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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

OVERVIEW OF SPORT IN EUROPEAN PRISONS

How the penitentiary rules in relation to sport are implemented in practice

organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe
in cooperation with the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP)
under the Andorran Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

5 March 2013

9:00 – 18:15

**Palais de l'Europe, Room 5
Council of Europe, Strasbourg**

Draft Report

Under the auspices of the Andorran Chairmanship, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) in cooperation with the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP) organised an expert seminar on sport in European prisons. Representatives of ministries responsible for sport and justice, sport officials as well as academics discussed strategies on how sport can be best used in a prison environment to help the rehabilitation and successful integration into society of those detained.

Mr Xavier Espot Zamora, Minister of Justice and Interior of Andorra, opened the meeting by underlining the importance of sport for detained persons. In Andorra useful sport programmes are running within prisons due to the excellent cooperation the Andorran penitentiary system has with sport organisations. In addition, he launched the idea of developing a handbook which could provide useful recommendations and give support on how to set up successful sport programmes in prisons throughout Europe.

The European prison rules of the Council of Europe demand – amongst other things – sport activities in prisons, according to Mr Morel d'Arleux, head of the sub-directorate for persons deprived of their liberty of the prison service. Therefore, in France the ministry of justice signed a memorandum of cooperation with the ministry of sport to develop and promote sport in French prisons. There are around 300 qualified sport instructors training detained persons in France.

Ms Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General for Democracy, highlighted the important role sport plays to promote education and health. Considering that prisoners have often poor education

and poor health, sport can be used to improve those important aspects not only for the benefit of the individual but also of the society as a whole.

The experts from sport organisations and the penitentiary systems acknowledged the beneficial role sport can have on detained persons and prison life. Despite this fact certain challenges remain to be solved. For instance, to be able to do sports adequate hard- and software is necessary. Not all prisons can offer suitable sport facilities and/ or sport equipment. Additionally, due to the architectural layout of prisons, certain sport disciplines might be difficult to organise. In prisons, sometimes there is also a lack of know-how to implement useful physical activity programmes. Another structural challenge is that there is no equal access to sport in prisons. For instance, female prisoners or prisoners aged above 50 engage significantly less in sport activities than others.

As there is a lack of evidence, the researchers present suggested further studies in this area to answer the question of which sport and sport programmes best suit the interests of detained persons and the public. The academics also demanded a more prescriptive approach to what sport should achieve in prisons then allowing tailor-made sport programmes to be designed and implemented.

The concluding round table discussion considered sport as a human right which must not be taken away from prisoners. There was consensus on the social and health benefits of sport in prisons. The participants also supported the idea of a handbook which could define criteria for good practice examples. This would help to evaluate relevant projects and to plan new physical activity programmes in prisons across Europe. In addition, this handbook could contribute to the dissemination of good practices and the promotion of sport in European prisons. For the political conference in 2014 it was recommended to also involve other important stakeholders such as health care providers and local sport clubs. Local sport clubs – in contrast to national sport federations – are of particular importance, as they usually engage directly with prisons to offer their programmes.

APPENDIX I

PROGRAMME

09h00-09h30 Registration of participants

MORNING SESSION

Chair: Mr Josep DALLERÈS, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Andorra to the Council of Europe

09h30-10h00 Opening session

Opening speech by H.E. Mr Xavier Espot Zamora, Minister of Justice and Interior, Andorra

Opening speech by Mr Julien Morel d'Arleux, Head of the Sub-Directorate for Persons Deprived of their Liberty, Prison Service Directorate, Ministry of Justice, France

Opening speech by Mrs Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

10h00-11h00 Existing standards and their implementation

Keynote speeches on the benefit of sport in prisons:

- Mr Mauro Palma, Vice-Chair of the PC-CP
“Sport activities and European standards on imprisonment”
- Mr Harald Føsker, member of the PC-CP
“The Norwegian model of Sports and rehabilitation”
- Mr Philippe De Witte, Flemish Sports Federation
“Overview of the links between sport and the penological structures”

Questions and Answers

11h00-11h30 Break

Chair: Mr Stanislas Frossard, Executive Secretary of the EPAS

11h30-13h00 Overview of sport facilities and activities in different types of prisons

- Mr José Devís Devís, University of Valencia
“Philosophy behind the results of the ‘Prisoners on the move’ project”
- Mr Kris Hermans, De Rode Antraciet vzw
“Impact on prison life”
- Mr Rob Allen, Penal Reform International

"Organising sport in prison - Challenges and Opportunities Inside and Out"

