



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Council Conclusions
aimed at promoting universal prevention programmes
and interventions by EU Member States
to prevent or delay first use of drugs, including poly-drug use¹

*2965th EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 12 October 2009*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

“THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the EU Drugs Strategy for 2005-2012², unanimously endorsed by the European Council in December 2004, which aims to achieve a high level of protection, well-being and social cohesion by preventing and reducing drug use;

Having regard to the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012³, which sets as a main priority the reduction of the demand for drugs, and the health and social consequences of drug use by improving the coverage, quality and effectiveness of services of prevention, treatment and harm reduction, and in particular action no. 10;

Concerned about the use of drugs, especially among young people, in the European Union;

Aware that the use of different drugs often occur together, with shared biological and psychosocial mechanisms of initiation and dependence and that the resulting harm often comes from combined use of illicit and licit substances;

Mindful of the fact that there are many determinants of drug use and that such use is often combined with other problems and that these require comprehensive responses;

¹ Combined use of illicit and licit substances, in particular alcohol

² 15074/04 CORDROGUE 77 SAN 187 ENFOPOL 187 RELEX 564

³ OJ C 326, 20.12.2008, p. 7

Recognizing the scientific evidence that the delay of onset of drug use reduces the risks of physical, mental and social harm;

Recognizing the role that the societal norms and normative beliefs can play in the onset of drug use and that such norms and beliefs play a role in universal prevention;

Also recognizing the importance of building supportive environments to facilitate healthy lifestyle choices and discourage unhealthy choices, in a variety of settings;

Recognizing the need to empower young people in all matters that concern their own health and well-being, including by supporting their active involvement in drug policies targeting youth;

Recognizing the importance of reducing the availability of drugs in the community and making it more difficult to access drugs;

Convinced of the need for EU Member States to further develop and implement effective preventive interventions and to share experiences;

AGREED on the need to develop or apply the following measures to prevent or delay the onset of drug use, including poly-drug use:

- to base prevention policy on a regular assessment of the nature and magnitude of drug use and drug-related problems in the population,
- to give priority to and make use of best available evidence when planning prevention interventions;
- to ensure that new and innovative responses are evaluated, including through efficacy studies demonstrating outcomes in controlled research settings as well as effectiveness studies to demonstrate outcomes at population level;
- to make better use of and where necessary establish prevention infrastructures and networks for coordination and competence development at the appropriate levels;
- to make sure that schools provide a healthy and inclusive environment, ensuring that young people develop competencies and life skills leading to reduction of drug-related problems;
- to offer parental support and family management programmes, where, among other things, the importance of communication, caring, warmth, being present and limit-setting are enhanced;
- to encourage the development of work place prevention, including the elaboration of drug policies;
- to make full use of new interactive communication tools such as the internet and social media to raise awareness and correct misperceptions as well as to support community prevention initiatives, while avoiding negative effects.

Furthermore, the Council

Encourages Member States to exchange good practice, guidelines/quality standards for universal prevention in accordance with action no. 17 of the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012;

Invites successive presidencies to follow-up on these conclusions in close liaison with the European Commission and the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction. ”
