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EUROMED JUSTICE II PROJECT



WORKING GROUP 3 CRIMINAL AND PRISON LAW

4th and last MEETING: PENITENTIARY LAW AND MEDA COUNTRIES

Prague (CZ), 13-14 July 2009

AGENDA

Sunday 12 July 2009

20.00 Welcome dinner for the representatives of the MEDA countries

Monday 13 July 2009

08.45–09.00 Registration of participants

09.00–09.15 Opening of the meeting

09.15-09.30 Self-presentation by the participants

09.30-10.00 Presentation of the general framework of this component, the main topics suggested for discussion, the working programme and the methodology to be followed during the meeting.

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO, Judge, Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice II Project, EIPA-ECR, Barcelona (ES).

10.00-10.45 1st Presentation on “Legal status of prisoners. The international legal framework. Special reference to women and minors””

Speaker: *Jean-Pierre RICARD* (FR), Team Leader of the Support Unit to the Penitentiary Reform Programme in Algeria.

- 10.45-11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00-11.45 2nd Presentation on “Prisons’ management. International approach.”
- Speaker: *Marc CERON* (ES), Under-Director General, Prison Services, Justice Department of the Government of Catalonia.
- 11.45-13.00 Discussion
- Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.30 Presentation of the current situation in this field in each country by the respective participants of the MEDA countries and debate on the replies to the questionnaire on this topic.
- Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*
- Khaled ABOUALI*, Legal expert and Criminologist, Coordinator of the EuroMed Justice II Project, Senior Lecturer, EIPA-ECR, Barcelona (ES)
- 15.30–16.30 The current situation in the MEDA countries concerning this field: comparison with the international standard. Major challenges (I)
- Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*
- 16.30-16.45 Coffee break
- 16.45- 17.30 The current situation in the MEDA countries concerning this field: Alternative measures to imprisonment (II).
- Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*
- 18.30-20.00 City walking guided tour starting from hotel Leonardo with translation into English and French.
- End of the 1st day

Tuesday 14 July 2009

08.45–10.30 Legislative policy on this topic

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

Khaled ABOUALI

10.30–10.45 Coffee break

10.45–12.00 Debate. Specific proposals to improve the regional structure in this field.

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

12.00–13.00 Debate. Training as a key issue. EU Member States experience. Recommendations and training activities to be adopted.

José María FERNÁNDEZ VILLALOBOS, Judge, Course Manager of the EuroMed Justice II Project, Barcelona (ES)

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 Presentation to the participants of the conclusions, recommendations and contributions related to the activities.

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

15.30–16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.30 Adoption of the conclusions, recommendations and contributions related to the activities.

Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO

17.30-17.45 Closure

End of the meeting.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Presentation

This meeting takes place under the third main component of the project: “Criminal and prison law, and criminal cooperation.”

During this fourth and last meeting devoted to “Penitentiary law and MEDA countries”, we are going to share the international experts’ opinion and the participants’ approach on this topic from their own perspective and respective competences. Through an in-depth and detailed discussion, we will know the current situation related to the topics under discussion, among others the practical problems in the field of prisons’ management in the MEDA countries. In this way, we will know what are the priorities and needs to be addressed through training activities and study visits. We will also define how to better focus the seminars on this component and what are the major issues and elements to be taken into account in order to reach the objectives of this project. In addition, some recommendations on this topic will be adopted and we will start a debate on the final document to be delivered by the working group: the text of the Conclusions.

The recommendations formulated during the 4 meetings of this Working Group will be presented during the regional Conference scheduled in October 2009.

Working Method

The starting point is that all the participants should be aware that they are the main players of the Working Group in order to provide the information required and to cooperate in defining the strategy and objectives to be achieved through this project.

We expect the experts participating in this working group to have an in-depth knowledge of the topics under discussion and to be able to provide us with a detailed vision of the current situation in their respective countries:

- penitentiary legislative policy
- prisons’ management
- alternative measures to imprisonment

We also expect them to have previously prepared themselves for the discussion in order to achieve the most fruitful results. In this context and to ensure a good preparation, the Project Team will provide the participants, at least two weeks before the meeting, with a Summary Note and the topics to be addressed.

As the Working Group meeting will only last 2 days, the preliminary preparation of the experts is more than welcomed to reach the objectives at such short notice.

Experts

The experts should have the appropriate profile, a comprehensive knowledge and vision, and a sound experience in this field and willing to make an effective contribution to the working group. This will require not only that their country of origin allows them to have enough time available to attend the meeting planned per component, but more specifically, that between each meeting they have enough time to continue to work together and with the Project Team, virtually through the Project website and/or other means (email, etc.) so as to allow for the continuity of the work and an exchange of information, documentation and ideas with each other.

The quality of the experts proposed is the main guarantee that our joint effort during the Working Groups meetings will result in a good analysis and diagnosis of the situation in each component, and in an exchange of useful, reliable and accurate information. This, in turn, will lead to a number of proposals for action being made by each Working Group.

Expected Results of Working Group 3

1. To define the overall approach of the topics to be discussed by the international and MEDA experts.
2. To keep abreast of the current situation of transposition and application of international conventions on criminal and prison law in each MEDA country and in the field of cooperation in criminal matters.
3. To discuss more specifically how the work of the Working Group could contribute to reach the main goals of the project with regard to transposition and application of international conventions on criminal and prison law, and international cooperation in criminal matters.

Indeed, in this component there is a great concern for the less protected and less privileged groups (minors in prison, alternatives to imprisonment, reintegration of former prisoners, etc., represent some of the major concerns of this project). Transposition is an important stage in a process of reform aiming at covering the need for prison staff training, development of training and activities in prisons and support for vulnerable categories of prisoners like minors. At the same time, the project will take account of the need for alignment on international conventions in the light of the requirements of international judicial cooperation concerning the fight against terrorism and other forms of transnational organised crime. The project's priorities will also include: (1) the identification of initiatives aimed at promoting the use of alternative measures to imprisonment, such as social work or services of general interest; (2) identification of measures that will help the reintegration of former prisoners.

4. To define how to better focus future activities to be developed under this component (and the major issues and elements to be taken into account in order to achieve the objectives of this project).
5. To draw up a provisional list of possible recommendations that could be developed in the Euro-Mediterranean region related to this component.

Specific results expected of the 4th and last meeting of this Working Group

1. To get an accurate picture of the prison situation and the legislative policy on the subject.
2. To know the instruments, with special reference to their development and the level of transposition of international conventions.
3. To take stock of the current situation in the MEDA countries and consider the evolution model in this field in the MEDA countries.
4. To define, in particular the situation with reference to alternatives to prison.
5. To identify practical problems to solve.
6. Training: a key issue. EU Member States experience. Recommendations and training activities to be adopted.

