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EURO-IBERO AMERICAN SEMINAR

Speakers underline shared responsibility in tackling global drugs problem

Co-operation between the European Union and Latin America in the field of drugs was the topic of a Euro-Ibero American Seminar organised from 8–9 October in Oporto, Portugal, under the patronage of Vice-President of the European Commission, Manuel Marín. Conceived and promoted by President of the Portuguese Republic, Jorge Sampaio, the event was organised in co-operation with the Portuguese Government and with the support of the European Commission and the EMCDDA.

The Seminar was organised in the perspective of the Ibero-Latin American Summit, later convened in the same town from 16–18 October, and the Euro-Latin American Summit to take place in Rio de Janeiro early next summer. Its purpose was to identify new and better forms of co-operation in the field of information on drugs, demand reduction and inter-city co-operation and to draw up recommendations to the forthcoming Summits that could inspire concrete projects between the two regions. The two-day gathering of over 50 participants from both sides of the Atlantic* led to the adoption of 'The Oporto Declaration' which was welcomed by the October Summit and annexed to its conclusions.**

At the Seminar's opening session, President Sampaio reiterated that drugs are a world-wide problem and recalled the Declaration approved at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in June which underlined the need for shared responsibility, co-operation and solidarity. He affirmed: 'We must now make the drugs problem a priority in relations

between our countries. Political dialogue and co-operation have improved but these relations must have a new scope because drugs are a real threat to the well being and democratic stability of some Latin American countries. Europe and Latin America can co-operate in establishing new strategies with a broader, more multi-faceted understanding of this problem'. The President then called for a new social policy that would prioritise prevention, make good use of objective information and promote co-operation both locally and with NGOs.



Photo: Portuguese Presidency

Opening ceremony at the Euro-Ibero American Seminar

Commissioner Marín also stressed the need for co-responsibility, stating that resolving the drug phenomenon relied on a constant dialogue between the two regions. He highlighted new initiatives being developed by the European Commission with Latin America including: a project using satellite technology to track drug trafficking in Colombia; a programme related to alternative development in Peru; and a social reinsertion programme for young drug addicts. Marín also indicated the willingness of the European Commission, in close co-operation with the

EMCDDA, to support the creation of a National Drugs Monitoring Centre in Venezuela to be extended in time to the whole Andean region.

Director of the EMCDDA, Georges Estievenart, presented the recent work of the Centre and said that this Seminar 'offered the opportunity to construct a solid framework of co-operation on the drugs problem'. Other speakers at the opening session included: Raul Dominguez, Minister of State of Venezuela and Head of the Anti-Narcotics Commission; Alexandre Quintanilha, Chairman of the Portuguese *ad hoc* drug strategy committee; and Rosa del Olmo, President of the José Felix Foundation, Venezuela.

Three workshops focused on the following themes: information on drugs in Latin America and Europe; reducing drug demand and related risks in the two regions; and co-operation between cities in Latin America and Europe. The potential contribution of the EMCDDA strongly emerged in the conclusions. Among others, the Centre was proposed as the bridge between Europe and Latin America in the drugs field and the facilitator of fora presenting demand and harm-reduction initiatives. It was also stressed that specialised regional bodies, such

as the EMCDDA, were key to improving information on drugs.

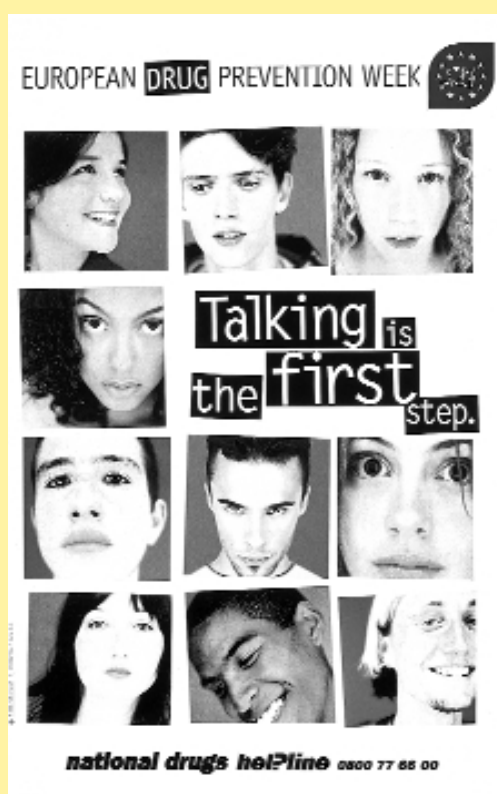
The Seminar was closed by Portuguese Minister responsible for Drugs, José Sócrates, who called for clear and effective collaborative projects on drugs between the two regions.

