



Strassen, the 24th of March 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Prevention measures in European prisons

“Regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) context, what are the procedures/directions, if already taken, issued by your national administrations to the services (prison, probation centers, etc.) concerning the emergency of the Coronavirus spread?”

The Luxembourgish penitentiary administration has developed an action plan that anticipates different levels of alert. Depending on the specific circumstances, different procedures will be implemented. The action plan contains four stages. The main factor that determines the level of alert as well as the nature of the actions to be taken is linked to the fact whether a Coronavirus infection is confirmed within a prison as well as the number of cases. At the present state (24.03.20), there are no confirmed cases in Luxembourgish prisons.

The main goal pursued so far is to prevent the virus from entering the prisons. Currently all incoming and outgoing visits have been shut down. The Luxembourgish penitentiary administration is trying to limit all movements within and outside the prisons. The staff has also been reduced in order to restrain the number of persons circulating. All collective and external activities, such as workshops, school and therapies have been shut down. All other activities have been reduced to a strict minimum.

In order to protect the persons already incarcerated in our prisons, incoming prisoners are being isolated and tested before they are being transferred to another section of the prison. Should there be a confirmed case within a prison, measures to avoid a further spreading of the Coronavirus will be implemented and the medical supervision of the detainee will be assured. In case of a confirmed coronavirus infection, the concerned detainee will be placed in solitary confinement or moved to a hospital depending on the severity of the symptoms. In each prison, a section has been emptied should more cases of infection occur.

Informational sheets about the nature of the virus and how to behave in order to prevent it from spreading have been displayed throughout the prisons in order to guarantee a free access to the information for all detainees.

On the other hand, the prison staff must undergo a quick examination (body temperature measurement, answering two questions) before entering the prison. Once the staff has entered the prison, they must make use of the disinfectant and gloves that were made available. The penitentiary agents in direct



Direction

contact with detainees wear masks according to the recommendations of the Centre hospitalier de Luxembourg.

Other than that, the staff is invited to stick to the recommendations and procedures foreseen by the ministry of Health. The ministry has published FAQs on their website where they inform about different aspects such as how to protect yourself and others, what to do if you have any symptoms, etc.

As a precaution, frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, etc., are being cleaned multiple times during the day. This preventive measure aims to avoid a transmission through surfaces that are likely to be contaminated.

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