



European Parliament President is not a drug liberal



Tomas Hallberg, Pat Cox, Jim Corr

Jim Corr, Chairman of the ECAD Advisory Board, and Tomas Hallberg, ECAD director, met the President of the European Parliament, Pat Cox on January 17, 2003 in Cork, Ireland.

On a direct question from Mr Hallberg Pat Cox answered that he belongs to the liberals in the European Parliament. 'Liberals hold different views in regard to drug issues, said Mr Cox, but I do not belong to the drug liberals'. 'I have not worked with drug issues but the matter seems fairly easy to me, Mr Cox continued. 'I do not want drugs in my family and I do not want them in the society.'

The representatives for ECAD and the European Parliament President discussed how the anti-drug policy questions can be pursued within the European Parliament. Mr Corr and Mr Hallberg have expressed their critical view on how the European Union's drug control organ, EMCDDA, is being

run. Mr Cox responded that he does not know much about the subject, though if the criticism is relevant there are ways to investigate the question and to make necessary changes.

ECAD was first to inform about the scandal around former EMCDDA Chair-

man Mike Trace, who has also been employed as the Head of Demand Reduction at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna. Mr Trace who was the deputy 'drug czar' in the UK has, according to the information in mass media, been exposed as a 'fifth columnist' in favour of drug liberalisation movement. While occupying these posts, Trace was the spider in the web aiming at counteracting the UN Conventions on drugs.

We regret to inform you that, because of scheduled arrangements, Mr Cox will not be able to attend ECAD's 10th Anniversary Conference that will take place on May 15-17 in Stockholm. 'I would have liked to come. In order to show my support to ECAD efforts in anti-drug fieldwork, I shall send video greetings to the conference delegates, - concluded the President of the European Parliament.

Legalisers target national parliaments

In a desperate move to try to get support for their agenda to legalise drugs, Marco Capato, Marco Perduca, and Arnold Trebach have sent letters to national parliaments asking them to sign an international appeal "for a more efficient international drug policy system of laws."

The names behind the letter are all well-known proponents of legalisation of drugs and have been active for quite a while to promote their agenda under the auspices of reform of the UN Conventions on drugs.

The above-mentioned people were instrumental in putting together a conference, 'Out from the shadows, ending prohibition in the 21st century' in the European Parliament in Brussels October 15-16 last year. At that conference, which was opened by Capato, he announced that the Brussels conference was the first in a planned series of 'Out from the shadow'-conferences.

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At the Brussels conference, Perduca talked about the strategy to implement change and stressed that a study had to be made on how a change of the two first UN Conventions on drugs could be made. He stated that there must be a group of countries working together to get support for a revision.

Following a legalisation conference in Tirana, Albania at the end of last year, the legalisers are now heading for Mexico and a legalisation 'summit' in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, February 12-15.

It is interesting to note that the conference in Mexico is held just a couple of weeks after Mexican President Vicente Fox's administration stepped up its campaign to show that Mexico is finally ready, willing and able to root out the corruption that undermines the country's war against drugs.

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Drug scandal in UN and EU

The resignation of Mike Trace, former Head of Demand Reduction at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, is a result of an extensive probe reporting carried out by HNN in co-operation with different

individuals in several countries.

Read about Mike Trace's 'fifth column' role in favour of the drug liberalisation movement on page 2.



Vienna International Center

Drug scandal in UN and EU

For quite a few years extensive measures, often funded by organisations linked to George Soros, have been taken in an effort to undermine the UN Conventions on drugs.

According to information obtained by HNN, former UK deputy 'drug czar' Mike Trace, was masterminding a European legalisation campaign at the same time as he has been appointed Head of Demand Reduction at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna.

Several documents containing letters, minutes from secret meetings, secret plans, references to meetings and phone calls clearly show that the campaign was planned to take place before the mid-term review of the outcome of the 1998 UNGASS meeting in New York and in connection with the conference in Vienna in April this year.

For about a year Mike Trace has worked as a 'fifth columnist' as he puts it himself in a letter - "A fifth column role would allow me to oversee the setting-up of the agency* while promoting its aims subtly in formal government settings."

'Now I have taken up my post at the UN, I absolutely cannot be associated with a lobbying initiative - the line I am using is that, through the summer, I gave advice to several groups on how the EU and UN policy structures worked, but I am no longer in contact.'

Mike Trace

Before Trace began his work at the United Nations he outlined the strategy in correspondence with President Aryeh Neier of

the Soros-funded OSI (Open Society Institute) in New York.

Not succeeding in reaching Mr Neier on the phone, Trace wrote October 15, "The basic objectives remain the same - to assemble a combination of research, policy analysis, lobbying and media management that is sufficiently sophisticated to influence governments and international agencies as they review global drug policies in the coming years. The key decision points remain the reviews of the European Union Drug Strategy in 2003 (and again in 2004), and the political summit of the UN Drug Programme in Vienna in April 2003."

The UK organisation Release served as 'cover' for the undermining activities, a steering group was formed, and money was raised from the Soros-funded Open Society Institute.

