



PRESS RELEASE

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

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EMCDDA to launch its first General Report of Activities

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) will be launching its first **General Report of Activities** during an Information Day at its headquarters in Lisbon on 26 June, in the framework of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking.

Among the official speakers invited to the ceremony are Mr. Almeida Santos, Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, Mr. Jorge Coelho, Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal, Father Vítor Feytor Pinto, Chairman of the Management Board of the EMCDDA, a representative of the European Parliament and Mr. Klaus Ebermann, Director at the European Commission. Other official speakers will include the Director of the Monitoring Centre, Mr. Georges Estievenart and Head of the Epidemiology Department, Mr. Richard Hartnoll. The Ambassadors of the Member States of the European Union will be present as guests.

The General Report of Activities describes the programme and activities of the Monitoring Centre during its launch year and sets out the main decisions taken in 1995 as well as perspectives for the future. The EMCDDA was created on 8 February 1993 with the adoption by the Internal Market Council of Regulation EEC n° 302/93, which came into force on 30 October of that year. It was established in Lisbon in 1994 and became fully operational at the end of 1995. The publication of the General Report of Activities will be followed in September 1996 by the EMCDDA's first **Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in Europe**.

The EMCDDA, an autonomous, decentralised European Community agency, aims to collect and analyse currently available data on the global drugs problem, in particular data relating to the demand for drugs and reduction of demand. It seeks to improve data comparison methods throughout the European Union and to provide decision-makers, professionals and the general public with reliable information on the drug phenomenon.

The Information Day will begin at 10h00 and will end at 13h00 with a Press Conference. The full ceremony is open to the media.

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