

The EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020:

Combating Illicit Trafficking and Substance Misuse



Wednesday 18th September 2013

The Silken Berlaymont Hotel
Brussels



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Overview

A joint EU drugs report released by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Europol describes a market *"which is increasingly dynamic, innovative and quick to react to challenges and one which requires an equally dynamic, innovative and agile response across Europe"*. The repercussions on EU Member States and Norway amount to between 6,300 and 8,400 drug-induced deaths every year.

The EU Drugs Action Plans (2005-2012) have been successful insofar as they have reduced drug-related harm such as HIV/AIDS infections and drug-related deaths. However, an evaluation of the Action Plan (2005-2008) by the European Commission itself stated that *"drug use at EU level had remained high, despite stabilisation or a small decline of the use of some illicit drugs"*. The Commission's new agenda prioritises better data collection from Member States, innovative approaches to fighting illicit drug trafficking and misuse, addressing the phenomenon of legal highs and developing early detection and intervention schemes. It will work jointly with the EMCDDA, Europol and Eurojust to fight drug trafficking and consumption in Europe in the years to come.

With the launch of the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020, hopes are high that a renewed commitment to address the gaps in capacity building across the EU will have a positive impact. This special 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.

"We will need to continue to adjust our current practices if they are to remain relevant to emerging trends and patterns of use in both new drugs and old. The new EU drugs strategy 2013-20 will need to address a drugs problem in a state of flux and a dynamic and rapidly-evolving drugs market."

- Director, EMCDDA, May 2013

"International drug trafficking remains the principal activity of most organised crime groups. They are adapting to new criminal opportunities and changing smuggling methods and routes to evade law enforcement, and we have noticed an increase in the exploitation of legitimate commercial transportation options, such as containers, aircraft, couriers and postal services. This allows drugs to be moved through multiple transit points making them harder to intercept. Internet technology has also emerged as an important facilitator and is commonly used in the marketing and sale of drugs."

- Director, Europol, January 2013

Venue and Accommodation

**The Silken Berlaymont Hotel,
11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne
1000 Brussels - Belgium**

In the heart of the European district you will find the Silken Berlaymont Brussels. It offers warm hospitality and an exclusive setting, combining fine architecture with comfort and elegance.



Why Attend?

- ✓ **Examine the new EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 and assess the progress made thus far**
- ✓ **Discuss the issue of drug demand and supply in Europe with stakeholders**
- ✓ **Explore innovative and unconventional approaches in fighting drug trafficking and misuse to underpin the new EU Drugs Strategy**

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 EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lessons learned from the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-2012• Assessing Member States' feedback on, and implementation of, previous EU policy measures• Discussing more effective coordination between EU institutional and non-institutional actors' activities in the field of illicit drugs• The role of new communication technologies in the fight against illegal drug trafficking and misuse• Recommendations
10:40	First Round of Discussions
11:10	Morning Coffee Break
11:30	Reducing the Demand <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following up on the Drug Prevention and Information Programme (DPIP)• Preventing drug use through early detection and intervention schemes• Discussing the effectiveness of substitution treatments to reduce drug dependence• Advantages and disadvantages of internet-based drug treatment interventions (DTIs)• Collecting information on quality standards and benchmarks in drug demand reduction: what is the future for the EQUUS project?
12:00	Second Round of Discussions
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	Reducing Drug Supply <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening EU cooperation with international drug enforcement bodies• Europol-Eurojust-EMCDDA joint efforts in combating large-scale drug trafficking operations• Discussing the effectiveness of the Prevention of and Fight Against Crime Programme (ISEC): What will come next?• Examples of successful national drug strategies• Responding to the growing number of unregulated synthetic drugs: the phenomenon of "legal highs"• Recommendations
14:00	Third Round of Discussions
14:40	Afternoon Coffee Break
15:00	Innovative Approaches in Fighting Illicit Drugs Trafficking and Misuse <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involving civil society in the implementation of EU drugs policy: the Civil Society Forum on Drugs and the European Action on Drugs• Fighting the black market of drugs with alternative drug policies rather than prohibition: the example of the Spanish Cannabis Social Clubs• Decriminalisation approaches• Recommendations for future policy developments
15:30	Fourth Round of Discussions
16:00	Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
16:10	Networking Reception
16:40	Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 18th September 2013
Time: 10:00am – 4:40pm
Venue: The Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels



Speakers Include

- ✓ **Dana Spinant**, Head of Unit, Anti-Drugs Policy, DG JUST, European Commission (invited)
- ✓ **Fay Watson**, Secretary General, Europe Against Drugs (EURAD) (confirmed)
- ✓ **Wolfgang Gotz**, Director, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (invited)
- ✓ **Bob Keizer**, Senior Drug Policy Advisor, Trimbos Institute, The Netherlands (confirmed)
- ✓ **Bruce de Ruyver**, Professor, Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy (IRCP), Ghent University (invited)
- ✓ **Prof. Dr. Dirk J. Korff**, Professor, Psychology and Criminology, Bongers Institute of Criminology, University of Amsterdam (invited)
- ✓ **Dr. Frederik Polak**, Psychiatrist and Board Member, The Netherlands Drug Policy Foundation (confirmed)

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