* Participants included: one official from each Latin American government, Spain and Portugal; and experts from both regions selected by the Seminar's Scientific Committee composed of 8 members including one representative of the EMCDDA.

** See full text on page 8. Results of the Seminar workshops are available on: <http://www.presidenciairepublica.pt>

THIRD EUROPEAN DRUG PREVENTION WEEK

Over 1,000 drug prevention initiatives will kick off in the 15 EU Member States on 16 November marking the start of the third European Drug Prevention Week (EDPW) co-ordinated by the European Commission. Promoting long-term prevention, raising public awareness on drugs and strengthening co-operation between actors in all Member States will be the common goal of wide-ranging activities, conceived by national programme co-ordinators. The majority of projects, national and transnational, will target those working on drug prevention strategies with young people and will reinforce prevention partnerships at all levels.



European Drug Prevention Week poster

Countries (Phare) will take place in Vienna from 5–6 November as a forerunner to the EDPW. Among the participating bodies feature the European Commission and Parliament, the EMCDDA, the Pompidou Group, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

The EMCDDA contributed to preparations for the EDPW and its opening event by furnishing the Commission and national co-ordinators with its *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Drug Prevention*. All initiatives will be reported via an EMCDDA questionnaire to the European Commission, facilitating its evaluation of the event. Broad dissemination of information on the projects organised during the week will be assured, among others, through the Centre's EDDRA database at <http://www.emcdda.org/html/welcome.html/>.

Philippe Roux

This year, in addition to the new EU Member States (Finland, Austria and Sweden), Norway will participate in the event for the first time. A European media campaign designed to reinforce national initiatives targeted at the general public will spell out the main theme of the event: 'Talking, is the first step'. This will include TV and radio spots and posters encouraging the debate with young people on this hot-to-handle topic. A 'European Conference on Drug Prevention and Drug Policy', involving experts and politicians from the 15 Member States, Norway and Central and Eastern European

Drug Treatment Systems in an International Perspective

A meeting of the International Study Group for the Development of Drug Treatment Systems, organised by the Swiss Institute for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Problems, was hosted by the EMCDDA in Lisbon from 7–9 October.* The Study Group, which consists of representatives of 21 countries world-wide, discussed its recently published book *Drug Treatment Systems in an International Perspective*, in order to draw conclusions and plan the way ahead.**

The meeting examined treatment systems in different parts of the world from the perspective of political and social sciences. More important, however, were discussions on: the role of treatment in drug policy; the contents and context of treatment; and the overlap between the health and legal systems. The medical, social and moral aspects of drug policies were discussed in the light of new developments in the sector, such as heroin substitution. The effectiveness of treatment was considered an issue to be studied closely, since the objectives of different kinds of treatment are often disjointed and unclear.

The Group had chosen the EMCDDA as the venue for its meeting due to a keen interest in the Centre's role in the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on demand reduction activities, specifically in the field of treatment. Now that the Group has published the above-mentioned book, it is looking for ways to continue and motivate co-operation in the treatment field whether at sub-Group, European or global level. The EMCDDA has offered to host future meetings of the Study Group in Lisbon.

Margareta Nilson

* A working group of the Ketil Bruun Society, sponsored by the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health.

** Klingemann, H. and Hunt, G., *Drug Treatment Systems in an International Perspective: Drugs, Demons and Delinquents*, Sage 1998.
E-mail: order@sagepub.com

PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

'CAN WE ALTER THESE IMAGES?'

