 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;

Recalling that in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights, states have an obligation 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:

- **draw the attention of** the Ministries of Justice to the need to devote efforts and to contribute to developing national penal policies and practices allowing foreign offenders to be dealt with in an efficient, proportionate and humane way, including by providing sufficient staffing and training of professionals working with such offenders;
- **agree to take the necessary measures** in order to provide foreign prisoners, upon admission to prison, with information, in a language they understand, on their rights and duties, on the internal prison regulations, as well as regarding possibilities for 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; in doing so, they will take into account the important contribution made by civil society and the NGOs;
- **invite the Council of Europe, notably through the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC),** to assist its member states in exchanging and promoting best practices regarding dealing with foreign offenders.