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Strasbourg, 5 November 2026 PC-CP (2026) 11

Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP)

16th Plenary meeting

Strasbourg, 3-5 November 2026

List of Decisions

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The Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP) held its 16th Plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 3-5 November 2026 with Mr Jorge Monteiro (Portugal) in the Chair.

The PC-CP:

1. Opening of the meeting

- Took note of the opening speech 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.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and the Order of business

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

3. Information provided by the Secretariat

- Took note of the information provided by its Secretary, Ms Louise Riondel, concerning the re-election of Mr Jorge Monteiro as President and Ms Carla Ciavarella as Vice-President of the PC-CP. She also informed the PC-CP about the outcomes and follow up of a conference titled Conference “Ending prison overcrowding: European perspectives and solutions” organised by the Department on Deprivation of Liberty and the Department of execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights under the auspices of Monaco’s Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. She mentioned that the Secretariat, with the assistance of the President and the Rapporteur on the Recommendation on foreign nationals in prison and under probation, Mr Michael Sorger (Austria), is working on the revision of the HELP online course on Managing foreign nationals in prison and under probation. The course will be launched following the adoption of the Recommendation in early 2027, and the Secretary invited all participants to widely disseminate it to relevant stakeholders. Finally, she encouraged member States Representatives to update their country factsheet on the PC-CP website by contacting the Secretariat when information changes, so that they can remain up to date and useful.

4. Latest CDPC meetings and decisions

- Took note of the information provided by Mr Radu Pantiru from the Council of Europe Criminal Law Division and Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), regarding the meetings and decisions related to the work of the CDPC, and its sub-committee for criminal justice cooperation (PC-OC), including those of relevance to the PC-CP work and mandate.

5. Draft Terms of Reference for 2028-2031

- Examined the proposal of the PC-CP Working Group concerning deliverables for the PC-CP’s Draft Terms of Reference for 2028-2031.

- Instructed the Secretariat to transmit the Draft Terms of Reference to the CDPC.

6. Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE)

- Took note of a presentation by Professor Marcelo Aebi concerning the 2025 SPACE I and SPACE II Reports published on 19 May and 9 July respectively, as well as the outcomes of the meeting of the SPACE National Correspondents of 14 September 2026, and engaged in an exchange of views with him.

- Took note of and welcomed the creation of a new publication concerning Key Indicators, to be launched in 2027.

7. Outcomes of the 31st CDPPS (3-4 June 2026, Valletta, Malta) and preparation of the 32nd CDPPS (2-3 June 2027, Dublin, Ireland)

- Took note of the outcomes of the 31st Council of Europe Annual Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) which was held in Valletta, Malta on 3 and 4 June 2026 and dedicated to “Persons with Specific Needs and Vulnerabilities”.

- Took note of the feedback from participants gathered from the analysis of responses to an evaluation survey circulated by the Secretariat.

- Took note the information provided by Ms Caron McCaffrey (Ireland) regarding the ongoing organisation of the 32nd CDPPS in Dublin on 2-3 June 2027.

- Discussed the format of the event and potential themes, for the consideration of the Working Group.

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

- Took note of a presentation by the consultants working on the draft Recommendation concerning Foreign nationals in prison and probation, Ms Róisín Mulgrew and Mr Daniel Danglades, and the Rapporteur from the PC-CP Working Group, Mr Michael Sorger (Austria).

- Examined and finalised the draft Recommendation and its Explanatory Memorandum.

- Instructed the Secretariat to transmit both texts to the CDPC.

9. Revision of the Council of Europe Probation Rules and their Commentary

- Took note of a presentation by the Secretary regarding the work carried out so far, including information regarding the revision process completed with the Rapporteurs from the PC-CP Working Group Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelić (Slovenia) and Ms Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru (Romania), the methodology adopted and the rationale underpinning the proposed amendments to the Probation Rules.

- Examined the draft text of the revised Probation Rules and made comments and suggestions for amendments to be taken into consideration by the PC-CP Working Group in its subsequent work on the text.

10. Co-operation activities in the penitentiary field

- Took note of the presentation made by Mr Mykhailo Iskra from the Division on Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty Division (CPDL), Council of Europe on the current cooperation activities in the penitentiary field in 16 Council of Europe member States, as well as on the outcomes of the multilateral meeting on healthcare in prison which took place on 10-11 June 2026, and the upcoming multilateral meeting dedicated to the updated Recommendation on education in prison, to be held in Strasbourg on 24-25 November 2026.

11. Gender mainstreaming

- Took note of the information provided by their gender Rapporteur Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelić, namely that 74 participants attended the meeting. She mentioned that parity was achieved, as there were 37 men and 37 women. There is also gender balance among consultants, with 1 woman and 1 man. She welcomed the fact that the gender perspective is included in every aspect of the current work of the PC-CP.

12. Any other business

- Did not raise any point under this Agenda item.

13. Dates of the next PC-CP meetings

- Took note of the dates of the PC-CP Working Group meetings to be held in 2027, namely 26-28 January (Lisbon), 6-8 April (Strasbourg) and 14-16 September (Paris).

- Decided to hold its next Plenary Meeting on 3-5 November 2027 in Strasbourg.

14. Approval of the list of decisions

- Approved the list of decisions.