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

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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

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

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