Prison workers highlight problems of overcrowding

Belgium

Trade unions at the Forest prison in Brussels called an emergency meeting with employers under social dialogue procedures on 1 March to raise the urgent problem of overcrowding, made more acute by the need to find space to isolate several cases of tuberculosis. The prison's capacity is 405 but it has 715 inmates. The unions organised internal actions, including a go-slow, during the week beginning 5 March to underline the problems created by overcrowding and the lack of investment in the prison and understaffing. The unions want a meeting with the Minister of Justice to tackle the issue across all Belgian prisons.

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