



ECAD Annual Event - 12th Mayors' Conference



Left to right: Saulius Chaplinskas, Lithuanian AIDS Centre; Andre Withalm, Prof. Heiko Schneitler, members of ECAD Advisory Board, Dusseldorf

The 12th ECAD Mayors conference was held in Oslo on the 26-27th of May 2005. Interest to the event was very big: more than 200 delegates came, representatives of 53 city administrations from 19 different countries were present, 12 Mayors and 25 Deputy Mayors visited Oslo.

The Conference is the supreme decision making organ of ECAD when the leaders of the most active European municipalities come together to decide on anti-drug policy.

The event was honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway and His Excellency Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, the President of Iceland.

This year the Conference was devoted to the narcotics industry and its victims and focused on restrictive policy and human care provision.

Per Ditlev-Simonsen, the Mayor of Oslo opened the Conference with a speech. He particularly remarked that this year Norway

celebrates its 100th anniversary of the peaceful dissolution of the Union with Sweden.

Oslo municipality generously provided ECAD guests with quaint premises of the Bristol hotel, a lavish dinner at the Oslo City Hall, excursions to Drammen and a visit to Alcohol and Drug Addiction Centre. The guests discussed possibilities for tertiary and secondary prevention initiatives in Norway during their visit to Ila Rehabilitation and Outreach Centre.

ECAD expresses its gratitude to Oslo municipality for exceptionally organised hosting. We would like to thank also our participants for profound and intense discussions!

Based on the thriving Icelandic experience a new drug prevention programme "Youth in Europe" was introduced.

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Eastern branch of ECAD created in Yekaterinburg

ECAD Conference "Anti Drug Policy management in municipal education: experience, difficulties and perspectives" has taken place in Yekaterinburg on the 22-23 of April 2005.

Yekaterinburg is one of the Russian ECAD-network cities and it is also the capital of the Ural Federal Region of Russia. More than 120 municipalities and 14 Subjects of the Russian Federation have been working in Yekaterinburg for 2 weeks. The outcome of the conference was a special Resolution, based on the shared knowledge about denarcotisation of the civil society.

The Resolution contains detailed proposals to the Russian president and the government on Russian anti-drug policy improvement. It is also an example of public participation in the Russian State Affairs. In order to improve information and experience exchange of municipal authorities it was decided to create a new Eastern Branch of the Russian ECAD Office with the centre in Yekaterinburg.

★ NEW MEMBERS!



ECAD welcomes
City of Olbia,
Italy!



ECAD welcomes
City of Silistra,
Bulgaria!



ECAD welcomes
City of Vratza,
Bulgaria!

Per Ditlev-Simonsen,

Mayor of Oslo

We are living in a time characterised by growing variety and disparity. During the last decade people seem to have got used to an increase of social and individual problems caused by drugs. And this development combined with an offensive alliance that persistently promotes ideological arguments for legalisation of narcotics dims and blurs peoples' sense of right and wrong, thus giving the organised criminals an advantageous lead on the public and the authorities. That is why it is so important to hold on to some basic values. One of those values we find in ECAD's uncompromising fight against drugs.

Oslo has during the years gradually developed an open public drug arena where a limited number of people are using drugs publicly. From my position as mayor of this magnificent city and as a human being, this is no longer acceptable.

For these reasons, ladies and gentlemen, and for many others, time is overdue to intensify the European and national combat against drugs, which is the main theme of this conference. ECAD stands for organised firm attitudes against drugs in public and on the individual level. The organisation represents a powerful alternative to organised liberalism over drug distribution and use, thus counterbalancing the tendency of gradually more sloppy attitudes among ordinary people and some notorious academic high-flyers who by definition

should know better.

In my mind, ladies and gentlemen, the combat against drugs takes place at two levels, the public and the individual. The two levels involve different means and methods, but both imply a fight for freedom from drugs and freedom to alternatives to them.

On the public level we want freedom from organised crime, from lethal traps for our children and adolescents, from harsh, brutal and clandestine distributing chains of all kinds - and freedom to seek decency, moral consensus and ethical standards, freedom to perfect our democracy through active participation and freedom to look the future in the eyes without being pushed back by destructive forces.

On the individual level we want freedom from ruined physical and mental health, sudden death, social and individual misfortune and deprivation, freedom from sorrow over lost children and relatives - and freedom to reach for happiness and meaning unchained from addiction and criminal rulers.

In other words, freedom means to be untied from something you fear and detest. Only then can you be free to seek for what is good for you.

I want you to know that this is not only our city's policy - it is also very much my personal feeling and the reason I am so engaged in ECAD's goals.

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It is a scientifically proven extension of the former project (1997 - 2002 "Drug-Free Iceland"), which succeeded in decreasing drug abuse among young people in Iceland. The programme is still being worked on, but it is meant to be the basis for 5-year international co-operation work between cities and countries of Europe.



