

Strengthening the co-operation between Europol and the EMCDDA in the framework of the Co-operation Agreement

Lisbon, 20 October 2005

We the undersigned, in our respective capacities of Director of the European Police Office, hereinafter referred to as Europol, and of Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, hereinafter referred to as the EMCDDA:

Recalling the objective of Europol, within the framework of co-operation between the Member States of the European Union, to improve the effectiveness of the competent authorities in preventing and combating terrorism, unlawful drug trafficking and other serious forms of international crime where there are factual indications that an organised criminal structure is involved and two or more Member States are affected by the forms of crime in question;

Recalling the EMCDDA's overall tasks 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;

Recalling that Europol and the EMCDDA are committed to ensuring that they co-operate effectively in appropriate areas to maximise the efforts of both organisations in strengthening European Union actions against illicit drugs and crime;

Recalling the Co-operation Agreement signed between our two organisations on 19 November 2001.

Acknowledging that recent developments at the European Union level, including the enlargement of the Union, the launch of a new Strategy and Action Plan on Drugs, and general increased awareness of the importance of international co-operation call for an assessment of our co-operation with a view to enhancing its effectiveness;

Taking into account the outcome of the technical meeting between our staff in Lisbon on 15-16 September 2005;

AGREE

1. To strengthen our co-operation in those areas where we have a common interest and where we can support each other through concerted actions taking into account the mandates of our organisations and the conditions set out in our Co-operation Agreement, especially with respect to the confidentiality of data.

2. To centre our joint efforts in the following areas:

- **The European Union Drug Strategy and the European Union Action Plan on Drugs:**

The Strategy and the Action Plan identify the EMCDDA and Europol, together with the Commission as key partners in the continuous and overall process of evaluation. It is important to employ mechanisms aimed at the preparation and implementation of our respective contributions to the evaluation. This should be achieved on the basis of common methodological tools.

- **The Council Decision 2005/387/JHA of 10 May 2005 on information exchange, risk assessment, and control of new psychoactive substances:**

EMCDDA and Europol continue to co-operate actively to fully implement the provisions of the Council Decision. Decision whether there is sufficient evidence, which merits further collection of information and drafting of a Europol-EMCDDA Joint Report, will be made by the two organisations through joint assessments based upon established criteria. The Annual Europol-EMCDDA report to the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission should be a concise document focusing on the implementation (efficacy and achievements) of the system set up by the Decision.

- **Exchange of strategic information:**

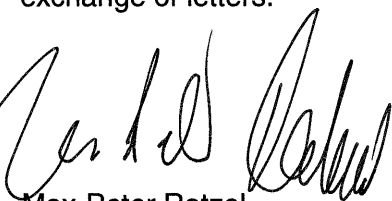
EMCDDA and Europol will actively exchange strategic reports, documents and other information that can be of relevance to the other organisation.

3. To implement our joint efforts in the form of concrete actions as specified in the annex of this document, to convene where appropriate bilateral meetings and to draft an annual report on progress of the activities;

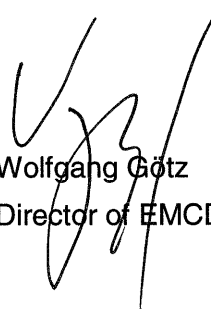
4. To allow the other organisation, unless specific restrictions have been made by the providing organisation and in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Co-operation Agreement, to use the information provided as deemed appropriate and with reference to its source;

5. To explore any additional areas of common interest for co-operation;

6. To appoint as contact officials, pursuant to Article 3c of the Co-operation Agreement, Mr Richard Weijenburg of Europol, and Mr. Ignacio Vázquez Moliní of the EMCDDA; changes of these officials should be announced by exchange of letters.



Max-Peter Ratzel
Director of Europol



Wolfgang Götz
Director of EMCDDA

Annex

European Union Action Plan on Drugs 2005-2008			
	Objective	Action / Result	Timeframe
1	Fully implement Council Decision (AP 20.3)	Annual Europol-EMCDDA Report	February each year
2	Assistance to the Candidate and SAP ¹ countries (AP 32)	Report to Commission on number of projects completed	2008
3	Co-operation agreements with Candidate Countries (AP 33)	Number of agreements concluded	2008
4	Develop European Union guidelines on emerging trends (AP 41.1)	Contribute to Commission Proposal	2007
5	Establish a list of indicators (AP 45.1)	Contribute to Commission Annual Review	ongoing
6	Elaborate progress reviews (AP 45.2)	Contribute to Commission Annual Review	annually
7	Contribute to the Impact Assessment (AP 45.3)	Contribute to Commission Impact Assessment	2008

Implementation of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA			
	Objective	Action / Result	Timeframe
8	Exchange of Information	Where appropriate draft Joint Reports and prepare Risk Assessments	ongoing
9	Report to the Council	Annual Europol-EMCDDA Report	February each year

¹ Stabilisation and Association Process

Exchange of Strategic Information			
	Objective	Action / Result	Timeframe
10	Information on drug seizures ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of data-sets - Exchange of information on conversion and other methodological standards 	annually
11	Information on drug prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of data-sets on retail prices - Europol to provide data on wholesale prices to EMCDDA - Exchange of information on methodological issues 	annually
12	Information on drug purity and contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of data sets on drug purity/potency and contents of tablets as available - Exchange of information on methodological issues 	annually
13	Information on money laundering	Europol to provide access to the Financial Crime Information Centre website ³	ongoing
14	Exchange of other strategic information and documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Europol and EMCDDA will exchange reports, documents and other information - EMCDDA to provide information on drug law offences 	ongoing
15	Bilateral meetings	Meetings will be convened when necessary ⁴	ongoing

² Europol and the EMCDDA recognise that there is a certain duplication as they both collect data on drug seizures although these are partly different

³ following Member States agreement

⁴ this includes preparatory meetings to the European Union Action Plan Evaluation Steering Group Meetings