



Strasbourg, 16 April 2026

PC-CP (2026) 3

Council for Penological Co-operation **(PC-CP)**

41st Working Group Meeting

Paris, 14-16 April 2026

List of Decisions

The Working Group of the Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP WG) held its 41st meeting in Paris on 14-16 April 2026 with Mr Jorge Monteiro (Portugal) in the Chair.

The PC-CP WG:

1. Opening of the meeting

- Took note of the opening remarks by the Secretary Ms Louise Riondel, the President, Mr Jorge Monteiro, and the Vice-President Ms Carla Ciavarella (Italy).

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.

4. Information provided by the Secretariat

- Took note of the information provided by Ms Louise Riondel concerning the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the updated Recommendation on education in prison on 8 April. Concurrently, she informed the PC-CP WG that in this context the Secretariat increased efforts as regards external communication about the work of the Committee and launched a campaign on social media to raise awareness about the Recommendation, as announced during the previous meeting. Ms Riondel confirmed that such efforts will be deployed for all deliverables and after the CDPPS. Further, Ms Riondel informed the members that the SPACE I Report is in the finalisation stage and will be published in the coming weeks. She noted that for the second year in a row, a 100% participation rate was achieved as all 51 prison administrations concerned responded to the questionnaire. Finally, she informed the PC-CP WG that the Secretariat intends to organise, together with the team from the University of Lausanne, a meeting of the SPACE National Correspondents which could take place in September in Strasbourg, on the margins of the next meeting of the Working Group.

5. National Focus

- Took note of the information provided by the President concerning this newly introduced fixed agenda item. He notably informed the PC-CP WG that the Presidency and Secretariat asked the SPACE team for data about states which could be invited to make presentations.
- Held an exchange of views and instructed the Secretariat to invite a representative from Germany to make a presentation about their national prison and probation context, including recent reforms, challenges, innovations, or lessons learned from implementing Council of Europe standards during the next WG meeting.

6. 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 content of the Conference, and notably the best way to frame the discussions during the “Setting the scene” and “Looking ahead” sessions and finalised the programme.

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

- Examined the amendments made to the draft Recommendation since its last meeting which were presented by the Rapporteur Mr Michael Sorger (Austria) and made additional modifications as appropriate.
- Preliminarily agreed on the text of the draft Recommendation.
- Took note of a presentation by the scientific expert working on this item, Ms Róisín Mulgrew, concerning the amendments made to the draft revised Explanatory Memorandum.
- Held a first reading of the draft revised Explanatory Memorandum and made comments and suggestions for additional amendments to be taken into consideration by the scientific experts in their subsequent work on the text.

8. Council of Europe Probation Rules

- Took note of a presentation by its Secretary on the advancement of the work under this agenda item.
- Agreed on a tentative timeline for the work on this deliverable, with a first draft to be submitted by the Secretariat to the Rapporteurs, Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelić and Ms Iuliana-Elena Cărbunaru, before the summer, for the PC-CP WG to hold a first reading during its the next meeting.

9. Topics of interest for the PC-CP

- Held an exchange of view on the topics it has identified for its future work, notably the themes of the workshops of the CDPPS, including “women in prison and probation”, “older persons”, and “continuity of care between prison and probation”.
- Discussed additional themes including staff wellbeing and neurodiversity in prison and probation.
- Took note of a presentation by Ms Róisín Mulgrew delivered on behalf of Penal Reform International concerning the topic of prison labor.
- Noted the importance of closely coordinating its work with the SPACE team in order to obtain relevant and pertinent data which will feed the PC-CP’s reflection on these topics.

10. Gender mainstreaming

- Took note of the information provided the gender Rapporteur Ms Danijela Mrhar Prelić, namely that 31 persons attended the meeting and out of these 13 are men and 18 are women. 3 women and 1 man represented the Council of Europe Secretariat during this meeting. The Rapporteur welcomed the fact that a gender perspective is included in all deliverables of the PC-CP.

11. Any other business

- Took note of the information provided by the Vice-President, Ms Carla Ciavarella, regarding a request from the *Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro CNEL* (National Council for Economics and Labour) the Italian constitutional body in charge for addressing policy advice and opinions on labour matters upon request of the Italian government. The CNEL is currently preparing the first national report on the economic, social and labour inclusion of persons deprived of liberty

(also known as the CNEL “Zero Recidivism” Report) and would like to invite interested PC-CP members to contribute to the report by providing relevant national information. The Vice-President offered to facilitate contacts between the CNEL and interested members.

12. Dates of the next PC-CP meetings

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

13. Adoption of the list of decisions

- Adopted the list of decisions.