

No to overcrowded prisons - EPSU leaflet

EN / NL (*being translated into FR/DE/ES/IT/SV*)

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National actions taking place on 28 February include

Austria
Events at 28 prisons

Estonia
Events at 3 prisons

Italy
High-Level Conference in Rome

Spain
National Demonstration in Madrid (19 Feb.) and press event (27 Feb.)

United Kingdom
Events at 3 prisons and National Press Conference

Headline Event:
Brussels, Belgium

Venue: EU Justice Ministers' meeting, Justus Lipsius Building

Time 12.00-15.00, 28 February, 2008

Eurodemo, with over 400 participants from across Europe

This event is part of the EPSU campaign for a European legal framework to improve and protect public services

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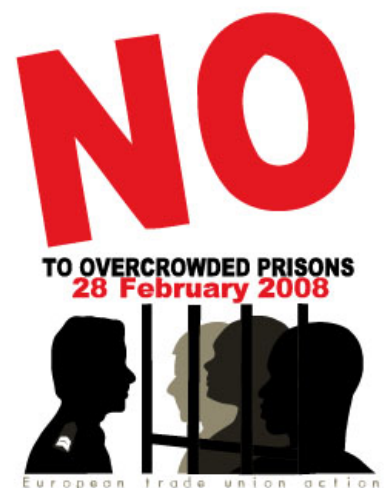
The European Federation of Public Service Unions

www.epsu.org

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(subject: prison action day)

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Please visit our website for a list of contacts in YOUR country



NO

TO OVERCROWDED PRISONS
28 February 2008

European Trade Union Action

Imagine this was YOUR workspace!

Prisons in the European Union are, on average, at 125% of their capacity. In some countries this level is almost 200%. This puts incredible pressure on prison staff. 28 February 2008 marks the start of our campaign to tackle prison overcrowding by making prisons a safe and healthy working and living environment and to invest in sound alternatives to imprisonment.



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www.epsu.org

Prison Overcrowding The FACTS!

FACT! Data from the Council of Europe show that, over the past decade, the prison population in the EU27 has been increasing, to currently stand at more than 600 000 prisoners: www.epsu.org/prisons

FACT! There are, on average, 25% more detainees than the facilities were designed for

FACT! Prison staff are rated as being among the highest category in terms of work-related stress

FACT! Overcrowding affects the ability to control crime and violence, and the spread of contagious diseases in prisons

FACT! Overcrowding is a major factor in the high turnover of prison medical staff, which causes further risks in healthcare, and in security

FACT! Overcrowding creates competition for limited resources

FACT! Overcrowding leads to aggression between inmates and against staff

FACT! Overcrowding can lead to higher rates of illness and even suicide

FACT! Overcrowding severely impedes rehabilitation

www.epsu.org/prisons



The trade union representatives of prison staff (security and treatment) in Europe, aim to work with the EU, National and Regional representatives towards achieving the following goals:

- 1 detainee per cell
- (At least) 1 prison officer per prisoner
- Decent working conditions including the right to training for staff
- Increase numbers of treatment staff
- Stopping the increase of detainees by introducing or applying non-custodial measures
- Reducing the numbers of untried detainees, of migrants detained for being undocumented, of mentally ill detainees, and of drug using detainees
- Opposing the 'commercialisation' of the prison sector
- Recognising the positive role trade unions, and the social dialogue process, play to improve working and living conditions in prisons
- Applying the Council of Europe's prison rules
- Applying the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Strengthening the role of national ombudsmen and parliamentarians in the inspection of prisons

Are you a member of a Public Service Trade Union?

The European Federation of Public Service Trade Unions (EPSU) represents over 200 trade unions, made up of over 8 million members. To find out if you are part of our movement please go to www.epsu.org

Please get involved by contacting your local Member of European Parliament and informing them about our campaign.

For further info, here are some of our regional contacts:

Austria Frank Pauser	franz.pauser@justiz.gov.at
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Networks

[Prisons Services](#)