



ECAD NEWSLETTER



EUROPEAN CITIES AGAINST DRUGS
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Volcanic eruption & 17th ECAD Conference



On Tuesday 20 April, at 14:00 according to the decision of the co-organisers, the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta, the 17th ECAD Mayors' Conference was announced postponed. Within the week the new date was set, 23-24 September 2010.

The Maltese hosts and the ECAD deeply regret the late postponing of the Conference. However, since the traffic chaos caused by the volcanic eruption in Iceland did not allow major part of the conference guests and speakers to arrive in time to Malta, the decision taken by the hosts in these circumstances is understandable.

Those of the guests, who have made it to Gozo, were being taken a good care of by the hosts.

We apologise to everyone who have received the information of postponing of the conference while travelling for all the inconvenience and difficulties which you could have experienced.

Dear ECAD members, invited speakers and friends! The conference programme holds. The weather in Malta is lovely in September... The Icelandic volcanoes will hopefully also take a break by that time...

Hero of the day

ECAD Director Jörgen Svidén was in Reykjavik at a conference when the eruption of - such a difficult name to spell - Eyjafjallajökull clouded the skies to the extent which caused an unprecedented chaos in the European air traffic. The ECAD staff was proud to find out that our director became one of the first travellers who made it back home to the Scandinavian peninsula from being stranded on that volcanic island... A couple of extra days under the volcanic shade and a night drive from the Norwegian Trondheim (the very first open route to Europe late on Sunday 18 April) to Stockholm - this is how it was done in order to make it to work on Monday!

★ ECAD NEWS

UNODC expertise in high demand

The Annual Report 2010 provides an overview of what UNODC is doing to help Member States address the threat posed by drugs, crime and terrorism. The report demonstrates that, in an unstable world, the information and expertise provided by UNODC are in high demand. In response, UNODC is expanding its portfolio, and becoming active in new issues and theatres.

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EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS to LIVE HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES



MALTA, SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2010 GOVERNMENT OF MALTA & PEMBROKE LOCAL COUNCIL

” According to UNODC estimates, the global market for illicit drugs is valued at over US\$ 300 billion annually. If the illegal drug industry were a country, its gross national product would rank twenty-first in the world, right after Sweden.”

Health, Security & Justice in UNODC 2010 Report

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) issued its Report 2010. "This Report shows how health, security and justice are the antidotes to drugs, crime and terrorism," said UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa.



The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, during an official visit to Austria, said: "The UNODC 2010 Report showcases the extraordinary task accomplished by this small office. This is further proof of how Vienna has become a hub for human security issues, and how the UN can deliver assistance in the field to save people from the misery of drugs and crime."

The Report covers the full range of UNODC's work around the world: promoting drug treatment and alternative development; improving criminal justice; strengthening integrity; and reducing vulnerability to crime. Its descriptive chapters are brought to life by photos and personal accounts, like those of a trafficking survivor, a prison employee, a cacao farmer, and a recovering drug addict. The Report also explains how UNODC carries out its renowned research, including its growing capacity in scientific and forensic services. The Report concludes by offering a blunt assessment of UNODC's resource requirements: "currently, resources available are minute compared to the gigantic menace that we face," said Mr. Costa.

One of the main themes throughout the Report is the threat posed by organized crime. The issue is high on the international agenda. Organized crime has been debated in the Security Council several times over the past six months.

"There is plenty of bad news about drugs and crime. This Report shows that these threats can be addressed in a way that has wider benefits for society, namely improving health, security and justice for all," said Mr. Costa.

The UNODC 2010 Report is available on the UNODC website: www.unodc.org

UNODC expertise in high demand

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The report further highlights the valuable cooperation between civil society and UNODC by presenting the project "Looking Beyond", which is the continuation of the successful project "Beyond 2008". Through "Looking Beyond", UNODC is consolidating and scaling up its partnership with civil society in areas such as crime prevention, criminal justice, corruption, and human trafficking.

The report concludes by offering a blunt assessment of the Office's financial requirements: UNODC effectiveness is undermined by an unsustainable funding model. UNODC is heavily dependent on just a handful of donors, and the core budget has decreased over time even as UNODC faces ever-rising expectations.

"Looking Beyond": building a stronger partnership with civil society

ECAD made its contribution to this success by being co-organiser of one of the preparatory meeting of NGOs within the frames of "Beyond 2008" project.

Over 440 NGOs from around the world representing more than 12 million members participated in "Beyond 2008", the global NGO forum to review progress made in the 10 years since the General Assembly held its twentieth special session. The forum marked an important milestone in the contribution of NGOs to the formulation of global drugs policy. The input of practitioners and others active at the grassroots level has helped ensure that drugs policy will be relevant and effective and truly serve its intended beneficiaries in a way that solely top-down policymaking cannot. UNODC commissioned an independent evaluation of the "Beyond 2008" initiative to measure its success in bringing the voice of NGOs to the 10-year review process. The evaluators determined that the initiative was a highly effective and efficient catalyst for building and mobilizing a strong, vibrant and professional global civil society. As a result, UNODC is extending this model to other areas of our mandate. Through a new initiative called "Looking Beyond", we are consolidating and scaling up our partnership with civil society in areas such as crime prevention, criminal justice, corruption and human trafficking. We believe that working closely with NGOs will strengthen policymaking in these areas, spread best practices more widely and create more inclusive approaches to tackling these challenges.

