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PC-CP (2025) 7

COUNCIL FOR PENOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION

(PC-CP)

**38th Working Group Meeting
Madrid (Spain), 20-22 May 2025**

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:

- Welcomed its attending members, as well as the representatives of Azerbaijan, France, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom, the observer organisations and the scientific experts (see below the full list of participants).
- Warmly welcomed the Minister of the Interior of Spain, Mr Fernando Grande-Marlaska who highly praised the work of the PC-CP, SPACE statistics and the annual Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services. He provided an overview of the Spanish penitentiary system, emphasising that education in prisons in Spain is a priority and attributing the high resocialisation rate of former prisoners (80%) to this approach.
- Took note of the information provided by Ms Eva Pastrana, Head of the Criminal Law Division and Secretary to the CDPC, on the latest meetings and decisions taken at the CDPC Bureau meeting in April 2025 as well as of the latest priority work of the Council of Europe related to criminal law, namely the adoption of the new Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, the CM's decision to develop a Recommendation on deterring and fighting the smuggling of migrants and Council of Europe efforts against impunity and for accountability. She also underlined the importance of involving the PC-CP further in the Organisation's strategic priorities and congratulated the PC-CP for its work leading to the adoption of the [Recommendation on the promotion of positive mental health and the management of mental disorders of prisoners and probationers](#) in February 2025 by the CoE Committee of Ministers. She also invited the Minister of Interior to pursue the dialogue with the Council of Europe at the highest level.
- Took note of the reflection of the PC-CP's work in the [Council of Europe Secretary General 2025 report, entitled "Towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe"](#), where a section is dedicated to conditions of detention in prisons.
- Took note that for budgetary reasons the meetings of the different committees will in the future take place in Strasbourg and exceptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis only. This would allow to facilitate the synergies between the committees and subcommittees and also with other bodies like the CPT, the ECtHR, PACE, the Division for the execution of judgements.
- Took note that the PC-OC drafted a report on facilitating the transfer of prisoners which includes also a new template related to this and that the report will be sent to the PC-CP for possible comments before its adoption.
- Took note that the Children's Rights Division plans to revise the Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice and discussed the possible need to revise also CM/Recommendation (2008)¹¹ on the European Rules on Juvenile Offenders which is another very important standard-setting text. The CDPC together with the PC-CP is entrusted with the supervision of their implementation by the national authorities. It was decided to raise this issue at the PC-CP plenary meeting in November 2025 and in case of need, include this task in their future mandate.
- Took note of the feedback provided regarding the attendance of PC-CP WG members and of EFRJ representative (Laura Hein) in the last GREVIO meeting and the opinion expressed there that restorative justice can be used with caution in domestic violence cases and on an individual basis only, after careful evaluation because of the vulnerable situation and status of the victim.
- Took note that the implementation of the Venice Declaration of 2021 on the role of restorative justice in criminal matters was postponed for 2026 by the CDPC due to its heavy workload and lack of sufficient staff.
- Thanked the scientific experts working on the draft CM Recommendation on education in prison and its draft explanatory report for the excellent work done between the meetings, considered the revised drafts and approved the proposal to include two new rules, which were outcome of the intensive contacts and consultations made by the experts with other agencies working in this field.