Left to right: Olafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland; Steinunn Valdis Oskarsdóttir, Mayor of Reykjavik; Per Ditlev-Simonsen, Mayor of Oslo

At the 12th Mayors Conference 3 more cities signed the Stockholm Resolution, so ECAD welcomes its new membercities - Vratza and Silistra of Bulgaria and Olbia of Italy! This means that we have now nine cities in the ECAD Balkan Network and are looking forward for the fruitful co-operation!

Next year the Annual ECAD conference will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Olafur Ragnar Grímsson,

President of Iceland

The narcotics industry has succeeded in establishing a mounting presence in our midst, first slowly and without gaining serious attention, almost as if it were providing additional glamour, entertainment in our lives; and then with determination and strength, organisational brilliance, employing force and illegal weapons - now using the means of modern telecommunications, mobile phones and personalised information technology to create a network of trade and enforcement which has become almost overwhelming in its effectiveness and scope.

The openness of our borders, the free movement of people from one country to another, certainly a laudable aim and a blessing for many, has also provided the narcotics industry with a new mobility,

opportunities for advances which did not exist before.

Yes, it is indeed a war, not in the traditional sense, fought by soldiers, air raids or tanks. But a war reflecting the technology of our times because the means are more modern, the boundaries more elusive, a war creating victims who are also mostly young.

How do we respond?

In Reykjavik, the capital of my country, an elaborate programme of information and guidance in schools and also aimed towards all the family members has brought improvements. Scientific studies are now available, showing in concrete terms the scope of our success.

Our cooperation and continuous dialogue is of paramount importance because the

enemy is unfortunately growing in strength, becoming more global and more effective, amassing great wealth from the suffering of others and arming itself to escape our efforts.

The goals that led to the formation of this organised effort, European Cities Against Drugs, are therefore now more urgent than at the outset, the need for our co-operation more burning.

I consider it a privilege as well as a duty to be a part of your endeavours and I hope that we will be able to lend each other a helping hand. Let our actions therefore reflect that only by advancing together can we hope to drive this new threat from our cities.

Jim Corr,

Chairman of ECAD Advisory Board

ECAD was founded in 1994 as a counter-force against the drug legislation and harm reduction movements.

A number of European mayors decided to unite in a fight for a drug-free Europe for their citizens. Among the first cities to join were Stockholm, Berlin, Paris, London and Oslo.

These founding members were fearful of the social tendency to acquiescence in the drug abuse culture, which was a feature of Europe then and unfortunately continues to be a characteristic of too many European cities today.

We can look back over the past twelve years and see the social changes and the tolerance of illegal drug abuse, which has become common practice in some cities.

There were proposals when ECAD was founded as there are today for legalising cannabis. Some cities give heroin to heroin addicts and others have opened special

municipal rooms where drug addicts can inject illegal drugs while the municipal carers look on.

The decision-makers who pursue such policies have given up hope and faith in people.

ECAD firmly believes that it is wrong to wash our hands in a "Pilate-like" fashion and abandon human beings, our fellow-citizens of Europe and allow them and facilitate them to wallow in a life filled with life-destroying drugs.

We must never give up the hope and the determination that a fellow being may be assisted to live a delightful drug-free life. To place a young person in a maintenance programme with a lifelong intake of drugs, even if supervised by a doctor, is to give up the hope and abandon the determination of conquering the drug abuse addiction.

When ECAD speak of a drug-free Europe there are many spokespersons that reject it as being a Utopian objective.

If I had told you fifteen years ago that the European Championship in Horse Jumping would be organised in July 2005 by a group of former addicts in a treatment centre in northern Italy – San Patrignano – I would probably be accused of being in cloud cuckoo land.

San Patrignano is living proof that it is possible to get back to a life without drugs and to do so completely without the help of drugs.

You need to visit San Patrignano to understand its commitment to people. You need to see with your own eyes the fantastic things people produce.

So instead of becoming increasingly tolerant our cities must renew their commitments to protect our citizens from the devastating problems which illegal drugs pose for individuals, for families and for municipal authorities.

PANEL OF MAYORS

Per Ditlev –Simonsen,

Mayor of Oslo, Norway

We have extensive co-operation with police on national and local levels, co-operation on the European level...

We closely cooperate with the NGOs, the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross... But we are not reaching our targets in reaching the addicts out from their lives and this is disappointing. Obviously we are doing the insufficient job on the preventive side.

Even if we do not believe in the drug-free Europe we have to work for it, to maintain this goal for a drug-free society...

Paula Kokkonen,

Mayor for Social Work and Public Health, Helsinki, Finland

Our main goal is to prevent drug use. Drugs are prescribed in huge amounts, they are also necessary. We answer the problems of today with the tools of yesterday. People should pay more attention to younger children. Something has to be touched at the emotional level to change the behaviour...

Olga Kaverina,

Federal Service for Drug Control, police captain, Astrachan, Russia

We have to respond in 2 ways:

- Through tough measures from the police side;
- Working on the preventive side.

The most widespread illness of the 21-century is depression. Depression and drugs are closely connected...

