



FACT SHEET from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

JOINT AGREEMENT SIGNED IN LISBON

EMCDDA and WCO step up cooperation in international drug control

(12.1.2007, LISBON) The **EU drugs agency (EMCDDA)** and the **World Customs Organisation (WCO)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Lisbon today to enhance international drug control efforts.

The agreement, signed by **EMCDDA Director Wolfgang Götz** and the **WCO Director of the Enforcement and Facilitation Directorate, Michael T. Schmitz**, builds on over a decade of cooperation between the two organisations. In 1993, at the birth of the EMCDDA, the WCO was named as one of the agency's six priority international partners and has since provided it with yearly data for its *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe*.

The **EMCDDA** and **WCO** have a common interest in monitoring and cutting cross-border crime, money laundering and drug trafficking. Under the terms of today's agreement, the organisations will collaborate to collect, analyse, publish and disseminate information on drug seizures, drug smuggling and the diversion of precursors, making the best use of resources and existing data.

The Memorandum of Understanding also provides for an exchange of technical expertise and knowledge between the two bodies, the co-sponsoring of technical meetings and the pooling of human and financial resources to launch joint programmes.

See full text on the EMCDDA website at <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/?nnodeid=1616>

Notes:

EMCDDA: Set up in 1993, the EMCDDA is an EU agency providing factual, objective, reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs, drug addiction and their consequences. Its target audiences include policy-makers who rely on the agency's data to take appropriate action and decisions on drugs and related problems.

WCO: Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council, the WCO is an independent inter-governmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of customs administrations. After years of membership growth, the Council adopted the working name World Customs Organisation in 1994 to reflect its transition to a truly global intergovernmental institution. It is now the voice of 170 customs administrations operating on all continents.