



ICPA Europe
International Corrections
& Prisons Association

To: Ms. Iliana Taneva, Secretary of PCCP, Deputy Head of the Criminal Law Division, DG Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe, 2 avenue de l'Europe, Strasbourg, France

19 June 2020
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ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ICPA EUROPEAN REGIONAL CHAPTER

Dear Ms. Iliana Taneva,

I write to inform you of a recent development of the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) in launching a new European Chapter of the Association. An inaugural meeting was held on 27th May to formalise the opening of **ICPA-Europe**.

This is an exciting development which will contribute to the sharing of knowledge and promotion of practices within the region, and to further strengthen the network of European corrections professionals within the international corrections community.

Over the years ICPA has always maintained a positive spirit of cooperation with organisations sharing similar interests, and has on many occasions formed partnerships in delivering projects and events within Europe. It is the intention of ICPA-Europe to build on these existing relationships and seek to engage and cooperate with those who share common objectives in the planning of future activities and initiatives for the advancement of professional corrections.

The aims and objectives of an ICPA European Chapter are aligned with ICPA's overall Mission, Vision and Values. The ICPA's Mission is to '**promote and share ethical and effective correctional practices to enhance public safety and healthier communities worldwide**'. We actively promote the Values of: a) effective community corrections and the use of imprisonment only as a last resort; b) integrity and professionalism; c) the sharing of ideas, knowledge, values and experience and working in partnership; d) the capacity of individuals to change for the better and the need to support them; and, e) the dignity of all individuals and the duty to protect their rights.

ICPA-Europe has formed the initial components of the governing group of individuals whose responsibility will be to oversee and progress the activities of the Chapter. Governing members of the Chapter are active, serving Board Members of ICPA.

Chair: Hans Meurisse, Vice-President, ICPA, Belgium

Deputy-Chair: Dorin Muresan, Board Member, ICPA, Romania

Secretary: Pedro das Neves, Board Member, ICPA, Portugal

This group will be supported by an additional 7 practitioners from Europe which currently includes:

Steven Van De Steene, Board Member, ICPA, Belgium

Esa Vesterbacka, Board Member, ICPA, Finland

Michael Spurr, Board Member, ICPA, United Kingdom

In these coming months ICPA-Europe will look to prepare its plan of activities in the region to contribute to the overall aims of the Chapter which are:

- a) To further strengthen the European network of corrections professionals;
- b) To undertake and collaborate on activities and initiatives that contribute to the advancement of professional corrections;
- c) To exchange European experiences and practices with the international corrections community and vice-versa;
- d) To create partnerships with those who share our common objectives and to explore routes for collaboration.

We welcome the suggestions and inputs of others to advise ICPA-Europe during its formative period and into the future. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you personally, to hear your thoughts on the activities of the Chapter, and to explore ways of working together as we move forward. Lastly, to note, the Chapter plans to physically meet to ratify its composition and activities during the Correctional Research Symposium in Porto, Portugal, 2-4 March 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hans Meurisse', with a large, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the left.

Hans Meurisse
ICPA Vice-President
Chair of the ICPA European Chapter
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