- Thanked the scientific experts working on the revision of CM Recommendation (2012)¹² concerning foreign prisoners for their excellent work, considered the draft and made suggestions for additions and amendments.
- Took note of two very interesting presentations made by Joseph-Mary Giordmaina from Malta, regarding a project related to the treatment of transgender offenders, and of the British member of the PC-CP WG, Ms Kim Thornden-Edwards and Mr Tom Browning (presenting on-line) regarding the reform of the penal sanctions and measures in England and Wales and its impact on prison numbers.
- Took note of the information provided by Mr Szymon Glica from the Polish Prison Service regarding the state of preparation of the 30th annual Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) (24-25 September, Kraków, Poland) and discussed further its contents, speakers and overall organisation and took decisions in this respect.
- Decided, due to the impossibility of some of the PC-CP WG members to attend the next PC-CP WG meeting in October, to hold it back-to-back with the 30th CDPPS on 23 September as all members will be attending the Conference and will be speaking or moderating the different sessions.
- Discussed the forthcoming elections of several PC-CP WG members and decided to organise an online meeting in due course in order to take decisions regarding their future Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Took note of the feedback provided by the CEP, EuroPris and PC-CP WG members regarding past or future events organised by them or in which they have taken or will take part and which are of relevance to the PC-CP work.
- Acknowledged the dedicated work of PC-CP Secretary Ilina Taneva on the occasion of her last participation in a PC-CP working group before retirement.
- Took note of the information provided by their gender rapporteur Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelić, namely that: altogether there 28 participants took part in the meeting and that out of these 13 were women. During the meeting it was agreed that in the current PC-CP WG work, the gender aspect was discussed or reflected in the following items: the updating Recommendation (89)¹² on education in prison and its explanatory memorandum; the revision and updating CM Recommendation (2012)¹² regarding foreign prisoners; the planning of the 30th CDPPS in respect of balance gender representation of the speakers, moderators and topics; the presentation of a project related to the treatment of transgender offenders in Malta; the report about thematic exchange between GREVIO and the PC-CP on the issue of the use of restorative justice in gender-based violence cases.
- Discussed and agreed on the topics to be included in the PC-CP Plenary meeting agenda:
 - Draft CM Recommendation on education in prisons and its Explanatory Report;
 - Draft CM Recommendation on Foreign National Offenders and its Explanatory Report;
 - Elections of new PC-CP WG members;
 - Presentation by Caroline Nisand (France) and Christopher Siegersma (Malta);
 - Restorative Justice;
 - Discussion of the outcomes of the seminar on foreign national offenders to be held in Ireland in June - presentation by Róisín Mulgrew (Ireland);
 - The RAN work on Radicalization and VE and juveniles - presentation by Ms Nadya Radkovska (Bulgaria).
- The participants had a visit of the Supreme Court of Spain guided by one of the Supreme Court Judges. The Court was established in 1812 and is located in a very beautiful and full of history former royal palace, built by Antonio Ruiz de Salces on the site of the old Convent of the Salesas Reales.
- The dates of the next meetings are as follows: 23 September 2025, Kraków, Poland (PC-CP WG meeting) and 18-20 November 2025 (PC-CP Plenary meeting in Strasbourg).

AGENDA

	1. Opening of the meeting and welcome addresses
	2. Adoption of the agenda and the order of business
CDPC(2024)10 CDPC-BU(2025)01rev	3. Latest CDPC meetings and decisions
PC-CP(2024)10 PC-CP(2025)4	4. Summary meeting report of the last PC-CP plenary meeting and the last Working Group meeting
PC-CP(2025)6	5. Information provided by the Secretariat
PC-CP(2024)1Rev8 PC-CP(2025)1Rev	6. Draft CM Recommendation on education in prison and its draft explanatory memorandum
FNP Rec Revision Concept Note PC-CP WG Final Presentation COE 2012 FNP Recommendation PC-CP WG Malta Feb 25 Definitions, Scope and Basic Principles by Dr. R. Mulgrew Preliminary thoughts on themes and structure by Dr. R. Mulgrew PC-CP(2025)5	7. Revision of CM Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)12 concerning foreign prisoners and of its Explanatory memorandum
Draft Programme http://www.coe.int/cdpps2025	8. Round table discussion regarding the contents and presenters at the 30th CDPPS Conference (24-25 September 2025, Kraków, Poland)
	9. Feedback from the PC-CP Chair regarding the thematic exchange between GREVIO and the PC-CP on the issue of the use of restorative justice in gender-based violence cases
	10. Presentation of a project related to the treatment of transgender offenders in Malta
	11. Presentation of the gender-based violence programme in Spain
	12. Presentation of the reform of the penal sanctions and measures in England and Wales and its impact on prison numbers

	13. Gender mainstreaming
	14. Feedback from participation in other meetings
	15. Any other business
	16. Dates and agendas of the next PC-CP meetings
	17. Visit of the Supreme Court of Spain

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