

Speaking Notes- Alan Mitchell, President of the CPT

29TH Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prisons and Probation, Sofia 24-25th June 2024

“Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law at the Heart of Prisons and Probation”

Closing Speech

- Warm thanks to organisers and participants. Privilege to be sharing a platform with Ms Maria Pavlova, Minister of Justice, Bulgaria
- CPT's longstanding relationship and co-operation with Bulgaria. High Level Talks June 2022 with Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior, Minister of Health, Minister of Labour and Social Policy underpins Bulgaria's commitment to the CoE and its continued efforts to ensure for the full respect of human rights, all persons deprived of their liberty. Welcome the commissioning of a new prison in Samoranovo.

- Human Rights, democracy and Rule of Law at the Heart of Prisons and Probation

- **Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit's keynote speech –**

- *European Prison Rules & Mandela Rules*
- *ECtHR (Mursic v Croatia)*
- *Solitary confinement*
- *German Constitutional Court- resocialisation, reintegration, rehabilitation*
- *CoE project on combatting prisoner hierarchies- substantive section CPT's next General Report*

- **Laura Negredo López' summing up of the workshops-**

- *Combatting Organised Crime*
- *Autonomy of Prisoners*
- *Net-widening in Probation]Managing Returnees and their families*
- *The Role of Victims in the Rehabilitation of Prisoners*
- *Evolution of High Risk Prison Regimes- ensuring safety while Respecting Human Rights and Rehabilitation Needs*
- Close and words of thanks to Ilina Taneva