



NEWS RELEASE from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

EU–RUSSIA RELATIONS

EU and Russian drugs agencies sign agreement in Mafra

(26.10.2007, LISBON) The European Union and the Russian Federation will be sharing information on drugs more systematically in future thanks to an accord signed today by the Lisbon-based **EU drugs agency (EMCDDA)** and the **Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Narcotics Traffic and Control (FDCS)**.

Today's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the margins of the **EU–Russia summit** taking place in Mafra under the Portuguese Presidency of the EU. The signatories were **EMCDDA Director Wolfgang Götz** and **FDCS Director Viktor Cherkesov**.

Present at the signing ceremony were: **President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin**, **President of the European Commission José Manuel Durão Barroso**, **EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana** and **Prime Minister of Portugal José Sócrates**.

The new agreement will allow for an exchange of information and expertise in a number of areas, including:

- illicit drug use and trafficking in the EU Member States and the Russian Federation;
- new drug types and emerging drug use trends;
- technologies for the production of illicit drugs;
- newly emerging trafficking methods;
- legislative and administrative measures to reduce illicit drug use; and
- prevention of drug-related crime.

The MoU is the fruit of bilateral talks initiated in Lisbon in 2004 and of subsequent working sessions between the **EMCDDA** and **FDCS** held in the course of 2006 in **Moscow** (January 2006) and **Lisbon** (September 2006).

Among others, the MoU foresees:

- developing or improving joint indicators to assess the drug situation;
- participation of **FDCS** experts in **EMCDDA** meetings and vice versa;
- mutual access to statistical information and exchange of scientific research results; and
- training and capacity-building and the exchange of programmes, plans and practices.

Commenting on the MoU **Wolfgang Götz** said: 'The Russian Federation is the EU's largest neighbour following the 2004 enlargement, and expansion of our common borders brings with it both common challenges and opportunities for cooperation. Among these challenges are drug use and its health consequences, drug trafficking and related illegal activities. We look forward with enthusiasm to close and collegial relations with the **FDCS** on the broad range of issues which characterise our drug problems today'.

Notes: Full text of the Memorandum of Understanding available at <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu>
EU–Russia summit, Mafra (26.10.2007) http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu/en/cis_12.htm
Press information http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Reunioes_Eventos/ChefesEstado/EURussia.htm
EU–Russia relations http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/russia/intro/index.htm
Roadmap for the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice
http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/russia/summit_05_05/finalroadmaps.pdf#fsj