Questions and Answers

13h00-14h30 *lunch break*

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: Mr Mauro Palma, Vice-Chair of the PC-CP

14h30-15h30 Overview of sport activities as a social tool

- Mrs Rosie Meek, Teesside University
"The perceived and actual benefits of sport in prison"

- Mr Marc Theeboom, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
"Understanding the developmental opportunities for prisoners via sport"

Questions and Answers

15h30-16h00 *Break*

16h00-16h45 Projection of the documentary "Free to play", followed by a debate

16h45-17h45 The way forward: offering appropriate sports and sport facilities

Round Table:

- The contribution of policy makers: cooperation between relevant Ministries
 - Mrs Sylvie Mouyon Porte, Ministry of Sports, Youth, Non Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations, France
- The contribution of the sport movement
 - Mr François Grosvalet, Comité National Olympique et Sportif Français
 - Mr Philippe De Witte, Flemish Sports Federation
- The contribution of European institutions
 - Mrs Ilina Taneva, Secretary to the Council for Penological Cooperation

17h45 Conclusion of the meeting

- Mr Marko Begovic, EPAS Governing Board
- Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director of Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate, Council of Europe
- Mrs Sylvie Mouyon Porte, Ministry of Sports, Youth, Non Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations, France

18h15 *Drinks reception*

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**Public authorities / Autorités publiques****ANDORRA / ANDORRE**

Mr Josep DALLERÈS

Permanent Representative of Andorra to the Council of Europe

Mr Jordi BEAL VILAGINES

Coordonnateur des Sports

Gouvernement d'Andorre

Secrétariat d'Etat aux Sports

Margot ALEIX MATA

Mission of Andorra

Deputy to the Permanent Representative

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Dr. Irene KOECK

Director in the Federal Ministry of Justice

(Member of PC-CP)

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

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Head advisor

Ministry of Youth and Sport

International Relations Department

Mr Ramin MAMMADOV

Head advisor

Ministry of Youth and Sport

International Relations Department

Mr Agil GUNASHOV

Deputy to the Permanent Representative

FRANCE

Ms Marie-José JUSSERAND

Chargée de mission pour le développement du sport

Bureau des politiques sociales et d'insertion

Direction de l'administration pénitentiaire

Ministère de la justice et des libertés

M. Florian LIÉTOUT

Adjoint au Représentant Permanent de la France

GEORGIA / GÉORGIE

Mr Anatoli KOREPANOV

Chief Specialist
International Relations Division
Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Mr Jörg JESSE
Director General
Prison and Probation Administration, Acts of Clemency
Ministry of Justice
(Member of PC-CP)

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE

Mr Antanas JATKEVICIUS
Research Fellow
Institute of Law
(Member of PC-CP)

MONTENEGRO

Mr Krsto VUKADINOVIC
Youth Policy Advisor
Directorate for Youth and Sports

MOROCCO / MAROC

Mr Abderahim RAHOUTI
Directeur du Centre de formation des cadres
Délégation Générale à l'Administration Pénitentiaire et à la Réinsertion du Maroc

Dr Anas SOULEIMANI
Médecin et Chef du Service de l'Action Sanitaire
Délégation Générale à l'Administration Pénitentiaire et à la Réinsertion du Maroc

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Ms Slava NOVAK
Prison Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
Ministry of Justice and Public Administration
(Member of PC-CP)

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

M. André VALLOTTON (Président du PC-CP)
Ancien Délégué du Conseil d'Etat aux Affaires pénitentiaires
Département de la Sécurité et de l'Environnement
Chef de projet
Unité d'appui au Programme d'appui de la réforme du Système pénitentiaire
Ministère de la Justice
Alger

Organisations

Ms Gaëlle SEMPE
Maître de Conférences
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France

Speakers / Discussants

H.E. Mr Xavier Espot ZAMORA
Minister of Justice and Interior
Andorra

Mrs Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ
Director General of Democracy
Council of Europe

Mr Julien MOREL D'ARLEUX
Sous-directeur des personnes placées sous main de justice
Direction de l'administration pénitentiaire
Ministère de la justice et des libertés
France

Mr Jan KLEIJSSSEN
Director of Information Society and Action against Crime
Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law
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Mr Harald FØSKER
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Maison du sport Français
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Mme Sylvie MOUYON PORTE

Chef du bureau des fédérations multisports, des activités sportives de nature et des pôles ressources
Ministère des sports, de la jeunesse de l'éducation populaire et de la vie associative
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Mr Mauro PALMA (PC-CP Vice-Chair)

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