



## ECAD Conference 2004 – Importance of the family



*Tomas Hallberg, ECAD; Doros Theodorou, Minister for Justice, Cyprus;  
Andreas Petrou, Aglantzia*

The ECAD 11<sup>th</sup> Mayors' conference took place in Cyprus May 20-21, 2004.

With 120 delegates representing 55 cities in 18 countries the annual Mayors' Conference was a success.

ECAD had an honour to welcome Minister for Justice, Mr. Doros Theodorou, who on behalf of the President of Cyprus opened the conference.

This year program developed the general theme "Fighting against drugs – a family issue?" and focused on different aspects of drug prevention and demand/supply reduction. These remain important issues for the discussions within the ECAD.

ECAD would like to thank the municipality of Aglantzia for hosting the conference, for the great share of speakers, for the hospitality shown throughout the conference!

ECAD would also like to thank all speak-

ers and delegates who made this conference an important event of the new ECAD year.

The mayors' conference is the major policy-making forum of the organisation. It meets annually so that elected

representatives of European cities may consider the progress being achieved in the ongoing task of reducing the demand for illegal drugs and reducing the supply of such drugs to our city communities. Even though the conference is a formal event, it is also a great manifestation of our network cooperation and the growing social network!

Two Cypriot cities - Ayia Napa and Latsia, and the Russian city of Azov signed the Stockholm Resolution and joined the network of the ECAD members.

Next year, we will continue our discussions in Oslo. Welcome to ECAD!

*This issue of the ECAD newsletter is fully devoted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Mayors' Conference. Texts of the addresses are available on our website [www.ecad.net](http://www.ecad.net) or through the Head Office at [ecad@ecad.net](mailto:ecad@ecad.net), phone +46 8 508 29 362.*

### Doros Theodorou

*Minister for Justice and Public Order*

The plague of drugs keeps spreading not only because these specific substances exist, they always did. We must first seek the causes of drug abuse in the quality of family and human relations, the existing social structures and generally in the psychological dead-ends of the modern man.

Family, undoubtedly, constitutes one of the decisive factors as regards a person's attitude towards drugs. On one hand, it acts as one of the factors that can contribute to the abuse of drugs but on the other hand, it can be used as a tool and a shield for the prevention of this phenomenon. Therefore, its role can never be underlined enough. The cultivation of conditions of safety and stability for our children as they grow up will allow us to transform this problem into a marginalised social phenomenon.

The Cypriot government, foreseeing the visible danger that threatens us has given high priority to the drafting and implementation of a national policy for the prevention against the abuse and spread of drugs as well as for the treatment and social rehabilitation of drug addicts.

### ★ ECAD CONFERENCE

Aglantzia is located near the capital of Cyprus, Nicosia. It is one of the larger municipalities with a population of 22 thousand people, 7,500 of which are refugees. The natural environment of Aglantzia is unique, being not only endowed with the big lung of Nicosia, Athalassa Forest, but also with more than 45 parks and green spaces. The city hosts the University of Cyprus and the University Campus. Many government buildings, including the Police Headquarters and the International Conference Centre are located in Aglantzia.

★ We talk a lot about new  
integrated Europe – Let's do  
it our vision – Without drugs!

## Bishop of Kition Mr. Chrysostomos

Chairman of KENTHEA



KENTHEA is an all-Cyprus, non-governmental organisation that unites the entire Cyprus, because our Members are the Municipalities' Union, the University of Cyprus, the Youth Board, and 70 other local organisations. You will justifiably ask why we have so many organisations as members. The answer is that we believe that drug problem is a social problem and its solution concerns every Cypriot citizen. Our duty is to organise the whole of our society and to involve it in prevention based on common philosophy in order to send unified mes-

sages. That is why the first thing we did after establishing KENTHEA was to assign offices in the Board of Directors to the Local Government. Thus, the Municipalities' Union and the Communities' Union have been participating in our Committee from the start. The second thing we did was to link the Municipalities' Union with your organisation, European Cities Against Drugs. We participated in the Athens Meeting in 1998 where some of Cyprus' Municipalities have joined your organisation.

That is why we rejoice today, because we see that this collaboration is expanding and becoming fruitful and it has led to this conference.

Meetings like this reinforce our effort to contribute to this joint fight for prevention.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we address ourselves today to fellow combatants in this difficult fight and we wish you sincerely every success. May this be a new beginning for our collaboration for a United Europe free from addicting substances!

## Saulius Chaplinskas

Director of the Lithuanian AIDS Centre

### "AIDS in the family - Lithuanian and European perspectives"

*Highlights: Psychological help to people with HIV/their families; HIV/AIDS in penal establishments; HIV/AIDS prevention in young people; Key directions and programmes of governmental actions to support families with HIV / AIDS*

People with HIV face a lot of psychological problems. Along with everyday troubles specific problems related to this infection occur. Awareness alone that you are carrier of dangerous and lethal virus is a hard stress factor impacting the major functioning levels of a human being: physical, psychological-emotional, social. A variety of pain, stomach upset, skin ailments and sleeping disturbances may appear on the physical level, oppression, despair, anger, low self-esteem - on psychological-emotional level, communication problems with family members and close people, self-isolation, refuge of any activity - on social level. Infected person should get a complex help aimed to reduce the ailments on all these levels.

