



Strasbourg, 5 February 2026

PC-CP (2026) 1

Council for Penological Co-operation
(PC-CP)

40th Working Group Meeting

Strasbourg, 3-5 February 2026

List of Decisions

The Working Group of the Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP WG) held its 40th meeting in Strasbourg on 3-5 February 2026 with Mr Jorge Monteiro (Portugal) in the Chair.

The PC-CP WG:

1. Opening of the meeting

- Took note of the opening speeches by Ms Clare Ovey, Director of Human Rights and by Mr Hugh Chetwynd, Head of Department on Deprivation of Liberty, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe, who provided information about the latest developments within the Council of Europe of interest for the PC-CP and welcomed all participants to the meeting.
- Took note of the opening remarks by the President, Mr Jorge Monteiro, and the Vice-President, Ms Carla Ciavarella (Italy) who introduced themselves and presented their vision for their mandate.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and the Order of business

- Adopted the Agenda and the Order of Business without amendments.

3. Latest CDPC meetings and decisions

- Took note of the information provided by Ms Eva Pastrana, Head of the Criminal Law Division and Secretary to the Council of Europe Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), regarding the meetings and decisions related to the work of the CDPC including those of relevance to the PC-CP work and mandate.
- Informed Ms Pastrana of the appointment of Ms Carla Ciavarella as contact point to the CDPC on restorative justice.

4. Information provided by the Secretariat

- Took note of the information provided by the Secretary, Ms Louise Riondel, regarding the election by the CDPC of four new Members of the PC-CP Working Group: Ms Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru (Romania), Ms Aleksandra Deanoska-Trendafilova (North Macedonia), Ms Caron McCaffrey (Ireland) and Mr Michael Sorger (Austria).
- Held a tour de table during which the Members of the PC-CP WG introduced themselves.

5. Working methods of the PC-CP Working Group

- Took note of a presentation by the President on ways to improve the working methods of the PC-CP WG. The President notably proposed to appoint, on a voluntary basis, one or two WG members to supervise and report on the work on each deliverable. He also proposed to introduce two new fixed items on the agenda of the PC-CP WG meetings: 1) a "National Focus" session during which a representative of a Member State presents its national prison and probation context, including recent reforms, challenges, innovations, or lessons learned from implementing Council of Europe standards; 2) a "National Updates" session during which Member States present relevant key developments at national level since the last session (e.g., new law, training reform, staff wellbeing initiative).
- Held an exchange of view concerning its working methods, its work programme and timetable for the coming years.
- Approved the working methods proposed and decided to proceed accordingly.

6. Revision of CM Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)12 concerning Foreign Prisoners and its Explanatory Memorandum

- Decided to appoint Mr Michael Sorger as Rapporteur on this work, in accordance with the new working methods of the PC-CP WG adopted earlier in the meeting.
- Took note of a presentation by the Scientific experts working on the draft Recommendation concerning Foreign nationals in prison and under probation, Ms Róisín Mulgrew, Mr Michael Sorger and Mr Daniel Dangles concerning the amendments made to the draft text following the discussions held during the 15th Plenary meeting.
- Held a reading of the draft text and made amendments as necessary.
- Instructed the Rapporteur and the scientific experts to make a few additional amendments to the draft text.
- Decided to agree on the partial finalisation of the text, to examine the additional amendments during its next meeting and to dedicate the work under this agenda item during its next two meetings to the drafting of the Explanatory Memorandum.

7. Council of Europe Probation Rules

- Took note of a presentation by Ms Jana Špero-Kamenjarin, Secretary General of the CEP, concerning the Survey on the use and revision of the Council of Europe Probation Rules.
- Held an exchange of views on how to proceed with the work on the revision of the Council of Europe Probation Rules, for which the deadline is 31 December 2027.
- Decided to appoint Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelič and Ms Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru as Rapporteurs on this work.
- Instructed the Secretariat and the Rapporteurs to prepare a first draft of the revised Council of Europe Probation Rules to be presented to the Working Group in 2026.

8. Women in prison and probation

- Took note of a presentation by Ms Carla Ciavarella on examples of projects implemented within the Rebibbia prison for women in Rome.
- Discussed relevant data on women to be potentially collected in the framework of the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE), and notably in view of a workshop on this topic to be organised during the 31st Council of Europe Annual Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS).
- Instructed the Secretariat to inform the CDPC that it would like a Draft Recommendation on women in prison and probation to be included as a deliverable in the next Terms of Reference of the PC-CP.

9. Preparation of the 31st CDPPS (3-4 June 2026, Valletta, Malta)

- Took note of the information provided by Mr Christopher Siegersma from the Correctional Services Agency of Malta and Ms Louise Riondel regarding the state of preparation of the 31st annual Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) which will take place on 3-4 June 2026, in Valletta, Malta.
- Discussed the programme of the Conference, its content and possible speakers.

- Decided that the title of this year's edition of the Conference is "Persons with Specific Needs and vulnerabilities in Prison and Probation".
- Decided that the Opening Session will start with welcome addresses from a representative of Malta and Mr Hugh Chetwynd for the Council of Europe, followed by a Keynote speech on Maltese penitentiary system by Mr Christopher Siegersma, and end with a "Setting the scene" session during which the theme of the Conference will be discussed.
- Decided that the Recommendations on AI, education in prison, mental health, as well as the ongoing work on the revision of the Recommendation on foreign nationals will be presented during the Conference.
- Decided that there will be four workshops, namely on 1) **Foreign nationals** moderated by Mr Michael Sorger and Mr Frédéric Hankus; 2) **Older persons** moderated by Ms Kim Thornden-Edwards and Ms Aleksandra Deanoska-Trendafilova; 3) **Women** moderated by Ms Carla Ciavarella and Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelič; and 4) **Co-operation between prison and probation services** moderated by Ms Caron McCaffrey and Ms Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru.
- Decided that the Presidents of the PC-CP and the CPT will address closing remarks at the end of the Conference.

10. Gender mainstreaming

- Took note of the information provided the Secretary, in the absence of the gender Rapporteur Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelič, namely that 24 persons attended the meeting and out of these 10 are men and 14 are women. The PC-CP Working Group is now composed of 6 women and 3 men. The President is a man and the Vice-President is a woman. The PC-CP Secretariat is composed of 2 women, and of the 4 other members of the Council of Europe Secretariat who participated in the meeting 2 were men and 2 were women. The PC-CP Working Group will inform the CDPC of its intention to work on the theme of women in prison and probation in the future, and a workshop will be dedicated to this topic during the CDPPS.

11. Feedback from participation in other meetings

- Did not raise any point under this Agenda item.

12. Any other business

- Took note of the information provided by the representative from Penal Reform International, Ms Idil Aydinoglu, concerning the findings of new research on digitalisation of remote hearings for children. She also informed the PC-CP WG that PRI is also currently working on topics including death in prison and prison labor.

13. Dates of the next PC-CP meetings

- Took note of the dates of the PC-CP meetings to be held in 2026, namely 14-16 April in Paris (41st WG meeting), 15-17 September in Strasbourg (42nd WG meeting) and 3-5 November 2026 in Strasbourg (16th Plenary meeting).

14. Adoption of the list of decisions

- Adopted the list of decisions.