The British daily Daily Mail published details of Trace's involvement in the work to undermine the UN conventions on drugs. As it turned out that a former Australian politician, Cheryl Kernot, had joined the undermining 'chapter', the Australian Daily Telegraph published some interesting details as well.

Mike Trace has recently resigned from the UN, EMCDDA and the UK National Treatment.

Read about 'Viennagate' in detail on www.hnnsueden.com

*The so-called 'agency's' name is Forward Thinking on Drugs, aiming at undermining the UN Conventions on drugs.

EMCDDA appoints new chairman

EMCDDA (The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction) has announced that the former chairman Mike Trace has been replaced by Marcel Reimen from Luxembourg.

Marcel Reimen worked in the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU, and has served as Vice Chairman of EMCDDA since 1998.

New elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board from 2004 will take place in July this year.

USA President's new drug treatment initiative

John P. Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), on Wednesday unveiled details of President Bush's new three-year, \$600 million plan to expand access to drug treatment across America.

The new initiative creates a voucher program that will complement existing alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs, increasing treatment capacity and access to effective treatment programs. "This initiative offers a new and effective way for the federal government to help people get into recovery," said Director Walters. "We know that treatment works. But we also know that there are too many Americans who, for a variety of reasons, cannot access the treatment they need. By giving people a choice, and the direct means to help connect them with effective treatment, we will be able to more directly help drug users who have recognised their problem. This program will also help treatment providers and the overall drug treatment system by bringing increased accountability into the system."

The new initiative will work by allowing individuals to utilise federal alcohol and drug abuse dollars at all effective treatment organisations. Those individuals will be assessed and receive a voucher to pay for an appropriate level of treatment. Individual states would be required to monitor the outcomes of the voucher program and to make adjustments based on the extent to which improved client outcomes are or are not achieved in a cost-effective manner.

ECAD Regional Director in Latvia:

A portrait - in response to a questionnaire



Aija Kalnaja

level; since 2002 serves as ECAD regional director in Latvia.

At the moment Aija is the sole worker for the ECAD regional office in Latvia.

'City authorities would like to meet ECAD's representatives in order get to know them in person. Our task is to give them this opportunity.' Aija Kalnaja

Main directions of activities - The regional office has been established in order to get a clearer picture of the drug situation in the Baltic countries. From this office support is also given to cities for efforts in combating drugs by providing information, assistance, experience exchange and development of methods. Thus a network of ECAD member-cities in Latvia is being established with Aija's efforts. She also hopes to extend the network throughout the Baltic region.

Drug situation in the region - Drugs are a relatively new anxiety factor for authorities in the Baltic region. There is a generation of politicians, police and teachers that do not have a clear understanding of what threat the scourge of drugs poses to the society. This, while they develop Latvia's anti-drug policies, combat drugs and teach young people. The Latvian government is now accepting ECAD's policy of zero tolerance to drugs.

'I'd like to join my colleague George Zazulin in saying that I would also like ECAD to become a stronger organisation. If we all unite in this aspiration, we can stand firm in our convictions which are so vitally important for the well-being of future generations.' Aija Kalnaja

Partners - ECAD's main partner in Latvia is the Riga Drug Abuse Prevention Centre. This Centre has created a drug abuse prevention network in Riga during a two-year period of activities, which has only been possible with local authorities' support. ECAD and its anti-drug policy has received a warm welcome from Latvian municipalities. This even though alcoholism is considered to be a more relevant and urgent issue.

In Aija's eyes, one of ECAD's main tasks is to help the member cities to get to know each other and to learn from each other's experience which would help not only internal work but also to attract financial resources for activities in anti-drug fieldwork.

Aija's vision for the development of ECAD is for opening regional offices in several European cities. This would further develop the organisation on both regional and international levels.

Russia perceives drug abuse as its biggest threat

The Public Opinion Foundation in Russia has found the public perceives drug abuse, crime and terrorism as the biggest threats to the nation.

The poll questioned 1,500 people in 100 settlements and 600 residents of Moscow in mid-January to name the greatest dangers to the country. 36 percent responded that they were most concerned about drug abuse, 34 percent said crime was their biggest worry, and 30 percent identified terrorism as the greatest threat.

Low living standards, corruption and unemployment were the next biggest worries, the respondents said. The poll had a margin of error of up to 3.6 percent.

Fears of Afghan opium becoming reality

Russian border guards seized 113 kg of heroin on the Tajik-Afghan border on January 20, and stated that the anticipated flood of drugs from Afghanistan was becoming a reality.

A spokesman for the guards, responsible for patrolling 1,300 km of the 1,400 km-long border said that they opened fire on a group of smugglers, who escaped back to Afghanistan in a rubber boat across the Pyandzh river. No one was injured but the smugglers left behind four sacks of heroin.

Over the weekend a further 16 kg of heroin and 200 kg of raw opium, from which heroin is derived, were seized on the frontier, taking total drug seizures in Tajikistan this year to 450 kg, of which over half was heroin.

The guards announced earlier in January that drug seizures for the last year had reached 6.5 tonnes, including a record 4.9 tonnes of heroin. They warned then that Afghan production was reaching a peak after the hot summer, which had led to the massive harvest, and said they expected smuggling to rise.

