

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Council of Europe Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group)

and

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

I. Background

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to organise the co-operation between the Pompidou Group and the EMCDDA in consistency with the principles of the Statute of the Council of Europe and as foreseen for the international organisations in Article 12 of the Council Regulation setting up the EMCDDA (EEC Regulation 302/93 of 8 February 1993: OJ No L 36/1-8; 12.2.93).

Co-operation between the two bodies shall be based on the principles of appropriateness, reciprocity and work sharing based on complementarity.

The Pompidou Group's Mission is to promote and support, in a pan-European context, the formulation and application of national policies and programmes and the strengthening of international co-operation, adopting a multi-disciplinary approach to combating problems linked to illicit drugs.

The Group's activities concern in particular the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and experience, including statistical data collected through the multi-city network, promotion of networking of experts and institutions, provision of training and assistance to help governments, especially of the new European democracies, to develop their strategies and programmes, and the promotion of research and pilot-studies.

The EMCDDA's overall task is to produce objective, reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences and to help provide the European Community and its member States with an overall view of the drug and drug addiction situation when, in their respective areas of competence, they take measures or decide on action (Article 1 of the EEC Regulation).

The EMCDDA has the responsibility of establishing and co-ordinating in co-operation with European Union Member States, a European Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction (REITOX); the network will make use of, *inter alia*, an autonomous computer system linking the national drug information networks, the specialised centres in member States and the information systems of the international or European organisations or bodies co-operating with the Centre (Article 5 of the EEC Regulation).

The mutual recognition of the work undertaken and the information collected by the two organisations forms the basis for the co-operation they wish to instigate. This co-operation will maximise their contribution to the understanding of the drugs phenomenon in the framework of their respective mandates.

II. Objectives

The Pompidou Group and the EMCDDA shall co-operate to improve the collection and analysis of data, to develop and promote data comparison methods and to intensify the dissemination of information. They shall also co-ordinate their efforts to achieve the best use of available information, to enhance their respective reports and to ensure the most effective utilisation of their resources to this end.

They shall seek to develop synergy by concertation in the planning and co-ordination in the implementation of their specific activities and shall keep each other informed of matters of common interest for the purpose of achieving their respective objectives.

Subject to such restrictions and arrangements as may be considered necessary by the Pompidou Group or the EMCDDA to preserve the confidential nature of certain information and documents, full and prompt exchange of information and documents concerning matters of common interest shall be made between them.

The Pompidou Group and the EMCDDA may seek the other's technical expertise and co-operation in the interest of their respective activities and may conclude, as required, specific agreements to this purpose, including the creation of joint projects.

III. Working Relationship

The Pompidou Group and the EMCDDA will each designate a member of their staff for the maintenance of close, direct and continuing contacts with a view to ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the present Memorandum of Understanding.

These regular working contacts shall be complemented by co-ordination review meetings between senior officials of the two organisations, at a frequency to be established by them. The chairs of their respective management bodies shall in principle participate once a year in such meetings.

Within their legal framework, the Parties shall invite each other to attend institutional and technical meetings convened under their respective auspices and which consider matters in which the other Party has an interest or technical competence. They shall ensure the timely exchange of information on meeting programmes to facilitate the expression of such interest.

IV. Work Programmes

Co-operation between the Pompidou Group and EMCDDA at the strategic level shall be undertaken with reference to each Party's multi annual work programme.

The implementation of specific work projects shall be subject to the annual work programme of the EMCDDA approved by its policy-making body and to the periodic work programme reviews of the Pompidou Group's Permanent Correspondents, as well as to the availability of adequate resources to be determined for each activity by each Party in accordance with their respective relevant regulations and rules.

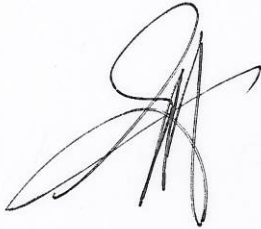
The work projects under which specific co-operation is being undertaken shall be set out in an appendix to this memorandum which shall be updated at least annually.

V. Final Provisions

The present Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signature by both Parties and shall remain in force unless terminated by mutual consent or by either Party giving six months' written notice of termination to the other Party. Its terms shall be reviewed in 2001.


Done at Strasbourg this 28th day of September 1999 in two original copies.

For EMCDDA



Georges Estievenart
Executive Director

For the Council of Europe



Walter Schwimmer
Secretary General

Annexe

To be completed in accordance with article IV