In September 1997, in the context of its work on the portrayal of drugs in the media, the EMCDDA launched a photographic competition entitled 'Can we alter these images?' The aim of the contest was to provoke reflection on the often negative images used to illustrate the drugs problem in newspapers and magazines (syringes, illness, scenes of crime and degradation...) and to focus on more positive approaches and responses to it, such as education, prevention and treatment. In a nutshell, the competition sought to 'flip the coin' and show 'the other side of drugs': not an insurmountable enemy against which we fight a losing battle but a fact of modern life in the face of which we act in many ways.

The competition closed on 1 May 1998 after which a selection committee in June named three winners. The winning photographs, which were exhibited at the EU pavilion at EXPO '98, Lisbon, from 12-30 September, are explained here in the words of the photographers themselves.



1st - Photographer: Derek Jackson, UK

'This photograph reflects the faith we must have in our children to know, recognise and then deal with the dangers they face from drugs in today's world. The photograph was taken during an anti-drug demonstration in Malaga, Spain, which took the form of a "fun run" organised by the town hall'.



2nd - Photographer: Eliska Jílková, Czech Republic

'This photograph depicts a former drug user participating in a psychiatric rehabilitation programme in the Czech Republic. The programme provides educational therapy for young people living in the shadow of drug dependence'.



3rd - Photographer: Matthieu Belin, France

'This photograph of a lone figure walking away from a wall represents a drug user who has chosen the path towards detoxification and social reintegration. The image conjures up a scene of the victim and the firing squad, symbolising the drug addict as the target of society's prejudices. The photograph seeks to challenge a society which excludes those who suffer. The title of the photograph, "Laisse-moi être" is also the title of a book in which the image has been published'. See *Bookshelf*.

The organisers would like to thank Kodak for offering the winning prize, the European Union pavilion at EXPO '98 for exhibiting the photographs and Inês Pinto for all her efforts in making the event happen.

BOOKSHELF

Laisse-moi être (Let me be)

This book is the result of 18 months of work by French photographer Matthieu Belin which originated in the summer of 1995 in a photographic research project in drug rehabilitation centres in the south of France. Belin sought to present a photographic description of life in these centres and to complement the images with the residents' own words about their hopes, pain and fears.

The texts and photographs in the book aim to uncover the addicts' real-life experiences and challenge society's prejudices. The evolution from addiction to reinsertion may be traced through the five chapters of the book entitled: Breaking Away; Choices; Freedom; Living at the Centre; and The Future. At the time of compiling the book, Belin was a conscientious objector working with SOS Drogue International in Paris.

Published by: Matthieu Belin with the support of SOS Drogue International, the French Ministry of Youth and Sport and the French Ministry of Town and Country Planning and Integration
• Copyright: Matthieu Belin
• Authors: Matthieu Belin *et al* • **Date:** 1996 • **Language:** French • **Price:** 50FF • **ISBN:** 2-9510467-0-7.

To order a copy, please contact: SOS Drogue International, 16 rue Delta, 75009 Paris, France.
 Tel: ++ 33 1 40 16 03 08. Fax: ++ 33 1 40 16 00 03.
 E-mail: interdep@club-internet.fr



The EMCDDA is responsible for the selection of materials for the Bookshelf and for the text presented. However, responsibility for the content of these books and the opinions expressed therein lies with the authors themselves.

MORTALITY RISK AMONG DRUG USERS

The term 'mortality among drug users' is a concept related to that of 'drug-related deaths' but is not equivalent. The term refers to the probability of dying from any cause (overdose, infectious diseases, accidents, suicide or other...) and relates to a group of drug users followed over a period of time (a cohort). Information obtained by monitoring these groups needs to be understood since, in many cases, the groups consist of problematic drug users generally recruited from treatment centres. In the European Union, cohorts tend to be composed of opiate users.

Through cohort methodology, it has been estimated that addicted heroin injectors have an overall risk of death which may be 20 or 30 times higher than non-drug users of the same age. The risk is even greater in groups where

the prevalence of HIV infection is high, whereas it is much lower among non-injecting drug users.

In 1996, the EMCDDA commissioned the Osservatorio Epidemiologico Regione Lazio (Italy) to review existing scientific literature on mortality among drug users and to assess the feasibility of setting up cohort studies in different EU Member States with comparable definitions and methodology. A draft protocol was discussed by a group of European experts in Rome in May 1997.

