



news release

from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

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DEPUTY UK ANTI-DRUGS CO-ORDINATOR TO CHAIR EU DRUGS AGENCY

Mr Mike Trace, Deputy UK Anti-Drugs Co-ordinator, was today elected new Chairman of the Lisbon-based **EU** drugs agency, the **EMCDDA**. His election came at the start of the agency's 21st Management Board meeting.

Mr Trace was elected for a three-year term, replacing Germany's Franz-Josef Bindert. Mr Trace has played a pivotal role in the UK Anti-Drugs Co-ordinating Unit since 1997 in creating and implementing the Government's 10-year strategy 'Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain'. Mr Bindert, who took up the chairmanship in 1997, did not stand again in the elections.

Mr Marcel Reimen, first government adviser at the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU, was re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will form part of, and be supported by, the Bureau of the Management Board. Bureau members include: Mr Camilo Vázquez (Spain) and Mrs Brigitte Magistris (Austria) – both elected this morning – and Mr Jean-Paul Mingasson and Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, nominated by the European Commission and European Parliament respectively.

The Management Board is the **EMCDDA**'s main decision-making body, meeting at least twice a year to discuss matters such as adoption of the work programme and budget. The Board consists of one representative from each **EU** Member State, two European Commission representatives, and two people highly qualified in the drugs field, designated by the European Parliament.

At this week's three-day meeting, the Board is discussing the agency's three-year work programme (2001–2003) and its annual work programme and budget. It will also rule on implementation of the reform plan for the agency, adopted by the Board last September. This reform plan permeates the agency's new work programmes and marks a turning point in the **EMCDDA**'s development, both in its working methods and in the scope of its activities.

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