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emcdda and nSC sign memorandum of understanding in yerevan

EU drugs agency steps up cooperation with National Security Council of Armenia

(16.7.2015, LISBON) The **European Union** and **Armenia** will cooperate more actively on monitoring the drug phenomenon in future, thanks to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed today in **Yerevan** between the **EU drugs agency (EMCDDA)** and the **National Security Council of Armenia (NSC)**(1). The agreement was signed by **EMCDDA Director Wolfgang Götz** and **NSC** **Chief of staff, Aram Tananyan**.

**Armenia** — a country of the **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP) area — submitted a formal request for cooperation with the **EMCDDA** in 2013 (2). This led to a green light from the **EMCDDA Management Board** in July that year for the agency to negotiate the MoU with the **NSC**.

Today’s accord — signed for an initial period of five years and sealing cooperation between the two partners — will be implemented through a joint work programme to be updated every three years. This programme will include steps to enhance the partners’ monitoring and knowledge base on the drug situation and responses to it, particularly through harmonising key indicators in areas of both supply and demand.

Special attention will be given to the regular exchange of information on the appearance on the drug market and use of new psychotropic substances, as well as the technologies employed in their production.

The agreement provides for an exchange of technical expertise and knowledge between the two bodies, the co-sponsoring of technical meetings and the pooling of human and financial resources to launch joint programmes. The **NSC** will endeavour to present to the **EMCDDA** an annual report on the drug situation in Armenia. The **EMCDDA**, for its part, will facilitate training as well as the exchange of experts and scientific research findings on issues of mutual interest.

Both organisations recognise that information on the drugs phenomenon is an essential and indispensable instrument for drafting and implementing drug policies and for assessing the impact of actions to reduce the problems originating from drug use and trafficking.

This cooperation takes place within the **EMCDDA**’s mandate for cooperation with third (non-EU) countries in consultation with its Management Board and the **European Commission** (3).

Notes

(1) See full text at [www.emcdda.europa](http://www.emcdda.europa) — For more on the NSC, see [www.nsc.am/index.php?lang=eng](http://www.nsc.am/index.php?lang=eng)

(2) For more on the ENP, see [www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/nc](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/nc). The EMCDDA has signed agreements with three other ENP countries (Israel, Moldova and Ukraine).

(3) See EMCDDA founding regulation (recast) [www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index24218EN.html](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index24218EN.html)