



THE EUROPEAN ORGANISATION OF
PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Hans Meurisse

President of EuroPris and Director General of Belgian Prison Service



Dear EuroPris members, Dear Colleagues,

Let me wish you all a very peaceful, mindful and happy New Year!

This year is a special year for EuroPris as it is our first anniversary – it is the 5th year that our organisation is operational and active for European Prison Services.

It is with much pleasure, satisfaction and also with some proud that I look back at the past four years when we started with not much more than good intentions and ambitious ideas. In these four years we have been able to build a solid network of EuroPris members, reaching a total of 26 European jurisdictions at the end of 2015. And our network is wider than ‘just’ Prison Services – we also established good working relationships with a great number of other European network organisations that are active in the field of prisons and corrections. EuroPris has become a player that is known in the field and that provides all kinds of support to increase the professionalism of prison staff, to improve prison conditions and to reduce recidivism.

We celebrate our anniversary with many activities that have been planned for 2016. The EuroPris Annual General Meeting will take place on 13th June in Zaandam, The Netherlands. Next to that we will have numerous expert meetings and plan to start a new expert group on family relations & children of prisoners in 2016. A number of workshops are planned on the issues of radicalization, foreign national prisoners, ICT and forecasting. And we are planning to organize together with ICPA and the Swedish Prison and Probation Service the 1st International Symposium on Correctional Research: A unified approach to enhance comparability and understanding”. All this will keep our team more than busy in the coming year.

Keep following us on our website and our bi-monthly newsletter, but also on Twitter and LinkedIn. We will publish invitations and announcements for all these events and we look forward to welcoming you at one or many of such occasions.

I would like to thank you for your continued trust in and support to EuroPris in the past four years. And I am looking forward to cooperating with you in making 2016 a truly memorable anniversary year.

It will be my pleasure to meet you at some of our events.

Yours sincerely,

Hans Meurisse

President of EuroPris