Record number of new drugs reported in 2009, says EMCDDA-EUROPOL

A record number of new drugs were officially reported in 2009 to the **EMCDDA** and **Europol** via the EU early-warning system (EWS) on new psychoactive substances.

24 new psychoactive substances were officially notified for the first time to the two agencies in 2009. This represents the largest number of substances ever reported in a single year and almost double the number notified in 2008 (13). All of the new compounds were synthetic, including two substances with medicinal properties. A full list of the substances notified is annexed to the report.

Highlighted as significant new developments in 2009 were the emergence of new, smokable herbal products laced with synthetic cannabinoids (the so-called 'Spice' phenomenon) and the growing popularity of synthetic cathinones. A total of nine synthetic cannabinoids, from four distinct chemical groups, were reported via the EWS in 2009, as well as four synthetic cathinones. The latter are derivatives of the parent compound cathinone, which is structurally related to amphetamine.

Towards the end of 2009, increased evidence of the use and availability of one synthetic cathinone, mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), prompted the **EMCDDA** and **Europol** to embark on a formal data-collection exercise on the substance.

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Economic benefits of investing in prevention: an American calculation

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), new report **"Substance Abuse Prevention Dollars and Cents: A Cost-Benefit Analysis"**.

Policymakers and other stakeholders can use cost-benefit analysis as an informative tool for decision making for substance abuse prevention. This report reveals the importance of supporting effective prevention programs as part of a comprehensive substance abuse prevention strategy. The following patterns of use, their attendant costs, and the potential cost savings are analyzed:

- Extent of substance abuse among youth;
- Costs of substance abuse to the Nation and to States;
- Cost savings that could be gained if effective prevention policies, programs, and services were implemented nationwide;
- Programs and policies that are most cost beneficial.

Example of calculation:

The average effective school-based program in 2002 costs \$220 per pupil including materials and teacher training, and these programs could save an estimated \$18 per \$1 invested if implemented nationwide. Nationwide, full implementation of school-based effective programming in 2002 would have had the following fiscal impact:

- Saved State and local governments \$1.3 billion, including \$1.05 billion in educational costs within 2 years;
- Reduced social costs of substance-abuse-related medical care, other resources, and lost productivity over a lifetime by an estimated \$33.7 billion;
- Preserved the quality of life over a lifetime valued at \$65 billion.

Although 80 percent of American youth reported participation in school-based prevention in 2005 (SAMHSA, 2004), only 20 percent

were exposed to effective prevention programs (Flewelling et al., 2005). Given this level of participation, it is possible that some expected benefits already exist for these students, and the estimates in this paper are adjusted for these probable benefits.

Download the report from here:

<http://download.ncadi.samhsa.gov/prevalence/pdfs/SMA07-4298.pdf>



Sweden allows schools to use random voluntary student drug testing

On April 26, 2010, the Ombudsman of Swedish Parliament (JO) ruled in favour of Random Student Drug Testing (RSDT) programs in schools, declaring that it is not against the Constitution to drug test students if consent is obtained from both students and parents. This voluntary RSDT program model may now be used in schools across Sweden. However, the road to this decision was thorny.

The heated discussions were held around the argument whether testing of such young people is a serious infringement of the integrity of those individuals. The Minister for justice, Beatrice Ask gave her strong voice and argued that the earlier drug users can be found the better.

The story started to unfold on a local level, when a school in Nässjö municipality (29,500 inhabitants) decided to start using RSDT. This caused a hard criticism from the Schools Inspectorate, who earlier has criticized other schools that have carried out such tests. Last fall the Schools Inspectorate denied a primary school to issue voluntary drug tests. This time they have said no to an upper secondary school who wanted to do the same. The School Inspectorate argues that pupils are in a position of dependence to the staff and thereby may have hard to deny a test even if it is voluntary. The school decided to ignore the criticism and go on according to own planning. The dispute between the school, supported by the Nässjö municipality, which insisted that the method did not breach any laws and the School Inspectorate reached higher authority, the Ombudsman of Swedish Parliament, which ruled in favour of the school.

The Swedish Carnegie Institute ordered Sifo (public opinion surveys) to find out what the Swedish population actually thinks about random, voluntary drug tests in an upper secondary school. 76 per cent were for, 20% against and 4% did not have an opinion on the matter.

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The appearance of a large number of new unregulated synthetic compounds, marketed on the Internet as 'legal highs' or 'not for human consumption', states the report, presents a growing challenge for monitoring, responding to, and controlling the use of new psychoactive substances.

The piperazine *mCPP*, extensively covered in previous years, is also given attention in this year's report. Data from various sources highlight a marked increase of the percentage of 'ecstasy' tablets containing this substance, while the availability of MDMA on the market appears to be decreasing. It is noteworthy that no new piperazines or psychoactive plants were reported in 2009.

