

[EPSU to mark first anniversary of European Action day on Prison Overcrowding](#)

(30 January 2009, Brussels) EPSU will mark the first anniversary of their [Prison action day](#) on 16th March 2009. The day will highlight the fact that overcrowding in prisons, throughout the EU, is still a major problem.

EPSU will call on members of the European Parliament's [Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#) to support the action. EP members will be asked to sign up to the [EPSU Public Service Pledge](#) as a way of publicising the need for quality standards in prisons which, as a minimum, should be in line with the Council of Europe's Prison Rules.

Martine ROURE (PSE, FR) stated recently in the European Parliament that: "**We are calling for an active struggle against any form of discrimination and to respect human dignity, particularly in prisons, because all too often humanity is left at the door there**". EPSU will focus, in particular, on the issue of '[Pre-trial detention](#)' a key area that is already being discussed by the European Commission. [EPSU affiliates](#) will aim to send letters to their Justice Ministers and MEPs on the issue of Prison Overcrowding. **Nadja Salson**, EPSU officer for National Administration stated that: "**one year after our action, overcrowding in European Prisons is still as bad as ever. We need to work towards a European plan of action to alleviate the effects on prisoners and on prison staff**".

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