Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 12921
26 April 2012

Promoting the human rights of prisoners in Council of Europe member States

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Luca VOLONTÈ and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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The Parliamentary Assembly is concerned by the frequent reports in the media of many Council of Europe member States on the dramatic conditions of detainees in prisons.

The Assembly should acknowledge the urgent need to address this question by means of a comprehensive analysis and report possibly leading to recommendations to protect the rights of prisoners and foster an exchange of good practices between member States.

The latest reports of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture highlight an increase in prison overcrowding, the growing number of foreign young and very young prisoners, and a sharp increase in prisoners awaiting final sentencing and in suicide among prisoners.

The Assembly, in the light of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 5), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 7), the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ETS No. 126), the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 3), and several resolutions adopted by the Assembly in recent years, which have not been fully implemented, should consider, as a matter of urgency, revisiting the idea of a European Prisons Charter (Doc. 10097(2004)).

The Assembly should address the issue of whether the minimum conditions are in place to ensure that the sentence becomes, in accordance with European standards, a means of personal salvation and whether prisons and alternative facilities promote the reintegration of prisoners into society.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group