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## **EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT**

### **COMPONENT III: CRIMINAL AND PENITENTIARY LAW**

#### **TS 3.2**

#### **Second Training Seminar: “International conventions on penitentiary law”**

**Sofia (BG), 11-13 February 2014**

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### **FINAL CONCLUSIONS**

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> training seminar under component III “Criminal and Penitentiary Law” of the EuroMed Justice III Project of the European Commission, funded by the European Union, was held on 11-13 February 2014 in Sofia (BG).

The participants were members of the delegations of the following Mediterranean Partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The speakers came from Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom, as well as from the host country, Bulgaria.

The training seminar was opened by Mr Andrés Salcedo Velasco, Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice III Project, who welcomed the participants. The seminar was also closed by Andrés Salcedo.

The background, the context and the structure of the training seminar, including the overall approach and the main topics suggested for discussion, were introduced by the Team Leader and by the Course Manager of the Project Team, Mr José María Fernández Villalobos, implementing the EuroMed Justice III Project.

Then the participants took the floor to introduce themselves and to present the current situation in the ENPI South Partners on the topics addressed and on the legislative policy in the ENPI SPC concerning the ratification of international conventions in this field.

Furthermore, six presentations were made during the seminar: “Overview of the major international judicial conventions in the field of penitentiary law. Special reference to the UN conventions, the COE conventions and the EU legal framework.”; “The work developed during the first phase of the project: the Euromed Fiches”; “The treatment of foreign prisoners and the transfer of prisoners: European approach”; “The status of foreign prisoners: the Bulgarian experience”; “Development of prisons more apt to promote education, rehabilitation and re-integration of prisoners.”; and finally “Alternative to detention: cautions, parole, suspended sentences, criteria for handling request for pardons, performance of public services”.

During these presentations, the speakers analysed the different approaches related to the topics being considered, especially from a practical point of view, as well as the legal international framework.

Moreover, one workshop on “Penitentiary policy and deportation” was also organised in the framework of this seminar.

Considering the objectives of this training seminar and taking into account the debate and discussions held during the seminar, the participants had the opportunity:

- To examine over a period of three days, and from an international angle, the different topics on the agenda.
- To keep abreast of the current situation and future developments in each Mediterranean Partner regarding the topics covered by this seminar and to have a fruitful debate on the state of play in this field in the ENPI South area, whilst presenting their respective experience and legal framework.
- To explore the means to further promote an exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices.
- To be informed of the TAIEX instrument and of the possibility that they, the participants, could suggest/propose to their NFP the gaps to be filled or the needs for further Technical Assistance requests, as a follow-up of this Euromed Justice III Project training session, should they consider them useful and linked to the work developed during the seminar.
- To get a better insight into the major international judicial conventions in the field of penitentiary law.
- To be informed of the European approach to the treatment of foreign prisoners and the transfer of prisoners.
- To hear what the Bulgarian experience of the status of foreign prisoners is.
- To debate on how to develop prisons that are more apt to promote education, rehabilitation and re-integration of prisoners.
- To further explore alternatives to detention, such as cautions, parole, suspended sentences, and see what are the criteria for handling request for pardons and the performance of public services.
- To discuss on the main problems to be faced on this topic and future perspectives in this field.
- To be informed of the work carried out during the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the EMJ III project, i.e. the EUROMED Fiches, related to the international criminal cooperation legal framework regarding the countries that took part in the activities of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase.
- To discuss from a practical point of view, through a workshop, the penitentiary policy and deportation, taking into account the international legal framework.
- To be made familiar with the content and functioning of the project website.
- To receive the suggested reading documentation list related to the topics examined as support to facilitate the discussion and debate during the training seminar.

Participants are grateful to the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice, to the Directorate-General Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission, and to the Project Team for organising this training seminar.

The participants present during the reading of this document approve the conclusions of this seminar.

Sofia, 13 February 2014