This project was followed by a new phase ending in October 1998 which aimed to promote and co-ordinate the practical establishment of cohorts in as many EU countries or cities as possible, following the standard methodology. Cohorts have thus been, or are being,

created in 12 EU countries or cities, four of which had already established cohorts (Amsterdam, Barcelona, Rome and Stockholm).

During this second phase, two co-ordination expert meetings were held in Rome in January and September 1998, the latter followed by a WHO meeting organised in collaboration with the EMCDDA. The objective was to start planning a WHO project on longitudinal cohort studies on the health and social implications of drug use, exploring possible collaboration between the two organisations.

A third phase of the EMCDDA's work begins in the coming weeks, to ensure follow-up of established cohorts and analyse mortality rates of those having completed a follow-up period. Results are expected by the end of 1999, including mortality rates among drug users in eight or nine sites in the EU.

Julian Vicente

* See DrugNet Europe No. 11 for the EMCDDA's work on improving population statistics on drug-related deaths.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ON DRUGS:

Knowledge for Effective Action

The second EMCDDA Seminar on Qualitative Research on Drugs took place in Lisbon from 29-31 October following on from the first meeting on the topic held in Bologna in July 1997. The Seminar, which brought together qualitative researchers and policy-makers from throughout Europe, examined how to promote the value of qualitative research to better understand drug use and how to convey its usefulness as a tool for rational interventions.

Results of the ongoing EMCDDA project on qualitative research were presented at the Seminar. These include an updated overview of the state of the art in this type of research in the EU, and in-depth revisions of qualitative research findings in several key areas (risk behaviour, drug-related crime and new trends among young people). New topics and innovative methodologies were also presented.

Julian Vicente

See next issue of DrugNet Europe for further details.

Drugs and Driving

ADG VII High-level Group on Road Safety held the third meeting of its 'Working Group on Alcohol, Drugs, Medicine and Driving' at the EMCDDA from 28-29 September.* Twenty participants exchanged available data and information on on-going projects and formulated orientations for future work in the framework of an integral approach to the problem of illicit drugs and driving. The EMCDDA presented progress on its current project, being carried out by the Irish National Focal Point (Health Research Board), which consists of a bibliography and a literature review on the relation between driving and the use of illicit drugs. The next meeting of the Working Group will take place on 23 February 1999.

Lucas Wiessing

* European Commission, Directorate General VII (Transport).

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ACTIVE ON DRUGS

The European Parliament has recently illustrated its interest and concern for the drugs problem in Europe via two reports issued by its Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs: the first by rapporteur Anne-Marie Schaffner and the second by Hedy d'Ancona.

The Schaffner Report on the EMCDDA's 1997 *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union* was adopted on 16 September in Strasbourg. While pointing to a lack of harmonised definitions and standardised data collection methods in Europe, the Report welcomes the clear progress made by the EMCDDA in the 1997 *Annual Report* as well as the attention given to demand reduction and new synthetic drugs.

The standardisation and improvement of data collection and data comparison methods are seen as key elements in achieving reliable information on the drug phenomenon in Europe. In this context, the European Parliament calls on the EMCDDA to play a leading role in strengthening co-operation between the 15 REITOX National Focal Points to achieve high-quality comparable statistics.

In the area of drug policy, the Centre is asked to provide policy-makers and the European Union institutions with a reliable assessment of EU anti-drug

strategies and to develop its work in the area of information on legal issues both through publications and electronic products. The Report also calls for high priority to be devoted to cost-benefit analyses of national drug policies.

The d'Ancona Report, adopted in Strasbourg on 6 October, focuses on enhancing European co-operation in the light of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in June (UNGASS). This Report appeals to Member States for a more pragmatic and social approach to the drugs problem in Europe. Emphasis is placed on treatment and rehabilitation, where more resources are requested, and support is pledged for a more comprehensive global approach to the problem including prevention, information, education and harm reduction.

