

Addressing Europe's Drug Problem: *Combating Drug Trafficking and Substance Misuse*



Wednesday 28th October 2015

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,
Brussels



Addressing Europe's Drug Problem: Combating Drug Trafficking and Substance Misuse

Overview

According to UNODC's World Drug Report 2015, it is estimated that a total of 246 million people around the world between the ages of 15 and 64 years have used an illicit drug in 2013. Although drug use has remained stable over the recent years, we must consider that around 27 million people are problem drug users (PDU), suffering from drug use disorders and drug dependence: 12.19 million of those problem drug users inject drugs, and an estimated 1.65 million of those injecting drugs were living with HIV in 2013.

In the European Union, almost 1 out of 4 Europeans (80 million adults) have tried illicit drugs at some point of their lives, as stated by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction's (EMCDDA) EU Drug Report 2015. The most commonly used drug is cannabis with over 78 million users, while cocaine and amphetamines have been tried by 15 million and 12 million people respectively. Opiates such as heroin are used by an estimated 1.3 million Europeans and are responsible for a large share of mortality and morbidity resulting from drug use in Europe.

Drug use remains one of the major causes of mortality through overdose and drug-related diseases, accidents, violence and suicide. The EU estimate for drug overdose deaths in 2013 is a minimum of 6,100 deaths compared to a ballpark 187,100 drug-related deaths worldwide. Also, the most recent estimate suggests that about 1,700 people died of HIV/AIDS attributable to injecting drug use in Europe in 2010, and that there have been 769 notifications of new AIDS cases related to drug abuse in 2013.

Another cause of growing concern is the rapid spread of new psychoactive substances (NPS) - defined as new substances which have not yet been classified under one of the international drug conventions - in particular amongst young people. Over the past years there has been an unprecedented increase in the number, type and availability of new psychoactive substances being consumed by young people with a total of 101 of NPS reported for the first time in the EU in 2014. NPS are regularly labelled as 'legal highs' but often contain unfamiliar compounds that may considerably increase the potential harms for users whilst also making it more difficult for law enforcement authorities to control.

Drug abuse and drug-related issues can impact society on multiple levels and place a significant burden on public health and public safety. Although studies have shown that most deaths amongst PDUs are premature and avoidable, only 1 out of 6 PDUs in the world has access to treatment as different countries are not able to provide the necessary services required such as prevention, treatment and care of drug use disorders and their health consequences. Thus, increasing harm reduction interventions and promoting efficient rehabilitation services are key elements that must be taken into consideration when developing any comprehensive drug strategy.

This International Symposium provides a timely opportunity for practitioners and stakeholders across Europe to discuss the latest challenges and consider the next steps needed to win the fight against illicit drug trafficking and substance misuse through holistic, multi-level and cross-border approaches. Public Policy Exchange welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.



Effective implementation of a new legal framework will be essential to ensuring that the European Union and its Member States can respond in a timely manner to the threats to public health and law enforcement posed by NPS."

Wolfgang Götz, EMCDDA, Director
January 2015

Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre
Avenue du Boulevard 17
1210 Brussels
Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ **Assess the current EU framework on illicit drugs and new psychoactive substances**
- ✓ **Discuss law enforcement measures promoted at EU level to fight against drug trafficking**
- ✓ **Evaluate treatment and harm reduction measures as well as prevention strategies to reduce drug consumption**
- ✓ **Share alternative approaches to fight substance misuse and drug trafficking**

Who Should Attend?

- National Police Agencies
- Ministries of Interiors
- Border Control Agencies
- Rehabilitation Centres
- Drug Addiction Centres
- Research Institutes
- Pharmaceutical Industry
- Immigration Advisers
- Employee Relations Advisers
- Legal Criminal Advisers
- Campaigning Organisations
- National Health Employers
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Police and Fire Service
- National Drug Research Communities
- Central Government Departments and Bodies
- Regulatory Bodies
- Citizens' Advice and Third Sector Practitioners
- Academics
- Public Health Authorities
- Ministries of Health
- Social Services
- International Associations
- Public Health Agencies
- Hospitals
- Homelessness Assessment and Prevention Officers
- Housing Associations
- Tenants and Residents' Associations
- Local Strategic Partnerships
- Neighbourhood Renewal Teams
- Social Exclusion Officers
- Health and Safety Executives
- Chemical Industry
- Fire Brigades
- Civil Protection Secretariats
- Coast Guard Services

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Programme

09:15	Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:00	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10	The Current European Framework on Illicit Drugs and New Psychoactive Substances <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following Up on the EU Drugs Strategy: Evaluating Control Measures and Member States' Actions• Analysing the EU Early Warning System Efficiency• Monitoring Drug Trends and Developments, Assessing the Risk of NPS• Promoting City-level Drugs Policy• Recommendations for Future Policy Action
10:40	First Round of Discussions
11:10	Morning Coffee Break
11:30	Tackling Drug Trafficking Across Europe: Discussing Law Enforcement Measures and Emerging Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tackling Drug Production and Trafficking: Strengthening International and Regional Coordination and Cooperation amongst EU countries and other Stakeholders• The Internet and the Deep Web: A Vast Marketplace for Drugs and NPS• Matching an Evolving Drug Market: Developing New Instruments and Policies to Tackle the New Challenges Posed by New Substances and 'Legal Highs'• New Threats and Realities in Preventing and Addressing the World Drug Problem
12:00	Second Round of Discussions
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	Reducing Drug Consumption: Promoting Specialised Drug Treatment Services and Education Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing High Quality Prevention Policies: The European Drug Prevention Quality Standards• Addressing Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies: Promoting Substance Use Treatment and Rehabilitation Policies and Practices• Targeting Youth: Developing Prevention Programmes in Schools and Nightlife Settings• Recommendations for Future Action
14:00	Third Round of Discussions
14:30	Afternoon Coffee Break
14:50	Fighting Substance Misuse and Drug Trafficking through Alternative Approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examples of Successful National/Regional Drug Strategies• Implementing Effective Harm Reduction Strategies• Rethinking Drug Prohibition and Criminalisation Approaches• Recommendations and Conclusions
15:20	Fourth Round of Discussions
15:50	Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
16:00	Networking Reception
16:30	Close

** Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice*

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 28th October 2015
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels



Speakers Include:

- ✓ **Fay Watson**, Secretary General, EURAD / Western European Representative, Civil Society Taskforce, UNGASS 2016

Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Rethinking Europe's Asylum System: Towards Better Protection and Equal Standards
15th September 2015
- ✓ Copyright in Europe: Adapting to the New Digital Reality
16th September 2015
- ✓ Young People and Sexual Health: Towards Improved Standards for Sexual Education in Europe
21st October 2015
- ✓ Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Europe: Creating Sustainable Employment and Growth
24th September 2015
- ✓ Smart Cities: Supporting an Innovative and Sustainable Development of Urban Areas
27th October 2015
- ✓ Addressing Europe's Drug Problem: Combating Drug Trafficking and Substance Misuse
28th October 2015

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