Impoverished Tajikistan is the route of choice for heroin smugglers from Afghanistan, with more than 65 percent of all Afghan drugs coming through former Soviet Central Asia on their way to Russia and Europe.

Tajikistan's narcotics control agency states that one kilo of heroin is worth a mere \$800 in Afghanistan, rising to \$50,000 in Russia and between \$250,000 and \$300,000 in Western Europe.

Developing transit points for heroin

According to the Macedonian Press Agency, a report in regard to the development of the drug situation in South-Eastern Europe has been presented at the second Meeting of Police Officers that took place in Thessaloniki. It is said in the report that a total of 4-6 tons of heroin per month pass through Turkey to end up in Europe. Based on official figures, Yugoslavia is regarded as one of the developing transit points for all crime networks (prostitution, illegal immigration, drugs, weapons, etc). Port of Bar in Montenegro is described as the main seaport for drugs destined for Italy and Slovenia. Albania is mentioned as the major producer of drugs, mainly heroin and cannabis, in the Western Balkan region.

New anti-drug media program begins in the US

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) on January 24 announced the launch of two new sets of advertisements, premiering during the Super Bowl and pre-game show, designed to further educate Americans about the risks of drug use. Two of the ads aimed at teens are a response to research showing that American youth want to be provided with the facts about marijuana. A second pair of ads will follow up on the groundbreaking spots linking drugs, terror and violence that were released during last year's Super Bowl. The ads are part of the ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, which is designed to help America's youth reject illicit drugs.

The new marijuana spots are part of a hard-hitting campaign that launched in October and aim to provide teens with real-world examples of what can go wrong when they use marijuana. "Pregnancy Test" focuses on teen pregnancy and highlights the fact that marijuana can seriously impair judgement and lead to risk-taking that has serious long-term negative consequences. "Roadside

Memorial" highlights the tragic consequences of drug-impaired driving. The spots, created by McCann-Erickson in conjunction with the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, will also appear on a wide variety of network and cable channels.

The second pair of ads, entitled "Subway" and "Office," were created by Ogilvy and Mather under the umbrella of the successful Drugs and Terror campaign that launched during last year's Super Bowl. Part of a continuing effort to inspire national dialogue about the connection between drugs, terror and violence, the spot illustrates the sobering point that drug use has social consequences far beyond those that affect the individual user and his or her family. The ads challenge potential drug purchasers to examine the wider implications of their actions.

The new ads have been extensively tested with target audiences.

To view the ads or learn more about the Campaign, visit www.mediacampaign.org

Swedish drug seizures increase

Swedish Customs have made seizures of record amounts of certain drugs over 2002 with the most alarming rises in the confiscation of Rohypnol and the stimulant khat.

Swedish customs authorities reported in January that they had seized some 659,000 Rohypnol pills last year, compared with about 25,000 in 2001. Customs officers seized more than 5 tons of the stimulant khat compared with 3.8 tons in 2001, and 146 kilograms of amphetamines compared with 95 kilos the year before.

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The customs service believes that a large portion of the Rohypnol pills seized were not aimed at the Swedish drug market but were destined for Norway. The increase in the total number of drug seizures is believed to be the result of new methods being used for tracking smugglers.

Single parent children have increased risks of injury, morbidity and mortality

Research in Sweden

A recent Swedish research revealed that children brought up in single-parent households experience higher risk of psychiatric illness, suicide, along with narcotic and alcohol addiction, compared with children brought up with both parents in the same household.

Even when controlled for a wide range of demographic and socio-economic circumstances "children of single parents still have increased risks of mortality, severe morbidity, and injury," reported Dr Gunilla Ring-

bäck Weitoft and colleagues at The National Board of Health and Welfare, Stockholm, Sweden.

The investigators assessed overall and cause-specific mortality for 65,085 children with single parents, and 921,257 children with two parents.

The investigators said their findings "are consistent with those of more recent studies in which divorce and living in a single-parent household were shown to have long-term effects."

New ECAD members



Kuldiga
Latvia



Brcko
Bosnia and
Herzegovina



Astrakhan
Russia



Nacka
Sweden

Welcome!

Has your city joined ECAD?



 ECAD is Europe's leading organisation promoting a drug free Europe and representing millions of European citizens. Drug dealing and drug abuse cause enormous problems in Europe. Nations and their citizens are affected by the consequences of drug abuse. ECAD member cities work to develop initiatives and efforts against drug abuse supporting the United Nations Conventions which oppose legalisation and promote policies to eradicate drug abuse worldwide. **Has your city joined ECAD?**

European Cities Against Drugs

ECAD, Stadshuset

105 35 Stockholm, Sweden

Tel. +46-8-5082 93 62 Fax +46-8-5082 94 66

e-mail: ecad@ecad.net www.ecad.net

ECAD Regional office in Russia www.ecad.ru

zazulin@ecad.ru Phone +7-812-328 96 65

ECAD Regional office in Latvia

vilnis.kipens@kurzeme.rcc.lv

Phone +371-7037330 Fax +371-7037331