

ACUNS at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Report
By Michael Platzer
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ACUNS was extremely active at the twentieth session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Thanks to the efforts of Dr Slawomir Redo, three panels were established which dealt with private security services, use of criminological findings for policy making, and application of new training technologies for crime prevention. Slawomir managed to gain the cosponsorship of the Governments of Canada, Germany, the UAE as well the World Institute for Nuclear Security, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (Montreal), HEUNI, the Becaria Program, University of Maribor, Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony, and the National Crime Prevention Centre (Canada). He attracted top criminologists and criminal justice personnel: Helmut Kury, Kauko Aromaa, Erich Marks, Gorazd Mesko, Peter Darcy, Roger Howsley, Vikram Singh, Col. Ahmed Al Hantoubi, Burkhard Hasenpusch, Gerald Quirchmayr, Wayne Stryde and Paula Miraglia. The manual "Practical Approaches to Urban Crime Prevention" was also launched at one of the sessions.

The other ACUNS panels were organized by Karin Bruckmuller, Stefan Schuman, Max Edelbacher, and Michael Platzer and dealt with the ratification of the UN Small Arms Protocol, Migration-Integration-Security, and Foreign Prisoners in Europe. These attracted prominent officials of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, Trade Ministry, and Parliament, experts from Belgium, Italy, Small Arms Survey and UNODC; the UN Human Rights expert on minority rights, a former police chief of Vienna, a terrorism expert and a Professor from the University of Vienna; and on the last panel, two academic experts on the situation of foreign prisoners in Europe, a chaplain dealing with foreign prisoners and an expert from the UK Prison Reform Trust. All the side events were well attended.

Michael Platzer addressed the plenary on the last day, explaining the recent activities of ACUNS at the UN Office at Vienna, thanking the Canadian Chair and the delegation for the close inter-action with ACUNS and the other NGOs at the Commission, while announcing the AM in Waterloo and the planned conference in New Delhi in 2012.

An interesting innovation to combine academic research with intergovernmental decision making was the summary of known and suggested future research needed for the main theme of the Commission "Protecting Children in a Digital Age: The Misuse of Technology in the Abuse and Exploitation of Children" prepared by the Criminologists without Borders and the International Sociological Association (can also be found on the website of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, www.jjay.cuny.edu). The note of the UNODC secretariat on the same topic is available on the UNODC website- E/CN.15/2011.

Other documents of possible interest to readers are: "Civilian private security services: their oversight and their role in and contribution to crime prevention and community" (E/CN.15/2011); "World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN .15/2011/10); Improving the collection and analysis of data to enhance knowledge of trends in

specific areas of crime (E/CN.15/2011/17); Countering Maritime Piracy off the coast of Somalia (E/CN.15/2011/18); International Cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption (E/CN.15/2011/5); Drug Control, Crime prevention and criminal justice: a Human Rights Perspective (E/CN.15/2010/CRP.1) The complete list as well as adopted resolutions are on www.undoc.org