



INFORMAL DRUG POLICY DIALOGUE

An initiative by the
Andreas G. Papandreou Foundation (APF)
and the Transnational Institute (TNI)



Report of the expert meeting on UN Drug Policy at the European Parliament on 16-10-2008

Dear Madam, Sir,

Please find attached the report of the expert meeting on UN drug policy that took place at the European parliament on 16 October 2008. At the 52nd Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2009, the UN Member States will decide whether they will continue to counter the world drug problem with the current policy instruments or will propose adjustments in order to be more effective and meet the challenges of the changed circumstances in our world. Members of Parliaments can play a decisive role in the decision making process towards this important event. The meeting at the European Parliament aimed to increase the involvement of Parliamentarians in this process and to encourage them to take action in their respective constituencies with proposals and suggestions for the Political Declaration that is going to be adopted in March 2009.

Recalling some of the proposals that have been done at the meeting we would like to ask your attention for the following:

-Parliamentarians can take initiative to organise in their respective Parliaments a debate on the preparations of the Political Declaration to be adopted by the High Level Meeting of the CND in March 2009. In this debate they can ask their governments to take firm a position to humanise the international drug control regime; to address the adverse consequences of the current drug control system and to make sure that human rights, proportionality of sentences, harm reduction, access to essential medicines and evidence base are included as guiding principles in future UN drug policy.

-Civil society organisations and parliaments can push for Ministerial Level participation at the High Level segment of the CND in March 2009. NGO's can also ask to have representatives of civil society organisations and experts included in their national CND delegation.

- NGO's can advocate with their national governments to support the positions that NGO's have unanimously adopted at the International NGO Forum "Beyond 2008".

Those who would like to consult more detailed information about the UNGASS review see the special website of TNI www.ungassondrugs.org as well as the IDPC advocacy paper <http://www.idpc.info/php-bin/documents.pl?ID=1000187>

Sincerely yours,

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