



NEWS RELEASE from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

EMCDDA MANAGEMENT BOARD

Changes at the helm

(17.1.2003, LISBON) The 25th EMCDDA Management Board meeting ended today, bidding farewell to its existing Chairman Mike Trace (UK) and welcoming its new Chairman Marcel Reimen (Luxembourg).

Mr Trace was elected to the EMCDDA Chair for a three-year term in January 2001. He leaves the Board prematurely to take up a new position at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (ODC).

Mr Reimen, first government advisor at the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU, and Vice-Chairman of the Board since 1998, was unanimously named Chair of the agency for the period 2003 during this week's three-day meeting. New elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board from 2004 will take place this July.

The new Chairman will form part of, and be supported by, the Bureau of the Management Board. This week's meeting decided on a new composition of the Bureau as follows:

- Luis Romero Requena (Director-General for Budget, European Commission);
- Sir Jack Stewart Clark (Expert nominated by the European Parliament);
- Willy Brunson (General-Director for Health, French Community, Belgium);
- Elena Garzón (Deputy-Director of International Relations, Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs, Ministry of the Interior, Spain); and
- Fernando Negrão (National drug co-ordinator and Chairman of IDT, Portugal).

The Management Board is the EMCDDA's main decision-making body. The Board consists of one representative from each EU Member State, two European Commission representatives, and two delegates from the European Parliament. Norway and five international organisations enjoy observer status on the Board.

During his time with the EMCDDA, Mr Trace was responsible for the implementation of the internal reform of the organisation; the preparation and execution of the EMCDDA three-year work programme (2001–2003); the creation of a new EMCDDA programme on national and Community drug strategies and their impact; and the follow-up of a project developing five epidemiological indicators. The EMCDDA Management Board, Director and staff thank Mr Trace for his consensus building, energy, accessibility and hard work during his mandate.

Mr Reimen's challenges in 2003 will include preparing the enlargement of the EMCDDA in 2004 to new EU Member States and the selection of new premises for the EMCDDA in 2003.

At this week's meeting, the Board adopted the agency's annual work programme and a budget of 9.7 million € for 2003.