## Marie Byrne

Founder/Director Aisling Group (Nationwide) and Bradan Foundation, Ireland



*Highlights: Bradan foundation, drug situation in Ireland, methadone maintenance programs vs drug free*

*programs, treatment for people under 20s .*

**Aisling Group Nationwide** is national organisation in Ireland. Founded 18 years ago in response to the growing drug/alcohol problems. Some of its roles include running drug/alcohol abuse prevention programmes for adults/parents nationwide.

We establish drug free policies with sports organisations, schools and the community.

**Bradan Foundation**, founded 5 years ago, is an abstinence based therapeutic recovery programme. This is the only such program in the North East of Ireland. Bradan means salmon in Irish language. Chosen because Salmon swim upstream against the current to get back to their source. For many of the

people who attend us they have a battle against the bureaucracy and lack of services as well as their addictions to get back to having the lives they deserve drug free. We believe that behaviours are learned by people to meet their needs in life and can be unlearned and other more healthy ones developed. Families and friends are also facilitated in this programme. Those around a drug/user are affected by the situation. The mother/father who worry continually what will happen to their child when they are using drugs.

**The cost of the service** in a private residential program in the year 2002 was 6,880 Euro per 6-week programme. A further 800 Euro is paid for aftercare of a two-year period, bringing the total cost to the service user to 7,680 Euro.

**This figure is very close** to the cost to the State of 7,400 Euro per person per annum engaged with the methadone services. At this point it is important to emphasise that 60% of the private centre patients manage to stay drug free for two years and longer after



treatment.

**There are no statistics** on how many methadone users ever becomes drug free.

**Adolescents at this most vulnerable and critical developmental phase of growing towards maturity and responsible independence should not be prescribed methadone or any sedating/mood altering drug except in short-term detoxification. Unfortunately, methadone maintenance, not drug free programmes, is the purpose of Government policy.**

**The fight** against drug/alcohol dependence will be won in the ordinary homes of our countries.

Parents and relevant others have the power to influence in a positive way. We must help them achieve that.

When we buy a car we get a manual. Have a baby and you get nothing. So we need to support each other in our communities to take care of the future of our nations - our youth.

## Jim Corr

Chairman of ECAD

I believe, like Martin Luther King, that "it is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness".

ECAD has been lighting candles across Europe over the past decade. Our cities have been striving, through education and training initiatives, as well as community programmes to reduce the demand for drugs and have been encouraging the police and judicial systems to join with us in a concerted manner so that we can overcome a plague that has been and, continues to be, responsible for more social exclusion in our cities than any other single urban problem.

The Irish EU Presidency will oversee significant developments in relation to the drug issue, with preliminary discussions taking place at present on the next iteration of the EU's drug strategy. The first meeting of national drug co-ordinators, from the 25 members of the newly enlarged Union, will take place in June.

The main targets of the existing EU Strategy 2000 - 2004 are:

1. To reduce significantly, the prevalence of illicit drug-use, particularly among young people under 18 years of age.
2. To reduce substantially, the incidences of drug-related health damage and the number of drug-related deaths
3. To increase substantially the number of successfully treated addicts.
4. To reduce substantially, the availability of illicit drugs.
5. To reduce substantially, the number of drug-related crimes.
6. To reduce substantially, money laundering and illicit trafficking of precursors.

ECAD fully supports these six aspirations and looks forward to the day when that strategy is transposed into concrete actions on the ground throughout the EU.

The Dublin Conference entitled "EU Drugs Strategy - The Way Forward" will address the issue of involving civil society in the development of EU drugs' policy. ECAD is preparing to make a comprehensive submission to the formulation of drug strategy

for the 25 member states of the EU for the period 2005 - 2010.

When the 10 new member states of the EU were formally welcomed to the Union on the 1<sup>st</sup> May last in Dublin, there was much rejoicing.

I was reminded of a most prophetic statement made by the great French writer, Victor Hugo in 1849:

*"A day will come when you, France; you, Italy; you, England; you, Germany; all nations of the Continent, without losing your distinct qualities and glorious individuality, will merge into a higher unity and found the European brotherhood."*

I suggest that the greatest contribution we could make now and, for the foreseeable future towards the concept of "European brotherhood", would be to protect our people, young and old, from being preyed upon by drug barons with their death-inducing products so that Europeans may live life to the full in a drug-free Europe.

## MAYORS' FORUM

### Thorolfur Arnason

Mayor of Reykjavik, Iceland

Iceland can be used as a transit country for smuggling illicit drugs - We pay attention to our customs - We take this risk seriously - Our understanding is: if you give in you will be used.

Iceland has a policy of no tolerance to drugs - In ECAD we find inspiration - We succeeded with our program "Drug Free Iceland" - Fewer start with drugs - But it is a task that we need to take again and again - A never ending story of fight for drug free future for our children.

