

**Western European Civil Society Regional
Consultation Event: United Nations General
Assembly Special Session on Drug Policy
(2016)**

Monday 5th October 2015

Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Rue Froissart 36, 1040,
Brussels

Agenda

This consultation event was undertaken during the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs Meeting which took place between 5-6 October 2015 in Brussels and which was hosted by the European Commission.

The EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs is an expert group of the European Commission, composed of around 40 NGO's from across Europe.

The consultation event was held in an interactive style with NGOs picking one area of specialisation and working with others to identify what could be done better, any models of best practice that could be implemented and what outcomes they would like from the UNGASS process.

The areas of specialiation that the group was consulted on mirrored the priority areas of the UNGASS 2016 process:

- Drugs and Health
- Drugs and Crime
- Drugs and Alternative Development
- Human Rights, Women, Children and Communities
- New Challenges, Threats and Realities

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON DRUGS
PLENARY SESSION, BRUSSELS, 5-6 OCTOBER 2015

| CSF member | Representative | Origin |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Ana Liffey Drug Project (ALDP) | Marcus Keane | Dublin |
| Association Diogenis – Drug Policy Dialogue in South Eastern Europe | Athanasios Apostolou | Athens |
| Association Française pour la réduction des Risques (AFR) | Jean-Marc Priez | Paris |
| Celebrate Recovery | Borislav Goic | Sarajevo |
| Citywide | Anna Quigley | Dublin |
| Coalition Internationale Sida (CIS) – Coalition PLUS | Ricardo Fuertes | Lisbon |
| De Regenboog Groep – Correlation Network | Katrin Prins-Schiffer | Amsterdam |
| Deutsche Hauptstelle fuer Suchtfrage (DHS) | Christina Rummel | Hamm |
| Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) | Erika Matuizaite | Vilnius |
| Europe Against Drugs (EURAD) | Fay Watson | Brussels |

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| European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) | Raminta Stuikyte | Vilnius |
| European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) | David Oliver | Milan |
| European Association of Professionals working in the Drug Field (Itaca) | Edoardo Polidori | Forlì |
| European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD) | Erik Leijonmarck | Stockholm |
| European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) | Camille Jannel | Paris |
| European Institute of Studies on Prevention (IREFREA) | María Angeles Duch Moya | Palma de Mallorca |
| European Treatment Centers for Drug Addiction Euro-TC | Thomas Legl | Vienna |
| Federación Andaluza ENLACE | Jorge Ollero Perán | Sevilla |
| Fédération Addiction | Laurene Collard | Paris |
| Fédération Bruxelloise des Institutions pour Toxicomanes – FEDITO BXL | Sébastien Alexandre | Brussels |
| Forum Droghe | Susanna Ronconi | Rome |
| Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe (FDFE) | Christian Mirre | Brussels |

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| Fundación Atenea | Inmaculada Gómez Ortiz | Madrid |
| Healthy Options Project Skopje (HOPS) | Vlatko Dekov | Skopje |
| Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU) | Peter Sarosi | Budapest |
| I Can Live Coalition (ICL) | Laura Bliujiene | Vilnius |
| Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis (ICSRA) | Fabio Bernabei | Reykjavik |
| Institute for Research and Development "Utrip" | Matej Košir | Ljubljana |
| International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) | Marie Nougier | London |
| International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA) | Maria Phelan | London |
| Norwegian Policy Network on Alcohol and Drugs | Stig Erik Sørheim | Oslo |
| Organisation Internationale Dianova | Lucia Goberna Lehmann | Madrid |
| PARSEC Consortium | Ingo Stöckel | Rome |
| Piaget Agency for Development (APDES) | Jose Barbosa | Porto |
| Polish Drug Policy Network | Agnieszka Sieniawska- | Warsaw |

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| | Bogumil | |
| Romanian Harm Reduction Network (RHRN) | Dragoş Petru Roşca | Bucharest |
| San Patrignano Community | Monica Barzanti | Bologna |
| Scottish Drug Forum Ltd | David Liddell | Edinburgh |
| Stichting AIDS Foundation East West (AFEW) | Corie Leifer | Amsterdam |
| Stichting European Council of Drug Helplines (FESAT) | Tom Evenepoel | Brussels |
| Union of Entities, Associations and Institutions related to Drugs Use Care (UNAD) | Pedro Quesada Arroyo | Malaga |
| Women's Organisations Committee on Alcohol and Drug Issues, WOCAD | Leena Haraké | Stockholm |
| World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD) | Per Johansson | Stockholm |
| Youth Organisations for Drug Action (YODA) | Iga Katarzyna Jeziorska | Warsaw |

Report From The Event

The participants are randomly divided in 5 different break-out groups. Those groups work in parallel on one of the five topics, focusing on priorities and what can be achieved at the UNGASS. The following results from the groups are presented at the plenary.

