

COMMISSION OPINION

of 1.7.2009

on the draft Three Year Work Programme 2010-2012 of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

- (1) Council Regulation (EEC) No. 302/93 establishing the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (hereinafter "the Centre") in 1993 was recast as Council Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 of 12 December 2006¹ (hereinafter "the Regulation").
- (2) Pursuant to article 9 (4) of the Regulation, the Management Board of the Centre shall adopt a three year work programme on the basis of a draft submitted by the Centre's Director, after consulting the Scientific Committee and obtaining the opinion of the Commission.
- (3) The Centre's objective, as defined by Article 1(2) of the Regulation, is to provide the Community and its Member States with factual, objective, reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences.
- (4) The Commission has closely examined the draft three year work programme for 2010-2012 and welcomes the fact that it builds on the achievements of the three year work programme 2007-2009.
- (5) It represents a good framework for pursuing the Union's priorities and objectives as set out in the EU Drugs Strategy (2005-2012) and also the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2009-2012.
- (6) The Commission invites the EMCDDA to make an explicit link between the activities planned under the draft three year work programme on the one hand, and the necessary resources and results to be achieved on the other. It welcomes the EMCDDA's intention to optimise the use of existing resources planned for the period 2010-2012.
- (7) With regard to the Centre's specific activities and projects planned for the period 2010-2012, the Commission:
 - (a) notes that the Centre's core tasks are to meet the priorities as defined in Annex 1 of the Regulation and those activities identified in the Action Plan on Drugs 2009-2012.
 - (b) welcomes the continuation of the Centre's work to ensure better implementation of the key indicators and to improve understanding of polydrug use problems (where the use of licit drugs is combined with illicit drugs) together with the establishment of more timely information systems and the identification and dissemination of best practice.
 - (c) welcomes the substantial technical support the Centre will provide to implement the relevant actions of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2009-2012 and notes the importance of close cooperation between the EMCDDA and the European Commission the Council, Europol and Eurojust to implement the actions agreed.

¹ Council Regulation (EEC) No 1920/2006 of 12 December 2006, OJ L 376 of 27.12.2006

(d) proposes that the demand reduction priorities of the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012 are more clearly reflected in the EMCDDA 2010-2012 draft work programme.

(e) welcomes the priority to develop a comprehensive approach to detect, monitor and provide rapid information on new drug use trends. The multifaceted nature of the emerging trend phenomenon makes cooperation between the different actors crucial. However, the Commission underlines that any activities regarding emerging illicit drug trends must be wholly compatible with Council Decision 2005/387/JHA on the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances.

(f) welcomes the Centre's technical support to improve the reliability and accuracy of drug supply reduction data which is a priority under the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2009-2012. Close cooperation with the Commission, the Member States, Europol and other relevant international agencies is particularly important to avoid any overlap of activities and to ensure an integrated approach to develop key indicators in line with the EU Action Plan on Drugs.

(g) welcomes the Centre's intention to provide information on drug-related science and research and to facilitate an information exchange among the research community in the illicit drugs field.

(h) welcomes the Centre's continued commitment to a wide range of partnerships, namely cooperation with the Commission and other European bodies such as Europol, the European Medicines Agency, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and other relevant EU agencies and international organisations in order to enhance cooperation and avoid duplication of activities.

(i) with regard to the European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction (Reitox) and the proposed development of "complementary reporting mechanisms" with the establishment of separate expert groups, it is essential to safeguard the role of the national focal points as the principal interface between the participating countries and the Centre in accordance with Article 5 (2) of the recast Regulation 1920/2006.

- (8) In conformity with Article 2 (d) of the Regulation, the Commission welcomes the Centre's technical cooperation with candidate countries and notes that, in accordance with Article 2 (d) (v), priority is given to cooperation with the candidate and potential candidate countries and that the Centre will also provide technical assistance to other third countries at the request of the Commission and with the approval of the Management Board.
- (9) The Commission agrees that in order to implement its work programme 2010-2012, the EMCDDA needs to have adequate resources available. The Commission considers that recent increases in the indicative amount available under the Commission's financial programming for the period 2010-2013 (planned EC subsidy increase by additional € 5 850 000 for 2010 -2013 compared to the 2007-2013 financial programme subject to the relevant decisions by the Budgetary Authority) does indeed provide for those resources.
- (10) In conformity with Article 14, the Commission requests that the EMCDDA add its budget forecast for the implementation of the three-year work programme to its proposal together with details of the EMCDDA's establishment plan 2010-2012.

- (11) This Opinion is addressed to the Management Board of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Done at Brussels, 1.7.2009.

For the Commission

J. BARROT

Member of the Commission