### Anthony Attard

Mayor of Xaghra, Malta

The family is a smallest cell but the health of the entire body of our society depends on it - Three organisations work with drug abuse prevention in our town - Two church-run organisations and one run by the state - We have got no need to "soften" our fight and legalise the drugs we are fighting against!

### Josef Zammit

Mayor of Pembroke, Malta

22 Maltese municipalities have joined ECAD in order to unite our efforts in combating drugs on our islands - Most of the drugs come via ships - We pay attention first of all to the customs and harbours - The Maltese government sponsors National Agency Against Drugs which has its offices throughout the country - Malta with a population of around 400,000 people is greeting about 1 million tourists every year - Many of who are young people - Some of them bring illicit drugs "for personal use" from their home countries - It is an illustration of how the drug situation in the EU affects all the member states - The enlarged EU makes us even more aware of this interdependence - We propose a conference "European Islands Against Drugs" for all the ECAD member islands with similar problems.

### Margareta Olofsson,

Vice-Mayor, Stockholm, Sweden

We have started "Mobilisation against drugs"- Our task for today is to evaluate what we have done, what works and what

does not work, are the money being used in the right way - Many projects are going on in Stockholm, some of them are being carried out in co-operation with NGO, including organisation for former drug addicts -- Another example - The project "Restaurants against drugs", where we cooperate with restaurants' owners who wish to educate their own personnel in drug-related issues - Last summer we went with our anti-drug message to festivals for young people and had a great success in reaching to the youths - This summer we will go to beaches!

### Andreas Petrou

Mayor of Aglantzia, Cyprus

"I would like to underline that mission and the objectives of the only organisation in Europe which unites cities under the motto "Europe Free From Drugs" - European Cities Against Drugs - is an important connecting link for co-ordinating the fight against drugs. It is therefore necessary for our organisation to become stronger and stronger!"

## Knut Even Lindsjorn

Vice Chairman of the Health and Social Committee, Oslo, Norway



Knut Even Lindsjorn and Andreas Petrou

My Lord Mayor, dear friends and colleagues

On behalf of the Mayor of Oslo, Per Ditlev-Simonsen, I take great pleasure in inviting you to attend the Mayors' conference in Oslo May 26-27, 2005.

Oslo has been an active participant in ECAD since the organisation was established in 1993, and was one of the 21 European cities to sign the Stockholm Resolution in April 1994. Throughout this period we have been a member of the Advisory Board, and have benefited greatly from our association with the network of European towns and cities in the fight against the problems caused by narcotics.

The Mayors' Conference in Oslo will focus on the theme

"The narcotics industry and its vic-

tims: a restrictive policy combined with humane care provision".

For more information please visit [www.ecad.net](http://www.ecad.net).

## Ernesto A. Randolphi

Montana state university

"The science of community based drug prevention programs": Overview of Risk and Protective factors theory

- "We do not to say that 25% of students use marijuana, we say that 75% do not! This is the message we want to get across - that the majority does not use drugs".

### • Prevention works:

Billings, Montana (pop. 100,000)

Smoking in the past 30 days

1997 42%

2001 16%

- California determined that for every \$1 spent on prevention, they saved \$3.62 in medical care costs

- To every complex problem there is a simple solution... and it's wrong!

## Tsveta Raycheva

Ministry of Health/National Council of Narcotic Substances, Bulgaria

"National Anti-Drug Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria 2003 - 2008: A Mayor Step Forward to Meeting European and International Standard"

## Torgny Peterson

Ass. Director of ECAD

### Four Things to Make a Difference:

1. **Knowledge** - About the problem we are facing - a specified knowledge about our own city - it does not help much to compare a Scandinavian city and a city in the south of Europe.

2. **Strategy** - What do we do in our city to fight illicit drugs - we need to be more efficient in our network with spreading information in different languages

3. **Co-ordination** - To reach out to a large number of people.

4. **Leadership** - We should not be afraid of getting people to lead, someone who will be responsible for the job - not "politicians" but "operational" people who have a knowledge.

ECAD has all the necessary prerequisites to start an education for operational people - Educational program on internet which can be connected to a university and give academic credits. This can burst forth the effect of ECAD.

Fighting against drugs is a matter of a political will. Therefore politicians need to be educated. And we should find a good way to do this.

★ [WWW.ECAD.NET](http://WWW.ECAD.NET)

This issue of the ECAD newsletter is fully devoted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Mayors' Conference. Texts of the addresses are available on [www.ecad.net](http://www.ecad.net) or through the ECAD Head Office at [ecad@ecad.net](mailto:ecad@ecad.net), Phone +46 8 508 29 362

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 **families'** well being.



**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](mailto:ecad@ecad.net) [www.ecad.net](http://www.ecad.net)

ECAD Regional office in Russia [www.ecad.ru](http://www.ecad.ru)  
[zazulin@ecad.ru](mailto:zazulin@ecad.ru) Phone +7-812-328 96 65

ECAD Regional office in Latvia  
[vilnis.kipens@kurzeme.rcc.lv](mailto:vilnis.kipens@kurzeme.rcc.lv)  
Phone +371-7037330 Fax +371-7037331