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Promoting alternatives to imprisonment

Reply to Recommendation¹: Recommendation 2018 (2013)

Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers welcomes Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2018 (2013) on “Promoting alternatives to imprisonment” which it has transmitted to the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) for information and comments.
2. The Committee of Ministers shares the Parliamentary Assembly opinion that alternatives to imprisonment need to be promoted and that their effective use can contribute to reducing rates of imprisonment and thus to combatting prison overcrowding.
3. Like the Assembly, it notes that substantive standard-setting texts in this regard have been developed by the Council of Europe in the course of the years² which provide valuable guidelines to the national authorities of its member States.
4. The Committee of Ministers has instructed the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) to elaborate a draft Recommendation on electronic monitoring, with the aim of providing national authorities with ethical and professional guidelines for the use of this new surveillance technology in the framework of the criminal justice process in conformity with existing human rights safeguards in Europe. It is expected that the draft recommendation will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers at the beginning of 2014. The Parliamentary Assembly will be kept informed about any further developments regarding this text.

1. Adopted at the 1188th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (15 January 2014).

2. See paragraph 1 of the Assembly's recommendation.

