



5th Directors General meeting

**Final Declaration of the Conference of
Probation Directors General**

**Oslo, Norway
11th – 12th April 2013**



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In Oslo on 12 April 2013, participants in the 5th Conference of Directors General of Probation hosted by the Norwegian Correctional Services, agreed with the following declaration:



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- I. Even in times of financial austerity there is **good news** to celebrate in Probation – for example, about the introduction of new provisions, increased use of electronic monitoring as part of probation, desistance practice, and wider use of community sanctions and provisions across Europe. Probation leaders need to ensure that positive facts and experiences are shared with the public nationally and internationally.



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- II. The developing body of theory and research on **desistance** can be viewed as a valuable supplement to existing policy in the field of probation, reintegration and restoration. CEP will use its developing knowledge base to enable members to access materials relevant to practice and policy.



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- III. CEP must continue to strengthen its **relations** with the European Union, the Council of Europe and other European organisations in order to raise the profile of probation.



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IV. Inspired by the commitment of the Belgian Prison Service to **innovation** in the use of information, the conference welcomed the strong links with probation as evolved services are developed. CEP will ensure that progress on implementation will be shared with its members.



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V. Restoring relationships that have been damaged by committing an offence forms a key point in the rehabilitation process. In probation work we must always be aware of the potential for mediation and restorative practices and the value they may have in the process of reducing recidivism and in satisfying the various needs of victims. Excellent practice in Norway and the Czech Republic will inspire new thinking in other probation services.



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VI. Collaboration is the key to delivery of effective services. CEP's participation in the Criminal Justice Platform Europe received the full support of the conference and members welcomed full engagement with the contribution of partner European bodies to ensure victims' issues, restorative justice and prisons' concerns are fully reflected in probation approaches.



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VII. The **6th Directors General meeting**, where a review of the progress of this declaration will take place, is scheduled to be held in the second half of 2015 in Luxembourg.



CEP is supported by the Directorate
General Justice of the European Commission





The European Organisation
for Probation