EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS
(CDPC)

Council for Penological Co-operation
(PC-CP)

16th meeting of the Working Group
Strasbourg, 20-22 September 2017

SUMMARY MEETING REPORT

Document prepared by the
Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The PC-CP Working Group (WG):

- Welcomed the representatives of the Russian Federation and Japan, as well as of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ); Penal Reform International (PRI); the Confederation of European Probation (CEP), as well as the CPT, the EChHR and the CAHENF;

- Took note of the opening address made by Mr Ivan Koedjikov, Head of the Action against Crime Department, DG Human Rights and Rule of Law, and in particular the information regarding the forthcoming adoption of the PC-CP terms of reference for 2018-2019, as well as the fact that some activities in the criminal law field were postponed due to non-payment of part of the membership contribution to the Organisation by one of the member states. This does not concern the current PC-CP work. Therefore the latter is expected to accomplish its tasks as planned and to ensure the usual quality of the texts drafted;

- Took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the drafting meeting in July 2017 for revising the draft recommendation concerning children with parents in prison and welcomed the additional consultant Aisling Parkes, provided by the Division for the Rights of the Child. It further thanked the three scientific experts Kate Philbrick, Aisling Parkes and Maria Wolleswinkel for their work. It then considered the revised draft recommendation and its draft explanatory report, took note of the fact that the CDPC Bureau comments and suggestions were taken into consideration and that the structure and contents were thoroughly revised during the summer. It then made supplementary comments and proposals for amendments and additions. The finalised draft texts should be sent to the Secretariat not later than 26 September in view of the forthcoming CDPC Bureau meeting;

- Took note with satisfaction of the fact that after the hearing of the PC-CP Chair, Mr Vivian Geiran and its Secretary, Ms Ilina Taneva in February 2017 by the LIBE Committee of the EP, in their report on prison systems and conditions and in the draft EP resolution (document A8-0251/2017) were reflected the most recent standards drafted by the PC-CP, approved by the CDPC and adopted by the Committee of Ministers, as well as the White paper on prison overcrowding and the issue of children with imprisoned parents. Noted also that the forthcoming 11th Forum on the Rights of the Child “Children deprived of their liberty and alternatives to detention” (Brussels, 7-8 November 2017) will hold a special session on children of imprisoned parents and that the CM recommendation currently drafted by the PC-CP itself is attuned to the international attention attached to this issue;

- Took note of the information provided by the scientific expert, Ian Marder, regarding the consultations over the summer with the EFRJ on the text of the draft recommendation on restorative justice; regarding the definitions used in the text and the slight re-structuring of the recommendation after the discussions held during the PC-CP WG meeting in April 2017. It further considered the revised draft recommendation on restorative justice in criminal matters and its draft explanatory report and made some additional proposals for amendments and additions. It thanked the scientific expert for the quality of his work. It was decided that the text of the draft recommendation and the explanatory report will be combined in one document to facilitate the reading by the participants in the PC-CP plenary meeting. The finalised draft texts should be sent to the Secretariat not later than 26 September in view of the forthcoming CDPC Bureau meeting;

- Considered the draft updated commentary to the European Prison Rules and the additional proposals made by the scientific expert, Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit as contained in the document as well as in the letter addressed to them. It discussed in details the text, considered the contributions made by the different representatives, including by the representative of PRI and decided that, before further working on the commentary, additional guidance is needed from the CDPC regarding the proposals made by the scientific expert. The revision of the commentary has proven to require careful examination of the existing case-law, the CPT standards as well as other international instruments and in the first place the Nelson Mandela Rules (2015). The revision may also necessitate amending certain rules. Certain participants were of the opinion that, apart from the rules suggested for amendment by the scientific expert, the rules related to staff should also be amended or a separate set of standards should be developed as the current rules related to staff were considered too general and insufficient. The participants agreed finally that the revision requires additional input from the CPT (which is currently revising some of their standards) and the EChHR. Therefore it approved the proposal made to include the draft text among the working documents but not to examine it in details during the forthcoming PC-CP plenary meeting. The agenda of this meeting will be anyway rather busy because at it will be discussed and finalised two draft recommendations and their explanatory reports. It further agreed that
the text of the updated and revised commentary should be finalised in 2018 in the light of the comments and proposals made at the CDPC and the PC-CP plenaries;

- Took note of the information provided by the PC-CP Chair, one of its members and the Secretariat regarding the past meeting of the CDPC sub-group on prison overcrowding (June 2017) and the proposal made to hold a high level Conference on this issue in 2018 or 2019;

- Considered the conclusions adopted at the 22nd Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) and agreed that staff recruitment and development are very important for good prison and probation management and that at the PC-CP plenary meeting the participants should be invited to actively promote nationally the conclusions of the Conference and the need to improve staff training. It further agreed to propose the holding of a Conference to which will be invited the prison staff training schools in order to discuss and agree on the quality standards related to the duration and contents of staff training, certification and development. It also discussed the need to elaborate, as a follow-up to this Conference, Council of Europe guidelines/standards on this subject;

- Considered the proposals made by the Estonian prison administration regarding the topic of the 23rd CDPPS (19-20 June 2018, Jõhvi, Estonia) and decided that the suggested title of the Conference should be as follows: “Working together effectively: Management and co-operation models between prison and probation services”. It took note of the interest of the American Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) in taking part in the CDPPS and agreed that an invitation to that effect will be sent to them in due course;

- Took note of the presentation made by Ms Naomi Trewinnard, DG II, regarding the forthcoming publication of the Guide for parliamentarians for monitoring places of deprivation of liberty of children as a result of immigration procedures and decided to promote this document on the PC-CP web site once adopted;

