



State Probation Service  
Republic of Latvia



## **10<sup>th</sup> CEP CONFERENCE ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING IN EUROPE "Back to the Future"**

**Riga, Latvia  
19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016**

**Open speech at the 10<sup>th</sup> EM CEP Conference on Riga 19 to 21 April 2016**

**Thanks and welcome to this 10th EM Conference co-organised by the Probation Service of the Ministry of Justice of Latvia and CEP, in the really historic and wonderful city of Riga (for those who this is the first time in Riga, please, take profit of the guided tour included in the programme and, if you can, find extra time for discovering the particular charm of the city).**

**Thanks to:**

- 1) The entire team of the Probation Service and the Ministry of Justice of Latvia who did a great job, plenty of enthusiasm, commitment and focused to achieve a final good outcome.**
- 2) To the Members of the Steering Committee, who did a really good job, AGAIN under the inspiration of Professor Mike Nellis, and the leadership of Soraya Beamer and the SG of CEP, who leaded, as well, the excellent work done by the CEP's staff. In this regard, I would like to stress the quality of the information and the importance of the conclusions included in the piece of work elaborated by Soraya Beumer and Marianne Kylstad Oster based on the answers to the questionnaires sent out to individuals responsible for EM in the member countries. I truly recommend having a look at this, to those who could not do it, yet.**
- 3) To the premium sponsors: Geosatis, SuperCom; Track Group; 3M; G4S and the marketplace sponsors BI Incorporated and Comp Electronic Monitoring. It is the first time in the 10th previous editions that we have 7 companies involved in the event, which is a signal of the great interest that the event**

**acquired. Without them, EM Conferences will not have all the components for real advancing in this field.**

- 4) To all of you, 225 attendants coming from 32 different jurisdictions, 6 of them out of the Scope of the Council of Europe (Australia, Brazil, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia and USA). Unfortunately, we had people on the waiting list, who, in the end, were not in conditions to attend the event.**

**As many of you know the first edition of this event took place in October 1998 in The Netherlands: very in concrete, in a nice village near the Atlantic, a real myth in the history of EM, Egmond aan Zee.**

**The first six editions took place there, which made it possible to visit almost all the restaurants of the place!!! Really, it was lovely to be there and, talking seriously, good memories come to all of those present today here who we have been there at any moment.**

**Since May 2011 EM conferences started to travel around Europe: Evora (Portugal); Balsta (Sweden) and Frankfurt/Offenbach (Germany) took over from Egmond. So following this line, Riga, and not by accident, today hosts the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, a very important one: really an anniversary of almost 18 years of evolution, innovation, common insight, collaboration among the public and the private sectors: at the end of the day, almost 2 decades of learning from each others.**

**As I said, this is not by accident that we are in Latvia in this occasion. The idea of organizing the event here, this year, was presented, on behalf of his government, by the CEP Board Member Imants Jurevicius, whom I personally want to thank very much for his contributions to the work of CEP in this current term, at the Probation Directors General Meeting held in Oslo by CEP in April 2013, just when the Latvian Ministry of Justice was yet clearly committed to go on with EM in its country. So, this is a very beforehand planned idea and we are in the right place at the right moment, with a system yet working, since July 2015. Today we'll have a particular session on this reality that will cover the three Baltic's states.**

**I looked into my papers, this is the advantage of been a President near to say bye-bye, for preparing this speech and I found what I underlined at the same point when we started the Conference in Evora, four years ago. What I said there, with small changes, may be used today for describing the aspirations of CEP for this conference at its end:**

**I said, and I say, to let the attendants know more about the whole picture of the place of EM in the European context of probation (that for instance did not include, at that moment, the worry on radicalization, which is now a real priority for all of us)**

**I said to have a better idea about how in future the Probation Rules of the Council of Europe with regard to the use of Electronic Monitoring can be further specified. Let me say today, (having among us the current President of the PC-CP of the Council of Europe): to know what the real impact is and the implications of such rules have in the use of EM in Europe, nowadays?**

**I said, and I say, to have a deeper knowledge about the new approaches from the manufactures and sellers;**

**I said, and I say, to update the data arising from research;**

**I said, and I say, to identify as much people as possible involved in the topic and to let them to create networking relationships**

**I said, and I say, to identify the key issues (the positives and the problematic) regarding the inclusion of EM as part of the probation's works that needs further debate and more research.**

**Dear colleagues, before wishing all of you a fruitful conference, in terms of the acquisition of new information and knowledge, networking, and why not... fun!, let me take the advantage, before giving the floor to Professor Mike Nellis, to use his, as always, wise words, included in the Conclusions of his piece of work "Standards and Ethics in Electronic Monitoring", edited by the Council of Europe, in occasion of a multilateral meeting held in Strasbourg in November 2014 on the ethical issues involved in the use of EM, that you have in your folders.**

***"The potential of EM to make a positive difference to penal practice in Europe is clear, but equally its misuse could impose dangers for traditional, but still desirable, forms of probation supervision, as well as giving unprecedented powers of surveillance to the police. Rising to the challenge of realising the potential and facing down the dangers must be a collective –and continuing- effort, building on the start that has been made by the Council of Europe"***

**Many thanks**

**Marc Cerón**

**CEP President**

**Riga, 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2016**