We have to work with families to prevent the undesired pregnancies to preclude the depressive, suicidal behaviour that is the basis for many drug-addicts...

Boris Spitsyn,

Vice Mayor of Veliky Novgorod, Russia

ECAD goals are attainable, but this implies continuous efforts. Drug-industry is well organised and municipalities have not come up with a common recipe yet.

However, drug-connected crime-level in Veliky Novgorod has diminished up to 50%, heroin is leaving the city...

Speeches of the participants are available on our website www.ecad.net or at the Stockholm Office ecad@ecad.net, phone: +46 8 50829 362

Yevgeny Royzman,

president of the Anti-Drug Fund in Yekaterinburg, member of the Russian DUMA



Yevgeny Royzman, Anti-Drug Fund president; Tomas Hallberg, ECAD director

Anti-Drug Fund has introduced a paging system: "You page us – we incarcerate the drug-dealer!" During the first month we got more than 3500 messages. So, we have an immense database available. We have succeeded so far that it was impossible to buy drugs in Yekaterinburg in the beginning of 2003.

The best criterion for the successful fight against drugs is the death- and overdose-curve going down close to zero.

Russian drug-liberal policy starting May 12, 2004 has allowed drug-dealers to carry up to 10 single injection doses in the pocket. As a consequence of that number of deaths has doubled in Russia and increased 8 times in Yekaterinburg. This is the result of liberal anti-drug policy.

New master programme

for anti-drug policy co-ordinators

ECAD Centre for anti-drug policy in St.Petersburg is promoting a new Master programme for anti-drug policy co-ordinators.

The course is named Narcoconflictology (No 040300) and it is being taught at the philosophic faculty of the St.Petersburg State University, Russia. The University rector, L.A. Verbitskaya included it into the University curriculum by a special order:

The ECAD/St.Petersburg Anti-Drug Policy Centre was opened in the University premises situated in 7/9, University Naberezhnaya str. That was done in compliance with Agreement on February 12, 2001 counteracting the spread of narcotic substances (drugs) between the non-profit organisation ECAD and St.Petersburg State University. With the aim of the Centre promotion, and scientific and professional development of the University, I order:

- To ensure implementation of the Master Programme "Narcoconflictology" and make use of the University resources to lecture within this programme.
- To develop a statute concerning the ECAD/St.Petersburg State University International Anti-Drug Policy Centre by the 1-st of September 2005.
- To append the earlier disposed Centre premises to the address 7/9, University Naberezhnaya.

The first six students graduate in summer 2005. Education possibilities in English are now being considered.

For more information about the programme please contact our Stockholm Office ecad@ecad.net, phone +46 8 50829 362, or visit our Russian website www.ecad.ru

Settimo Nizzi,

Mayor of Olbia

The undersigned Administration wholly supports the political line of the Italian Government which, through the National Anti Drug Department, undertakes as an objective to follow, not to maintain the drug addict in his state of dependence, but to his effective rehabilitation, also through the entrance of the same addict in therapeutic communities.

All this with the aim of combating in the most efficient way the criminal organisations which supply narcotic substances, so as to eliminate any possible hypothesis of any legalisation of the use of such substances, the cultivation, the production, the possession, the purchase, and the sale of cannabis.

★ ECAD CONFERENCE

For this reason we favour the elimination of every ambiguous distinction between drugs which are "heavy" or "light"; so as to give more support to the rehabilitation communities, reinforcing their intervention even at the penitentiary level to support those inmates who intend to get out of the tunnel of drug addiction.

Olbia, with its strategic position is one of the most important crossroads of the commercial and tourist traffic of Sardinia and Italy and therefore as a consequence resulting in an easy contact point with national and international markets which favours the spreading of narcotic substances.

In Olbia, as in Italy, the use of heroin is at a high level, but what is more alarming is the consumption of cocaine, which has gone from an "elite" drug to a drug of mass consumption. As for the use of cannabis and its derivatives, here the number of users is

very high. From a research carried in secondary school institutions in 2003 it has emerged that at least 50% of the students interviewed show a positive attitude towards the use of "light" drugs.

The actions to be undertaken to combat the drug phenomenon require strategies which are able to:

- Promote a culture, which excludes the search for drug use experiences, proposing adequate values;
- Prevent and inform, to orientate on the damage and dangers associated with the use of narcotics;
- Suppress the traffic and dealing, be it upon national and international levels, with particular reference to the transit countries and producers;
- Rehabilitate those who make use of drugs.

In this regard, the Municipality of Olbia in order to give greater impetus to the combating of drug abuse, together with the co-operation of the Italian government, has decided to adhere to the European Cities Against Drugs and to participate with its own delegation to the tasks of the 12th ECAD Conference.



Olbia delegation, left to right: Pietro Luciano, Giulia Spano, Maria Antoinetta Malduca, Mateo Sartori.

For the complete versions of speeches, please, visit our website www.ecad.net

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 **humane** well being.



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?

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