

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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PC-CP (2021) 1

COUNCIL FOR PENOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION

(PC-CP)

**26th (hybrid) Working Group Meeting
Strasbourg, 3-4 February 2021**

SUMMARY MEETING REPORT

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

www.coe.int/prison

E-mail: DGI-PC-CP@coe.int

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND DECISIONS TAKEN:

The PC-CP WG:

- Adopted its agenda and its order of business;
- Took note of the opening words by Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director, Information Society - Action against Crime Directorate, Council of Europe who welcomed the participants, informed of the latest activities of the Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) related to defining the scope of a future Council of Europe binding legal instrument on artificial intelligence (AI) and welcomed the planned work of the PC-CP in this area. Mr Kleijssen also thanked the PC-CP for their work on a draft Committee of Ministers (CM) Recommendation regarding the assessment, management and reintegration of persons accused or convicted of a sexual offence, thanked Professor Aebi and his team for the excellent collection SPACE and the additional survey on COVID-19 related data;
- Took note of the intervention made by Mr Carlo Chiaromonte, Head of Division and Secretary to the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and the Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) regarding the latest activities of the two committees which are of particular interest to the PC-CP and in particular the decision taken at the last CDPC plenary to consider at its next plenary meeting in June 2021 the draft Recommendation without further debate at the PC-CP plenary and the convening of a Working Group to the CDCT (9-10 March 2021) to discuss risk assessment of persons indicted or convicted for a terrorist offence, to which a PC-CP representative will be invited to contribute;
- Considered their terms of reference for 2020/2021 and took note of the information provided by the PC-CP Chair regarding the activities which are still to be carried out namely the work on mental health and on AI;
- Considered the revised draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation regarding the assessment, management and reintegration of persons accused or convicted of a sexual offence and its explanatory report [Document PC-CP (2019) 3 Rev 13] which reflected the oral and written comments made at the last PC-CP and CDPC plenary meetings in 2020, thanked the three scientific experts for their excellent work and approved the text with some further amendments;
- Took note of the information provided by Ms Kirsten Hawlitschek, Executive Director of EuroPris, regarding the activities carried out by their Organisation which promote the Council of Europe standard-setting texts and the suggestions to update the standards related to education in prisons and to foreign prisoners;
- Took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the CM decision to plan the activities and the corresponding budget for four years instead of two years as is currently the case and that consequently the suggested tasks before the PC-CP for the period 2022-2025 will include: drafting a White Paper on mental health; drafting a Recommendation on the use of new technologies and AI; considering the issue of women subject to penal sanctions and/or measures. updating the CM Recommendation (89) 12 on education in prison by including also offenders under probation; contributing to the work to be carried out by the CDCT on drafting of a recommendation on counter narratives in prison as well as on risk assessment of terrorists; revisiting the commentary to the CM Recommendation (2012) 12 on foreign prisoners;
- Discussed the outcome of the 25th Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) held remotely on 9-10 November 2020 which was also broadcast live and was thus attended by more than 300 participants altogether. Discussed also the planned holding of the 26th CDPPS in Portugal and agreed that the provisional dates will be the third week of September 2021 and that a possible topic could relate to the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of offenders and prison and probation staff as well as on the use of new technologies, including AI. This forum could also serve to promote the expected new CM Recommendation regarding the assessment, management and reintegration of persons accused or convicted of a sexual offence;

