Basic information

2003/2188(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The rights of prisoners in the European Union **Subject** 1.10 Fundamental rights in the EU, Charter	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	TURCO Maurizio (NI)	07/10/2003

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/09/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	B5-0362/2003	
22/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/02/2004	Vote in committee		Summary
19/02/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0094/2004	
09/03/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0142/2004	Summary
09/03/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/2188(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/20227

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		B5-0362/2003	09/09/2003	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0094/2004	19/02/2004	

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0142/2004 OJ C 102 28.04.2004, p. 0031-0154 E	09/03/2004	Summary

The rights of prisoners in the European Union

2003/2188(INI) - 09/03/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Parliament adopted by 439 votes in favour, 49 against and 20 abstentions an own-initiative report drafted by Maurizio TURCO (IND, I) on the rights of prisoners in the EU. According to Council of Europe statistics, on 1 September 2002, a total of 539 436 persons were being held in prison in the enlarged European Union. These statistics paint an alarming picture regarding overcrowding, excessive increase in the prison population, rise in the number of foreign nationals being held, high numbers of remand prisoners and numerous cases of death and suicide. Accordingly, it calls on the Council and the Member States to encourage the drawing up a European Prisons Charter covering all the Council of Europe's Member States. Such a Charter would have to incorporate detailed rules, binding on the Member States, concerning a prisoner's right to: - access to a lawyer, to healthcare and to notify a third person that he or she has been detained, - the right to physical and mental safety, - prison conditions, - the right of access to internal and, if necessary, external medical services, - re-education, training, rehabilitation and reintegration into society and the workforce, - the separation of categories of detained persons: juveniles, persons on remand, convicted criminals.