

Prison overcrowding - THE CAUSES

-Brutal working and living conditions have brutal results-

EPSU FACT SHEET

Prison Action day 28 February 2008

The CAUSES of Prison Overcrowding in the EU

- # 'Lock them up' is seen as the main solution to crime
- # Privatised prisons see prisoners as 'products' to be mass-produced for profit
- # 20% of Europe's prison population, 30% in France and Belgium, are those waiting for trial (remand)
- # Non-custodial measures (electronic tagging, community work) are not adequately promoted
- # Prisons are becoming a dumping ground for difficult social and/or health problems (long term mentally ill/ drug users/ undocumented entrants to the EU)
- # Insufficient investment in preventative social measures
- # Quick fix solutions of 'new beds in old dumps' not improved facilities

Interesting fact! There is no connection between an increase in prison population and a decrease in crime rate.

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