- Took note of the presentation made by Professor Marcelo Aebi related to SPACE I and II publications as well as of the information provided by him and by the Secretariat regarding the planned (under a Joint Programme with the European Commission) Conference “Three Decades of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics in Europe: Methods, Trends and the Impact on Policy Making” (22-23 March 2021), to be held in a videoconference format;
- Took note of the very interesting presentation made by a team of experts from Belgium and Italy on an ERASMUS + Project funded by the European Commission, which initially started in schools and was then used in Italian prisons on long-term prisoners and involved transcendental meditation which helped to reduce anxiety, aggression and attention disorders in prisoners but also helped increase job satisfaction and reduced burn-out in prison staff;
- Took note of the very interesting and informative presentation made by Mr Jorge Monteiro from the Portuguese Directorate General of Reintegration and Prison Services on mental health in prison and of the draft questionnaire prepared by Professor Charlie Brooker and the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) on the same subject in the area of probation and agreed that a similar questionnaire will also be drafted and both of these will be sent to the national prison and probation services to collect information needed for the drafting of a White Paper on this subject as planned;
- Took note of the information provided by Ms Clementina Barbaro, co-Secretary of CAHAI, regarding the current state of its work on defining the scope of a binding legal instrument on AI;
- Due to a last-minute health-related issues of Mr Håkan Klarin from the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, expert on AI, the participants watched a video of a presentation he made at a Forum on Detention and Probation, organised by the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Prison and Probation (SCEPP) in 2020 and decided to invite Mr Klarin at their next meeting to continue discussion on the subject;
- Noted that altogether there were 60 participants according to the final list of participants, which expanded quite a bit until the last moment. Out of these 32 were women and 28 were men. The Chair, Vice-Chair as well as 4 out of the 9 elected members of the PC-CP are women, as well as 3 out of the 9 scientific experts were women. Representatives of 20 member States, of 2 observer States and of 4 international organisations took part in the meeting. During the whole meeting and under each point on the agenda, due account was taken of the gender mainstreaming and non-discriminatory aspects of the topics;
- Agreed that their next plenary meeting will be held during the second half of the year and will be accompanied by a Conference commemorating the 40th anniversary of existence of PC-CP to which will be invited its previous elected members. Therefore, the initially planned plenary meeting on 11-12 May will be replaced by a PC-CP WG meeting and the one planned for June will be cancelled.

AGENDA

APPENDIX I

1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda and the order of business	
3. Summary report of the last meeting	PC-CP(2020)14
4. Information provided by the Secretariat	CDPC(2020)11 PC-CP Terms of Reference 2020-2021
5. Assessment, Management and Reintegration of Persons Accused or Convicted of a Sexual Offence	PC-CP(2019)3rev13
6. Follow-up to the 25th CDPPS, Strasbourg, 9-10 November 2020	Conference website
7. Organisation of the 26th CDPPS (September 2021, Portugal)	
8. Artificial Intelligence and its use by the prison and probation services	AI presentation Hakan Klarin, Sweden Guidelines on facial recognition CAHAI presentation
9. Dealing with offenders with mental health disabilities and disorders in prisons and under probation	Presentation Frans Van Assche Questionnaire Mental Illness in Offenders on Probation: Survey for the Council of Europe
10. SPACE/NPM EU/CoE Joint Project activities	Website
11. ERASMUS+ project in Italy on fostering tolerance, resilience and well-being in prisons	Presentation Erasmus+ FRIENDS Project - Expansion in Prisons

12. Update on the latest activities carried out by EuroPris

13. Feedback from participation in other meetings

14. Gender mainstreaming

15. Any other business

16. Dates of the next meetings

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER STATES / ÉTATS MEMBRES

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

Mehman SADIGOV

Colonel of Justice, Head of the Public Affairs Section, Penitentiary Service, Ministry of Justice, Baku

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Alexandre DEWAIDE

Secrétariat d'Annie Devos, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, AG Maisons de justice, Bruxelles

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Athena DEMETRIOU

Senior Prison Officer (Deputy Director), Cyprus Prisons Department, Nicosia

FRANCE

Eliane FRENKIEL

Directrice pénitentiaire d'Insertion et de Probation, Référente nationale chargée des AICS et des personnes en perte d'autonomie, Direction de l'administration pénitentiaire, Ministère de la Justice, Paris

Marion KERDRAON

Directrice Pénitentiaire d'Insertion et de Probation, Référente nationale des politiques culturelles, Département des politiques sociales et des partenariats (DPSP), Sous-direction de l'insertion et de la probation Direction de l'administration pénitentiaire, Ministère de la Justice, Paris

May PASCAUD

Chargée du suivi des activités et du bilan annuel du département, Département des politiques sociales et des partenariats, Direction de l'administration pénitentiaire, Paris

GEORGIA / GÉORGIE

Ana TSULADZE

Legal Adviser, Public International Law Department, Ministry of Justice, Tbilisi

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Jochen GOERDELER

Legal Officer, Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Unit II A 6, Criminal Law on Traffic, Administrative Crimes Act, Prison Affairs, Crime Prevention, Probation Services, Berlin

HUNGARY / HONGRIE

Orsolya CZENCZER

(Dr.), Associate professor/senior lecturer, correctional lieutenant-colonel, National University of Public Service, Faculty of Law Enforcement, Department of Corrections, Budapest

