



FACT SHEET from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

EMCDDA PROMOTION: EUROPEAN LEGAL DATABASE ON DRUGS (ELDD)

New feature on ELDD offers easy access to EU drug legislation

(28.7.2004, LISBON) In 1990, the European Community took its first legislative action in the field of drugs by ratifying Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Since then, the EU has adopted a battery of over 60 directives, regulations, recommendations and framework decisions addressing the drug phenomenon, primarily in line with the Treaties of Maastricht and Amsterdam.

Today the **EU drugs agency (EMCDDA)** makes these texts available for the first time as one easily accessible archive in its **European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD)**. The new 'European Union' section, located under 'Legal Texts', holds the full English and French versions of drug-related legislative texts adopted by the EU to date. Texts are searchable by key-word, document type and free text. User-friendly summaries of the texts are also available in the two languages.

A descriptive overview of drug legislation at EU level – the '**European Union profile**' – is also published today. This is divided into the following sub-sections:

- Development of legislation
- Controlled substances
- Drug use and possession
- Trafficking and drug-related crime
- Prevention, care and treatment
- Precursors
- Money laundering and confiscation

The main purpose of today's new feature is to provide policy-makers, researchers, journalists and the general public with an accessible, up-to-date and comprehensive reference collection of EU drug legislation. Also provided are links to legislation in a variety of EU languages as well as to relevant political and press material.

The section was compiled by the **EMCDDA** in collaboration with the **Coordination of anti-drugs policy unit** (Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs) of the European Commission. For further information see: <http://eldd.emcdda.eu.int> (Contact: Cécile Martel: Cecile.Martel@emcdda.eu.int).

The **ELDD** is a free public archive which now provides instant information on drug-related legislation at EU level, in the EU Member States, the candidate countries and Norway. It provides access to legal texts in their original format and to country profiles of the national legal situation and recent trends. Also presented are more detailed comparative studies of drug laws covering specific topics of scientific and policy relevance.

To subscribe to the **ELDD** news and alert service and to receive regular information on drug legislation, please register at: http://eldd.emcdda.eu.int/databases/eldd_registration.cfm