|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

EMCDDA–eurojust memorandum of understanding

Eurojust and EMCDDA pledge to boost cooperation

(15.07.2014, THE HAGUE/LISBON) Exchanging strategic and technical information in the areas of drug legislation and supply was among the pledges made today in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the **EU drugs agency (EMCDDA)** and the **EU judicial cooperation unit (Eurojust)**.At an official ceremony in The Hague, **EMCDDA Director Wolfgang Götz** and **President of Eurojust Michèle Coninsx** reaffirmed their agencies’ commitment to strengthening action against illicit drugs and related crime in the EU.

Today’s MoU focuses on drug-related matters relevant to judicial cooperation — including drug supply, drug supply reduction and legislation — and will be implemented through joint activities, decided on the basis of the partners’ respective work programmes. The MoU also reflects the focus of the 2014–2017 EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime, under which the Council of the EU prioritises specific objectives to address the trafficking of synthetic drugs, cocaine and heroin.

The MoU will enhance the organisations’ already productive cooperation, helping them work together to collect, analyse and disseminate relevant data; pool technical expertise; establish joint projects; and ensure the optimal use of resources and information.

The **EMCDDA** and **Eurojust** have worked closely together since 2007 and share a common interest in the enforcement and implementation of drug trafficking laws across Europe. Since that time, **Eurojust** has participated in the **EMCDDA** annual meetings of legal experts and contributed to the **EMCDDA–Europol** *EU Drug Markets report: a strategic analysis,* published inJanuary 2013. The **EMCDDA** contributed to a strategic seminar on drug trafficking, organised by **Eurojust** and the **Polish Presidency** in Krakow in 2011, and will take part in **Eurojust’s** strategic meeting on drug trafficking in The Hague in September.

**Eurojust** is highly active in the fight against drug trafficking, having registered 502 cases over the last two years — more than with any crime type except fraud. It has also been involved in all projects under the Council’s European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) in the area of drug trafficking.

A crucial area of cooperation between the organisations will be the collection of policy relevant data on drug supply. The **EMCDDA** was tasked in 2009 with establishing key indicators in this area. Following Council conclusions on improving the monitoring of drug supply in the EU (November 2013), the **EMCDDA** will work with its partners to improve data collection in this area, supported by its reference group on drug supply indicators, set up in 2013. **Eurojust** is expected to be a key player in this group.

For more on the **EU’s Justice and Home Affairs agencies**, see: <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/the-eu-justice-and-home-affairs-agencies-pbBZ0414283/>

**Eurojust Annual Reports**: <http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/doclibrary/corporate/Pages/annual-reports.aspx>

**EMCDDA European Drug Report**: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/edr2014>