Drugs and Alternative Development:

- Importance of working with affected communities including farmers and indigenous groups
- Importance of adequate sequencing in alternative development programmes, and in framing these approaches as part of a development oriented approach also focusing on access to markets, the protection of the environment, the development of infrastructure, etc.
- Issue of development area often viewed as an area which is restricted to the global south. But even here in Europe, some communities have been taken over by the drug trade in the poorest areas we should be *"looking at poverty in the broader sense is a key way of seeing how things can be done better"*
- Promote alternative legal markets for internationally controlled substances, for example for pharmaceutical uses of these substances
- Focus on promoting the resilience and solidarity of communities
- Develop new indicators around human development, and evaluate alternative development programmes based on a long-term approach
- Link the drug policy debates with the sustainable development goals including better engagement with UNDP
- End of aerial of fumigation
- Address the drugs markets in economic terms and look at alternatives
- Make EU funding conditional to a human rights approach – refuse to fund any programmes focused on aerial fumigation and other harmful approaches

Drugs and Health

- Greater need for funding across all the range of interventions including prevention, harm reduction, treatment and care, recovery and rehabilitation. Especially for community groups.
- Greater involvement of affected populations including people who use drugs, families, and recovered users
- Ensure increased focus on co-morbidities
- Need to link human rights and health
- Improved access to harm reduction and low-threshold services
- Focus on reducing inequalities in regard to access to treatment particularly for HIV and hepatitis
- Tailored, interventions with access for those who wish to access them

- Ensure access to internationally controlled drugs for medical purposes
- At UNGASS, we particularly want to see "something about funding for services which actually work" and "development of human rights indicators linked to health outcomes"

Drugs and Crime

- The need for alternatives to sanctions and the decriminalisation of users and protection as much as possible harm to others
- Stop considering drug policies as extremes between tough prohibition and complete legalisation - there are policy options in between these two extremes

What would we like to see from UNGASS

- A focus on evidence-based crime strategies
- A focus to reduce harm to others, such as children
- Improving indicators of success, seizures of drugs is not a good indicator. Improved indicators are required to measure success in drug reduction in the world
- WHO estimates that only 3% of funding goes towards prevention. It is recommended an indicator should be established to increase this number in the future, as well as for other demand reduction measures such as treatment and harm reduction

Human rights, women, children and communities

- Drug laws should be implemented in conjunction with human rights law
- Human rights should be a strong part of the drugs discourse
- The EU should continue to stand against the death penalty in all circumstances
- The EU should consider that access to treatment may be denying the right to life
- Drug control policies should be sensitive to the needs of women and girls, ethnic minorities, indigenous groups and children
- Promote the rights of indigenous communities and this means that governments should have access to
- The EU should promote the inclusion of those affected by drugs in designing and providing services and making policies that affect them
- From UNGASS, we would like to see within the UN system an assessment of the human rights of those affected by drugs and included in the UNODC world drug report.

New challenges, threats and realities

- Changed markets including new psychoactive substances and drug supply require different approaches in services, monitoring etc.
- Need for a person centred approach to ensure services are meeting the needs of the people they are targeted at, including social issues such as homelessness, new psychoactive substances and mental health.

- The Convention goals and realities on the ground no longer match, with countries interpreting the conventions in a more flexible way.

What would we like to see from UNGASS?

- An open debate to assess whether the current system is effective and able to achieve its stated objectives. Need to consider a more nuanced approach and indicators that would address among other issues impact and unintended consequences.
- There is a value for a united EU position where it exists. In the open debate on flexibilities, individual member state voices should get heard, as with consensus comes dilution.
- For open debate, the involvement of civil society is critical. There is a clear need for a strong civil society presence!

Photographs From The Event



Contact Details of Host, Organiser & Facilitators

Hosting Agency: European Commission Anti-Drug Department, DG Home, Rue Belliard, Brussels

Organising agency and rapporteur: EURAD, Norway House, 17 Rue Archimede, Brussels www.eurad.net

Event facilitators:

- Anna Quigley, City Wide, Dublin
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- Maria Phelan, Harm Reduction International, UK
- Marie Nougier, IDPC, London
- Peter Sarosi, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Budapest