The EMCDDA is called upon to develop a number of indicators, on the basis of which an assessment of the drug situation can be made. The EU Member States are strongly urged to collaborate on the compilation of homogenous data. The Report also underscores the need for: the evaluation of different anti-drug strategies; analysis of the discrepancies between law and practice; and greater attention to Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) and Cyprus.

Danilo Ballotta

THE EMCDDA AND ITS PARTNERS



REITOX Network Focal Point Meeting

Heads and colleagues of the National Focal Points of the REITOX network met in Lisbon from 19–20 October for their 15th meeting with the Centre's staff. Items on the agenda included progress on the Centre's 1998 *Annual Report*, and preparations for the 1999 *Report* following the recommendations of an expert consultant.

The REITOX Work Programme for 1999 was the subject of extended discussions both in plenary and in a specific workshop session. Other workshop topics focused on: harmonised key epidemiological indicators; virtual and real time Focal Point intercommunication; and the future evolution of the REITOX human network.

At an information-sharing round table, the Focal Points presented their own national perspectives, while updates on previous presentations were provided by the Phare Programme, the European Commission and the EMCDDA's EDDRA team leaders. The EMCDDA Management Board met later in the week to discuss proposals for the development and enhancement of the role of the Focal Points within the REITOX network (see page 6).

Roger Lewis,
REITOX Co-ordinator

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:

Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

A delegation from the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection visited the Centre on 25 September for a fact-finding session on the Centre's activities. The meeting focused on the Centre's Work

Programme, partnership with the EU institutions and future orientations.

This EP Committee was one of three involved in the evaluation of the Centre's *Annual Report*.

Danilo Ballotta

EMCDDA STATUTORY BODIES

Management Board

The 14th meeting of the EMCDDA's Management Board was held in Lisbon from 22–23 October. The main items on the agenda were the role of the National Focal Points (NFPs) and the 1999 draft Work Programme.

On the former, the Board discussed and adopted the paper drawn up by the working group set up at the 12th meeting of the Management Board to discuss the role of the National Focal Points. This paper outlines: the main principles of the relationship between the EMCDDA and the National Focal Points; the tasks and output to be fulfilled by the centres at national and European level; and the financing, structure and organisation of the NFPs. Among others, the document includes the commitment of Member States to develop over the coming years five harmonised indicators under the umbrella of the EMCDDA. These indicators cover: demand for treatment by drug users; mortality and causes of death among drug users; the incidence of infectious diseases among drug addicts; comparability of general population surveys; and the comparability of prevalence estimates of problem drug use.

The text is the result of a two-year debate within the Management Board on the role of the National Focal Points and is an essential document given that the NFPs are protagonists in collecting data primarily for the Centre's *Annual Report*.

As regards the 1999 draft Work Programme, the Board requested that the Centre define certain projects foreseen in the draft Work Programme more precisely and adapt it to the final budget to be allocated by the

budgetary authority. The Board is expected to adopt this Work Programme formally at its meeting in January 1999 after having first obtained the opinion of the European Commission and the EMCDDA Scientific Committee.

A brief discussion was also held on the production of the 1998 *Annual Report*, the content and format of the 1999 *Annual Report* and the translation of various other EMCDDA publi-



cations which, in future, will be more target-oriented. In particular, the *Annual Report* will increasingly become a reference tool for politicians.

Finally, the Board was informed on: the state of play of the formal participation of Norway in the activities of the EMCDDA; the visit of General B. McCaffrey, Director of the US White House Office of National Drug Control Policy to the Centre in July; and the European Parliament's report on the Centre's 1997 *Annual Report* (see page 5). The next meeting of the Management Board will take place from 14–15 January 1999.

Kathleen Hernalsteen

The Bureau of the EMCDDA Management Board met on 14 September in Lisbon to prepare the above meeting. The Bureau discussed all scheduled agenda items and met as the Advisory Committee on Procurements and Contracts (ACPC) giving a favourable opinion on the contract presented.

Steering Group on New Synthetic Drugs

The Steering Group set up by the 8th meeting of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee in November 1997 to draw up risk-assessment guidelines in the context of the Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs held its third meeting on 30 September in Lisbon. The main item on the agenda was to prepare the final draft guidelines.

