

Rait Kuuse  
Deputy Secretary General of Prisons  
Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs

**Dear Deputy Secretary General**

We greatly appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in us by reaching out with your request for support to the Estonian Prison Service, in the proceedings currently pending before the Grand Chamber of the ECHR.

We share the general position on improving the conditions for inmates and staff and the commitment to improving health and well-being within correctional facilities. The Swedish Prison and Probation Service has an ongoing work to reduce smoking among inmates and staff as part of this development. For this reason, smoking is only permitted outdoors during designated recreation time in Swedish prisons and remand prisons.

With that said, after careful consideration, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service would like to inform you that we are unable to provide the formal support you have requested in this particular matter. In a Swedish context a smoking ban is for the government and parliament to address.

However, I would like to stress that we remain deeply committed to our strong bilateral relationship and will continue to work towards our common goals. Thank you once again for reaching out to us.



Mr. Rikard Jermsten

Director General

Swedish Prison and Probation Service