IRELAND / IRLANDE

Fergal BLACK
Director of Care and Rehabilitation, Irish Prison Service, Longford

Lisa COYLE
(Dr.), Clinical Psychologist, Wheatfield & Arbour Hill Prisons, Irish Prison Service, Psychology Service,
Wheatfield Prison, Dublin Arbour Hill Prison, Dublin

Maura E. O'SULLIVAN
(Dr.), Senior Psychologist, Cork Prison- Limerick Prison, Irish Prison Service, Cork Prison, Adjunct Lecturer
University College Cork

ITALY / ITALIE

Carla CIAVARELLA
Director, Office for the Coordination of the Relations of Institutional Co-operation, Department of Penitentiary
Administration, Rome

LATVIA / LETTONIE

Kristine KIPENA
Head of Punishment Execution Policy Unit, Sectoral Policy Department, Ministry of Justice, Riga

MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO

Dragica RAJKOVIC
Head of Treatment Sector, Long term sentences prison, Institution for execution of criminal sanction, Podgorica

NORTH MACEDONIA / MACÉDOINE DU NORD

Jasmenka DONCHEVSKA
Directorate of Prison Administration, Skopje

NORWAY / NORVÈGE

Tom A. ENGER
Director, KDI, Head of Section for Regulations and Security, Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Service,
Lillestrøm

POLAND / POLOGNE

Mirosław PRZYBYLSKI
Judge, Director of Department of the Enforcement of Judgements and Probation in Ministry of Justice, Warsaw

Robert TYPA
Counsellor to the Secretary of State at Ministry of Justice, Department of the Enforcement of Judgements and
Probation, Warsaw

PORTUGAL

Jorge MONTEIRO
Head of Service, Directorate-General of Reintegration and Prison Services, Lisbon, Portugal

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Ioana Mihaela MORAR

Deputy General Director, National Administration of Penitentiaries, Bucharest

RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE

Inessa CHERNYAK

Deputy Head of the Department for Ensuring Interaction with the CIS Countries, International Co-operation and Protocol Events UD, Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia

Svetlana KULAKOVA

Deputy Head of the Department of Methodological Support for the Implementation of Norms and Obligations in the Field of International Penal Enforcement Legislation, Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian Federation

Oleg LAZARENKO

Deputy Head of the Department of Affairs of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, Head of the Department for Ensuring Interaction with the CIS countries, International Co-operation and Protocol Events UD, Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Puerto SOLAR CALVO

Advisor of the General Secretary, SG. Instituciones Penitenciarias, Madrid

SWEDEN / SUÈDE

Håkan KLARIN (*Apologised / Excusé*)

CIO IT-Director, Prison and Probation Services, Norrköping

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Furkan BAYSAL

Rapporteur Judge, Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses, Ministry of Justice, Ankara

WORKING GROUP OF THE COUNCIL FOR PENOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION / GROUPE DE TRAVAIL DU CONSEIL DE COOPÉRATION PÉNOLOGIQUE (PC-CP)

Martina BARIĆ

Social pedagogue, Head of Service of special programs, analysis, evaluation and prisoners' and juveniles' records, Ministry of Justice, Prison System Directorate, Head Office, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia

Annie DEVOS

Présidente du PC-CP

Administratrice générale des Maisons de Justice, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgique

Anna FERRARI

Juge d'Appel, Cour d'Appel de Milan, Italie

Robert FRIŠKOVEC

Head Office, International Co-operation, Prison Administration, Ministry of Justice, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Vivian GEIRAN

Former Director, Probation Service HQ, Dublin, Ireland

Manfred KOST

(Dr, LL.M), Ministerialdirigent, Head of Department C - Justice and Law Enforcement, Social and Probationary Services Saarland - Ministry of Justice, Saarbrücken, Germany

Maria LINDSTRÖM

Office for International Affairs, Head of Security Planning Unit, Swedish Prison and Probation Service, Stockholm, Sweden

Laura NEGREDO LÓPEZ

Deputy Assistant Director-General of Open Regime and Alternative Sanctions, General Secretary of Penitentiary Institutions, Madrid, Spain

Nadya RADKOVSKA

Vice-Chair of the PC-CP

Head, Department for International Relations and Training of Staff, General Directorate Execution of Sentences, Ministry of Justice, Sofia, Bulgaria

SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS / EXPERTS SCIENTIFIQUES

Marcelo AEBI

Professeur, Vice-directeur, Ecole des sciences criminelles, Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Suisse

Charlie BROOKER

Honorary Professor, Centre for Sociology and Criminology, Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdom

Mirta CASTELLARO

Expert in "Quiet Time - TM" technique and leader of the implementation team of the FRIENDS project, Brussels, Belgium

Marianne FUGLESTVED

Psychologist, Directorate of Prison and Probation Services, København, Denmark

Stefano MANCIN

Expert in "Quiet Time - TM" technique and leader of the implementation team of the FRIENDS project, Brussels, Belgium

Kieran McCARTAN

Professor, Department of Health and Applied Social Sciences, University of the West of England Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, United Kingdom

Chiara RUINI

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology "Renzo Canestrari", Academic discipline: M-PSI/08 Clinical Psychology, Bologna, Italy

Harvey SLADE

Consultant, Bristol, United Kingdom

Frans VAN ASSCHE

Member of the evaluation team of the FRIENDS project and former Research Fellow at the University of Leuven, Belgium

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / PARTENARIAT DE VOISINAGE
AVEC LE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

MOROCCO / MAROC

Nabih FEZZI
Chef de Service de la Coopération Internationale, Rabat

Malak ROUGUI
Magistrate détachée à la Direction des Affaires Pénales et des Grâces au Ministère de la justice, Cheffe de Service, Rabat

**OBSERVERS WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / OBSERVATEURS
AUPRÈS DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

JAPAN / JAPON

Ikuo KOSAKA (Mr)
Chief of International Affairs Section, Prison Service Division, Correction Bureau, Ministry of Justice, Tokyo

OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

**CONFEDERATION OF EUROPEAN PROBATION / CONFÉDÉRATION DE LA PROBATION EUROPÉENNE
(CEP)**

Willem VAN DER BRUGGE
Secretary General CEP, Confederation of European Probation, Utrecht, Netherlands

EUROPEAN ORGANISATION OF PRISON AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (EuroPris)

Kirsten HAWLITSCHKE
Executive Director, The Hague, Netherlands

PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL (PRI)

Tríona LENIHAN
Policy and International Advocacy Manager, London, United Kingdom

UN-SUBCOMMITTEE ON PREVENTION OF TORTURE (UN-SPT)

Daniel FINK
Member of the SPT, Head of the European Regional Team, Lecturer in crime policy and crime statistics at the University of Lucerne, Switzerland

SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / SECRÉTARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING
TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (CPT) / COMITÉ EUROPÉEN POUR LA PRÉVENTION DE LA TORTURE
ET DES PEINES OU TRAITEMENTS INHUMAINS OU DÉGRADANTS (CPT)**

Hugh CHETWYND
Head of Division, Secretariat of the CPT / Chef de Division, Secrétariat du CPT

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ECHR) / COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME (CEDH)

Kresimir KAMBER

Lawyer / Juriste, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights / Greffe de la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (CAHAI) / COMITE AD HOC SUR L'INTELLIGENCE ARTIFICIELLE (CAHAI)

Clementina BARBARO

Co-Secretary, Co-Secrétaire

DIRECTORATE GENERAL I / DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE I

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW / INFORMATION SOCIETY - ACTION AGAINST CRIME

DROITS DE L'HOMME ET ÉTAT DE DROIT / SOCIÉTÉ DE L'INFORMATION - LUTTE CONTRE LA CRIMINALITÉ

Jan KLEIJSEN

Director / Directeur

Action against Crime Department / Service de la Lutte contre la Criminalité

Hanne JUNCHER

Head of Department / Cheffe de Service

Criminal Law Division / Division du droit pénal

Carlo CHIAROMONTE

Secretary to the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) / Secrétaire du Comité Européen pour les Problèmes Criminels (CDPC)

Counter-Terrorism Coordinator of the Council of Europe, Head of the Criminal Law and Counter-Terrorism Divisions / Coordinateur du Conseil de l'Europe pour la lutte contre le terrorisme, Chef des Divisions du Droit Pénal et de l'Anti-Terrorisme

Iliana TANEVA

Secretary to the PC-CP / Secrétaire du PC-CP

Christine COLEUR

Assistant / Assistante

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRÈTES

Katia DI STEFANO (*Chef d'équipe*)

Amanda BEDDOWS LARIVIERE