Taking into account comments received from the Scientific Committee members and other partners* involved in the risk-assessment process – Article 4 of the Joint Action – the group made a number of amendments to the text to achieve greater clarity and balance.

A special meeting of an enlarged Scientific Committee on the risk assessment of the new synthetic drug MBDB will be held in Lisbon from 9–10 November.** In preparation for the event, the Steering Group submitted a number of recommendations to the Scientific Committee meeting on 1–2 October as well as the draft guidelines for discussion and approval.

* European Commission, Europol Drugs Unit (EDU), the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA).

** The special risk-assessment meeting of the Scientific Committee will be attended by Scientific Committee members, experts from the Member States, representatives of the European Commission, the EMA and the EDU.

Scientific Committee

The 10th meeting of the EMCDDA's Scientific Committee met in Lisbon on 1–2 October opening with a workshop on the concepts and processes of risk assessment in the context of the Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs. The Committee approved in principle the final draft of the risk-assessment guidelines (pending formal adoption by written procedure) and agreed on a series of recommendations submitted by the Steering Group concerning the procedural aspects of the forthcoming risk-assessment meeting on MBDB. This agenda item was followed by a discussion on the role of the Scientific Committee in the quality control of the National Focal Points as well as its role as proposed in the evaluation of the 1997 *Annual Report* (report by David Turner).

Lena Westberg

Frankfurt Book Fair and European Publishers' Forum

The European Publishers' Forum held its 6th meeting at the annual Frankfurt Book Fair on 8 October. At the invitation of the Forum, the EMCDDA addressed the meeting, presenting the aims and activities of the Centre in general and the work of its publications programme in particular.

The Forum, based in Brussels, was set up in 1996 as a joint initiative of the Federation of European Publishers, DG X of the European Commission (Information, Communication, Culture and Audiovisual Media) and the Office for Official Publications of the European Union (EUR-OP).

The Forum's primary aims are to:

- promote the wider distribution of information produced within the EU institutions both among these institutions and to the broader public;
- promote the wider distribution of information about Europe and issues of concern to European citizens to a broad audience; and
- promote contacts among European institutions and commercial European publishers.

The Centre's publications generated much interest among the Forum members. Participating in this group and collaborating with such a broad network of publishing professionals is of great value to the EMCDDA in helping it to increase the impact and reach of the information it produces.

Rachel Neaman

COMING LAUNCH

Third Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union

One year after the publication of the 1997 *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union* (relating to the situation in 1996), the EMCDDA is set to launch the third edition of this, its main information vehicle. The 1998 *Annual Report* assembles data and information from 1997 while updating findings from previous years.

The main *Report*, to be available in English in mid-December, will provide information to policy-makers and all EMCDDA target groups, on a wide range of drug-related topics. Among these feature: the prevalence of illegal drug use; data on drug-related deaths and the incidence of AIDS and

Hepatitis B and C among drug users; data on the availability and supply of drugs; existing approaches in demand reduction; national strategies and legislation; action taken at European level; the international framework of action; and public funding of anti-drug activities. For the first time, the *Report* will also address the situation of drugs in the Central and Eastern European Countries.

A detailed 'Summary and Highlights' of the *Annual Report* will be published simultaneously in all 11 EU languages presenting the essential background information and key points from some 120 pages.

Gonçalo Felgueiras



EMCDDA PUBLICATIONS

New EMCDDA Publications:

- EMCDDA Scientific Monograph No. 1 – *Estimation de la prévalence de la consommation problématique de drogues en Europe* (French version).
- EMCDDA Scientific Monograph No. 3 – *Evaluating the Treatment of Drug Abuse in Europe* (available in English).
- EMCDDA Manuals Series No. 1 – *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Drug Prevention* (available in English).
- EMCDDA Presentation Brochure (available in all 11 EU languages).
- 1998 *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union* (available in English).

- 'Summary and Highlights of the 1998 *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union* (available all 11 EU languages).



Coming soon...

- *First Report on European Union Drug Information Structures and Sources* (available in English).

THE OPORTO DECLARATION

Text adopted at the Euro-Ibero American Seminar

From 8–9 October 1998, the Euro-Ibero American Seminar on Co-operation in Drugs and Drug Addiction Policies took place in Oporto, Portugal.

