



news release

from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

No 11/99 – 17 November 1999

Operational/diary note

Launched at 12 noon (CET) on Monday 22 November, Berlin

SPOTLIGHT ON THE EU DRUGS PROBLEM

Annual Report of the EU drugs agency

- How many people in the EU have tried heroin?
- How many problem drug users are there in the Union?
- What are the latest trends on the EU drugs scene and the current policy issues?
- How widespread is the use of cannabis?
- What are the implications for prisons and the criminal justice system?
- Are our children at risk?
- What are the main findings Member State by Member State?

These are just some of the key issues to come under the spotlight in the fourth ***Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union*** from the Lisbon-based EU drugs information agency, the EMCDDA. The report will be launched at **12 noon (Central European Time) on Monday 22 November** at the *Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung, Berlin* in the presence of German drugs co-ordinator, Christa Nickels, and EMCDDA Executive Director, Georges Estievenart.

The ***Annual Report*** is key to understanding the major features of the drug problem in Europe as well as the legal, political and social responses to it initiated within the EU.

[Launch details: 12 noon, Monday 22 November, 1999](#)

- A **news release** outlining the key findings of the **1999 *Annual Report*** will be issued by fax or e-mail by the EMCDDA in Lisbon to those registered on its media distribution list before the **embargo time of 12 noon, Monday 22 November**. At 12 noon the news release and the ***Annual Report*** itself will be available on the EMCDDA web site (<http://www.emcdda.org>) in all 11 EU languages. An extended version of the *Report* in English will also be downloadable from the site. If you are not already on the EMCDDA's news release distribution list and wish to receive this release, please contact **Kathy Robertson** (see contact details below).
- The news release and *Annual Report* will be available to journalists at the **daily briefing** by the **Commission's Spokesman Service** in Brussels at **12 noon (CET) on 22 November**.
- A **help desk** will be open at the EMCDDA on **Monday 22 November** to take journalists' calls. The **EMCDDA's National Focal Points** in each of the 15 Member States will also be available to answer queries. Their contacts can be found at http://www.emcdda.org/html/focal_points/html

- **Contact: Kathy Robertson, Press Officer, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction**
 - Tel: ++ 351 21 811 3000 • Fax: ++ 351 21 813 1711 • E-mail: Kathryn.Robertson@emcdda.org
 - EMCDDA, Rua da Cruz de Santa Ap6lonia 23-25, PT-1149-045 Lisbon, Portugal
 - Find us on the web at <http://www.emcdda.org>