- In view of the forthcoming expiration of the terms of office of four of its elected members, including its current Chair and Vice-Chair, decided to elect Mr Dominik Lehner (Switzerland) as their next Chair and Mr Attila Juhász (Hungary) as their next Vice-Chair for the period January-December 2018. Noted therefore that two new members of the PC-CP WG should be elected at the next CDPC plenary session in November 2017 and that the attention of the participants at the next PC-CP plenary meeting in November 2017 should be drawn to these vacancies;

- Decided that the dates of the PC-CP meetings in 2018 will be as follows: meetings of the PC-CP WG: on 22-24 January 2018; on 11-13 April 2018 and on 17-19 September 2018. The PC-CP plenary meeting will be held on 5-7 November 2018.
# AGENDA

**Agora Building - Room G04, Strasbourg**

**20-22 September 2017 (9:30 am)**

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER STATES / ETATS MEMBRES

RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE

Ilya ANTONOV
First deputy head, Legal Department, Federal Penal Service, Ministry of Justice, Moscow

Artem KULINTSOV
International Department, Federal Penal Service, Ministry of Justice, Moscow

WORKING GROUP OF THE COUNCIL FOR PENOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION / GROUPE DE TRAVAIL DU CONSEIL DE COOPERATION PENOLOGIQUE (PC-CP)

Martina BARIĆ
Social pedagogue, Head of Service of special programs, analysis, evaluation and prisoners’ and juveniles’ records, Ministry of Justice, Prison System Directorate, Head Office, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia

Nathalie BOISSOU
Directrice des services pénitentiaires (administration pénitentiaire française) - Coordinatrice thématique adjointe au sein du programme El PAcCTO (Programme européen de Lutte contre la criminalité organisée transnationale), Madrid, Espagne

Annie DEVOS
Administratrice générale des Maisons de Justice, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgique

Vivian GEIRAN
Chair of the PC-CP
Director, Probation Service HQ, Ireland

Joerg JESSE
Vice-Chair of the PC-CP
Director General, Prison and Probation Administration, Acts of Clemency, Ministry of Justice, Mecklenburg - Western Pomerania, Schwerin, Germany

Attila JUHÁSZ
Prison Governor, Senior member, Heves County Remand Prison, Eger, Hungary

Nikolaos KOULOURIS
Assistant Professor in Social Policy and Offenders’ Custodial and Non-Custodial Treatment, Department of Social Administration and Political Science, Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini, Greece

Dominik LEHNER (Dr.)
President, Expert Committee on Offender Risk Assessment Northwest & Central Switzerland, Basel, Switzerland

Nadya RADKOVSKA
Head, Department for International Relations and Training of Staff, General Directorate Execution of Sentences, Ministry of Justice, Sofia, Bulgaria

SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS / EXPERTS SCIENTIFIQUES

Ian D. MARDER
Ph.D. student and Graduate Teaching Assistant, Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, Centre for Law and Social Justice, School of Law, Leeds, United Kingdom

Dr Aisling PARKES
Lecturer in Law, School of Law, University College Cork, Ireland

Kate PHILBRICK
Trained barrister and board member of Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE), Glasgow, United Kingdom
Dirk VAN ZYL SMIT
Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law, School of Law, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

Harvey SLADE
LLM Student, Research Assistant to Professor van Zyl Smit on the Update to the Commentary to the EPR, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

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OBSERVERS WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / OBSERVATEURS AUPRES DU CONSEIL DE L’EUROPE

JAPAN / JAPON

Kumiko NIITSU
Consulat, Strasbourg, France

OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

CONFEDERATION OF EUROPEAN PROBATION / CONFEDERATION DE LA PROBATION EUROPÉENNE (CEP)

Willem VAN DER BRUGGE
Secretary General CEP, Confederation of European Probation, Utrecht, The Netherlands

EUROPEAN ORGANISATION OF PRISON AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (EuroPris)

Kirsten HAWLITSCHEK (Apologised/Excusée)
Executive Director, The Hague, Netherlands

PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL (PRI)

Andrea HUBER
Policy Director, Penal Reform International, London, United Kingdom

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (EFRJ)

Professor Ivo AERTSEN
Leuven, Belgium

Edit TÖRZS
Executive Director, European Forum for Restorative Justice, Leuven, Belgium

OTHER COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODIES / AUTRES ORGANES DU CONSEIL DE L’EUROPE

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (CPT) / COMITÉ EUROPÉEN POUR LA PRÉVENTION DE LA TORTURE ET DES PEAINES OU TRAITEMENTS INHUMAINS OU DÉGRADANTS (CPT)

Hugh CHETWYND
Head of Division, Secretariat of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ECHR) / COUR EUROPEENNE DES DROITS DE L’HOMME (CEDH)

Kresimir KAMBER
Lawyer / Juriste, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights / Greffe de la Cour européenne des droits de l’homme

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CAHENF) / COMITÉ AD HOC POUR LES DROITS DE L’ENFANTS (CAHENF)

Maria Andriana KOSTOPOULOU
Action against Crime Department / Service de la Lutte contre la Criminalité

Ivan KOEDJIKOV  
Head of Department / Chef de Service

Criminal Law Division / Division du droit pénal

Ilina TANEVA  
Secretary to the PC-CP / Secrétaire du PC-CP

Ilias KALAMARAS  
Project Manager / Chef de projet

Christine COLEUR  
Assistant / Assistante

Sylvie ELTER  
Assistant / Assistante

DG II - DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND EQUALITY / DG II - DIRECTION DE LA DIGNITÉ HUMAINE ET DE L’ÉGALITÉ

Naomi TREWINNARD  
Senior Project Officer / Responsable de projet principal

Children’s Rights Division / Division des droits des enfants

STAGIAIRE / TRAINEE

Alix GOETZ

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRÈTES

Christopher TYZCKA
Gillian WAKENHUT
Cynera JAFFREY