Representatives nominated by the Latin American Heads of State participated in the event, along with experts from different continents.

The Seminar was promoted by the President of the Portuguese Republic in co-operation with the Portuguese Government and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) under the patronage of Vice-President of the European Commission, Manuel Marín.

The Seminar was convened as the result of a proposal made by the President of the Portuguese Republic at the Ibero-American Summit in Venezuela in 1997, a proposal welcomed by all the participating countries.

Awareness that the drug phenomenon is a global problem was reflected clearly in the documents approved by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in June 1998. This Session placed particular emphasis on the need for: international co-operation at all levels; shared responsibility; and international solidarity.

The Oporto Seminar was organised in the framework of these objectives. It aimed to promote the strengthening of existing instruments of co-operation or the creation of new projects in the area of drug policies in Latin America and Europe, and focused on the following themes:

- information on drugs in Latin America and Europe;
- drug demand reduction and harm reduction in Latin America and Europe;
- co-operation between cities in Latin America and Europe.

The following conclusions and recommendations emerged:

1. The seminar recommended political decision-makers in Europe and Latin America to intensify co-operation in the area of drug addiction.
2. The participants acknowledged the fact that this Seminar had gathered together, at the same time, those responsible for political and technical responses to the drug problem and considered this a fundamental basis for effective co-operation.
3. Channels of co-operation between Europe and Latin America should include co-operation between cities.
4. Political decision-making should be based on previous discussions at the level of society and on the crucial contributions of the technical experts involved.

5. For political co-operation to be achieved, it is both necessary and crucial that reliable and compatible information systems be set up, allowing for a comparison of existing data.

6. Information support should be organised with the strong commitment of all the technical experts involved and with adequate financial resources.

7. The Seminar highlighted the need to earmark more resources for demand reduction, balancing them with funds from supply reduction.

8. The Seminar recommended the strengthening of harm reduction policies.

9. Co-operation in this field should aim to avoid the social exclusion of drug addicts.

With these conclusions and recommendations, and in the perspective of the Ibero-American Summit in October 1998, the Seminar contributed to discussions on the theme of globalisation in which drugs are a key issue.

The results of this Seminar may also contribute to the Euro-Latin American Summit to be convened in Rio de Janeiro in 1999, where co-operation in the field of drugs may be enhanced.

EMCDDA Calendar

2–4 November – Visit to the EMCDDA of Mr. J. Carnevale, Director, Office of Programmes, Budget, Research and Evaluation, US, ONDCP.

5–6 November – European Conference on Drug Prevention and Drug Policy, Vienna.

7 November – Meeting of the National Drug Demand Co-ordinators and National Team Leaders of the Phare Programme, Vienna.

9–10 November – Extended EMCDDA Scientific Committee meeting on the Risk Assessment of MBDB, Lisbon.

11 November – Seminar on the Evaluation of Interventions in the Drug Addiction field, Milan.

13 November – Inter-institutional Medical Board, Brussels.

13–14 November – COST-A6 Working Group on the Evaluation of Treatment, Lisbon.

16 November – Symposium on Drugs and Television, London.

16–22 November – European Drug Prevention Week, EU.

17 November – 3rd International Hepatitis C Conference, London.

19–21 November – European Congress on the Prevention of Drug Addiction, Madrid.

19–21 November – Phare meeting on Harm Reduction in Prisons, Slovenia.

20–22 November – Co-ordination meeting on the creation of an expert working group to develop instruments and guidelines to improve quality and comparability of general population surveys on drugs in the EU, Amsterdam.

30 Nov–1 Dec – Treatment Demand Indicator and other Pompidou Group projects, Strasbourg.

4–5 December – Working Group Meeting on Analysis of Geographic Diffusion and Mapping, Lisbon.

14–16 December – UNDCP Demand Reduction Action Plan meeting, Vienna.

17–18 December – Four Days on Drug Prevention, Madrid.

14–15 January – EMCDDA Management Board meeting, Lisbon.

Selected EU Meetings

18 and 30 November, 16 December – Horizontal Drugs Group of the Council of the European Union, Brussels.

10–11 December – European Summit, Vienna.

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