

Press Release

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Problems related to the management of vulnerable groups of prisoners and those detained for terrorism or organised crime to be discussed at conference in Vienna

Strasbourg, 16.11.2007 – The growing diversity of prisoners is a major challenge for the prison systems of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe and will be the focus of the 14th Conference of Directors of Prison Administration (CDAP) to take place in Vienna on 19-21 November under the theme "Managing Prisons in an increasingly complex environment".

An increasing number of vulnerable groups of prisoners are detained and need to be reintegrated in society such as women, juveniles, elderly, drug addicts, mentally disordered and foreigners. This requires an adequate prison management and funding, training of prison staff and development of regime activities which meet the individual needs of prisoners and give them the opportunity to lead crime-free life after release.

Prison systems have also to deal increasingly with people accused or convicted for terrorist activities or organised crime, responding to the growing political and public demand for safety and security. This needs to be done in line with the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, the European Prison Rules and the standards developed by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).

Directors of prison administration, representatives of ministries of Justice, international organisations as well as non governmental organisations, professionals and researchers in the penitentiary area will take part in the conference.

The conference will be opened at 9.30 by Maria Berger, Minister of Justice of Austria, and Philippe Boillat, Director General for Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe.

The conference, which will take place at the Palace of Justice (Justizpalast), Schmelingplatz 11, is open to the press. The programme is available at www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_co-operation/prisons_and_alternatives/conferences

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