



**E.M.C.D.D.A.**

European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

# news release

from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

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## EU STEPS UP USE OF THE INTERNET TO SPREAD DRUGS AWARENESS

What are the main drugs used in the EU today?  
What is the most harmful drug currently available in the EU?  
How many drug addicts are there in the EU?

The **EU's Lisbon-based drugs agency (EMCDDA)** is stepping up its use of the Internet in an effort to boost awareness of the drugs problem. Answering questions like those above rates high on the new agenda.

The new drugs information web site of the **EMCDDA** – <http://www.emcdda.org> – will go live on 7 December at **Online Information 99** in London, the biggest international conference and exhibition in the information field.

**EMCDDA** Director Georges Estievenart says: *Newsweek wrote recently that for a whole generation in Europe drug use is normal. So is the use of the Internet. We must enlist the latter in facing the challenge presented by the former.*

*'President Chirac said when he visited the EMCDDA that "Europe must become aware of the [drugs] drama with which it is confronted and be equipped with a coherent means to fight this problem".'*

Mr. Estievenart adds: *'We see reaching out to the Internet generation as a vital part of our strategy. Knowledge is a formidable weapon in helping Europeans face the challenge of drugs; ignorance is a dangerous enemy.'*

The **EMCDDA's** new web site will address key questions on the European drugs phenomenon. In addition, it will offer fast, easily accessible and comprehensive information on all aspects of the Agency's activities, products and partners:

- detailed information on all aspects of drug use in Europe
- downloadable publications in all **11 EU** languages, plus full ordering details for all printed publications
- links to national drug-information centres across Europe
- free access to the **EMCDDA's** specialised drug-related databases
- e-mail contacts to all staff members
- links to a host of drug-related organisations and sites at European and international level.

The drugs web site may be consulted at <http://www.emcdda.org> from 9 am on **Tuesday 7 December**. Presentations of the site will be given at **Stand 132** during **Online Information 99** at the following times:

- **7 December 14:00–14:30**
- **8 December 17:00–17:30**
- **9 December 12:45–13:10**

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