The report concludes that the EWS has high reporting capabilities and the capacity to triangulate information from different sources. Over 110 substances have been reported by Member States to the **EMCDDA** and **Europol** since the EWS was created in 1997.

/EMCDDA

Khat causes acute water crisis

The narcotic khat plant is key to the poor Yemen's economy - and yet, the enormous amount of water consumed by the irrigated plantations on the Arabian peninsula's southernmost tip make water reservoirs to run short...

Yemen is one of the countries where the khat-chewing origins from. Now the drug is bringing the country to a national catastrophe. Not only because it passives a large portion of male population but also because it demands ever growing cultivation areas and leads to a water shortage in the country.

Yemen deteriorated from being almost self-providing in the 1970s to the today's need to import 80 per cent of its food needs.

Up to three-quarters of Yemeni men chew khat and with the population of about 23 million great volumes are in demand. About 30 per cent of already overused water basins' resources go to irrigate the khat cultivation. Khat plant is five times more lucrative for farmers than coffee and fruits. Cultivation satisfies domestic market and is exported to Canada, Australia, Great Britain and the Netherlands. In 1970, khat cultivation covered about 8,000 hectares, in 2000 already around 100,000 hectares. Today the areas might have doubled.

Four times as much water is taken out of the biggest water basin near the capital as falls into it each year. The experts estimate that the water will run short by 2017. This coincides with the ceasing oil which now accounts for the major portion of the state's revenues. The water crisis is so serious that the government is considering moving the capital. The best solution, everyone agrees, is to reduce khat growing, which sucks up the largest share of water use. But, as Guardian analyses in an article published in connection to the World Water Day, this is also fraught with social and political problems. In the country where half the population earns less than 2 dollars a day it provides many jobs.

Armed conflicts over the water resources around the capital city are increasing. Yemen is often described as a state in danger of failing.

/Drugnews.nu

HeSaidSheSaid

He said: *Can I help you?*

She said: *No, I enjoy doing it myself!*



Latest analysis of cocaine market highlights 'secondary extraction' laboratories in Europe

Increasingly sophisticated techniques to conceal and smuggle cocaine into Europe are reviewed in a new **EMCDDA-Europol** market analysis — *Cocaine: A European Union perspective in the global context*. The review provides insight into how cocaine is produced and trafficked into the EU, the people involved, routes taken, and the scale of the problem in Europe. Also analysed are some of the supply reduction initiatives already developed at European level.

One innovative technique identified in the report involves incorporating cocaine base or hydrochloride (HCl) into other materials (e.g. beeswax, plastic, clothing), then extracting it in special laboratories set up inside EU borders. Around 40 of these cocaine so-called 'secondary extraction' laboratories were seized in the EU in 2008, says the report, an issue of increasing concern to the two EU agencies. These differ from laboratories found in South America which manufacture cocaine base or HCl from coca leaves or coca paste.

With a significant proportion of the global cocaine output now destined for Europe, new cross-Atlantic trafficking routes have emerged. The report describes the three main Europe-bound cocaine smuggling routes (Northern, Central, West African). It also shows how law enforcement data point to shifting landing points within Europe's main gateway regions — the Iberian Peninsula and the Low Countries (Belgium and the Netherlands) — as well as to the spread of trafficking networks eastwards. According to the report, this increases the risk of cocaine use diffusing into central and eastern European countries which, to date, have been comparatively little affected (see also EMCDDA 2009 *Annual report: the state of the drugs problem in Europe*).

Most of the cocaine available in the world today is produced from coca grown in Colombia, where the plant contributes significantly to the local economy. Various measures to prevent coca cultivation and offer alternative livelihoods to the growers have been developed and supported by the EU and its Member States. However, the concentration of land ownership plus the ongoing armed conflict make effective and long-term action difficult. While underlining the need to boost cocaine interception efforts, the report also presents arguments for complementary initiatives to address the underlying causes that encourage cocaine production and trafficking.

*Our European societies have experimented and evaluated both tolerance and intolerance to illicit drug use and drug abuse. It is our reflection upon this which guides us towards non-use. This in regard to **our future** well-being.*



ECAD is Europe's leading organization promoting a drug free Europe and representing millions of European citizens. ECAD member cities work to develop initiatives against drug abuse supporting the United Nations Conventions.
Has your city joined ECAD?

ECAD Head Office
European Cities Against Drugs
ECAD, Stadshuset
105 35 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel. +46 850829363 Fax +46 850829466
E-mail: ecad@ecad.net www.ecad.net

ECAD Regional Office in Russia

www.ecad.ru
zazulin@ecad.ru
+7 812 328 96 65

ECAD Regional Office in Latvia

Tel. +371 6510591
www.ecad.riga.lv andrejs.vilks@rcc.lv

ECAD Regional Office in Bulgaria

www.ecad.hit.bg/home.html
doctor_ivo@abv.bg
+359 5 684 1391

ECAD Regional Office in Turkey

www.ibb.gov.tr/ecad ecad@ibb.gov.tr