



E.M.C.D.D.A.

European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

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COUNCIL DECIDES NEW DRUG 4-MTA SHOULD BE PLACED UNDER CONTROL

The Council of the European Union adopted a unanimous decision on 13 September defining the new synthetic drug 4-MTA (4-methylthioamphetamine) as a substance to be placed under control measures and criminal penalties in the EU Member States.

Under this decision, and in accordance with their national laws, Member States will have a three-month time limit to introduce the necessary measures as provided for under the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

The decision, taken in the framework of the 1997 Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs, stems from findings by the EMCDDA and Europol earlier this year on the health and social risks and trafficking aspects of 4-MTA. These are summarised in a 'Report on the Risk Assessment of 4-MTA' adopted by the Centre's Scientific Committee and additional experts on 19 May and released in October as an EMCDDA publication (see page 8).*

Following its adoption in May, the risk-assessment report was submitted to the

German Presidency of the Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) of the Council and to the European Commission for further action in accordance with Article 5 of the Joint Action (procedures for bringing specific new synthetic drugs under control). Following discussions at the meeting of the HDG in June, the Commission submitted a proposal to the Council on 7 July calling for the drug to be subject to control measures.

The Council decision came some six months after first referral of the substance by the German Presidency to the EMCDDA and Europol, thus confirming the speed and effectiveness of the early-warning and risk-assessment mechanism provided under the two-year old Joint Action.

* See *DrugNet Europe* No. 19.

UNDCP chief visits Centre

Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), paid a working visit to the EMCDDA on 30 September. The meeting was attended by Franz-J. Bindert, Chairman of the EMCDDA Management Board, Georges Estievenart, Executive Director of the EMCDDA, as well as UNDCP and EMCDDA staff.

Discussions focused on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the two bodies in Vienna on 13 March 1998. In particular, talks covered co-operation in areas including: harmonised indicators; exchange of legal information; new synthetic drugs; and national reporting. Presentations were also delivered on specific EMCDDA projects in the area of demand reduction as well as on



Photo: UN, Vienna

UNDCP Executive Director, Pino Arlacchi.

initiatives involving the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs).

Mr Arlacchi applauded the EMCDDA's ongoing work in the development of five harmonised indicators of drug trends in the European Union. He stated that Europe was in a privileged position, enjoying both the expertise and resources needed to create 'the nucleus for a standard setting for measuring drug demand'. This, he said, would

have an important impact on policy-making as well as on the analysis of international drug markets.

Mr Bindert welcomed the close ties being forged between the organisations' scientific experts to develop these indicators both in the EU and worldwide. The Chairman also thanked the UNDCP for making available to the Centre information collected on legal issues. He announced that the ongoing pilot phase of the EMCDDA's Legal Information System on Drugs would open up possibilities for further information exchange in this area and allow comparison and analysis on drug legislation at both EU and a wider level.

The MOU actively unites the EMCDDA and the UNDCP in their efforts to: improve the collection and analysis of data; develop and promote data-comparison methods; and enhance the dissemination of information. It also promotes the optimal use of available information and resources, regular consultation and the exchange of technical experience.

PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH

A European Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Social Inclusion was organised by the Finnish Presidency of the EU in Tampere, Finland, from 10–13 October. The purpose of the conference was to examine the most appropriate means to ensure a valuable EU contribution to Member States' efforts in the mental health field, including drug demand-reduction initiatives. The results will later be summarised in official recommendations from the Council of the EU to the Member States.

The EMCDDA participated in one of the six conference workshops entitled 'Telematics in mental-health promotion and substance-abuse prevention'. Here, the EMCDDA was acknowledged for offering an excellent example of good practice in data collection and dissemination in the EU.

The participants unanimously agreed that the Internet was a crucial communication tool. However, they expressed their concern at the widening gap between those with Internet access and those without, an issue requiring further examination. Other priorities noted included the need for training and for strengthening co-ordination between sectors involved in the promotion of mental health and drug demand-reduction strategies and programmes.

David Byrne, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, underlined that, under Article 152 of the Amsterdam Treaty, the EU is obliged to ensure a high level of health protection when drawing up its policies and actions. He stated that this goal would be at the heart of a proposal for a Public Health Framework Programme to be tabled by the Commission in mid-2000.

Philippe Roux

New study on synthetic drugs

A new EMCDDA study on 'Demand-Reduction Activities in the Field of Synthetic Drugs', co-ordinated by the Berlin-based *Sozialpädagogisches Institut* (SPI), was completed in September and is available as a working document from the EMCDDA.* The study, launched in January this year, follows up on a first report on this topic, published by the EMCDDA in 1997.**

Data collected for this year's study on new and ongoing demand-reduction programmes in this area were collected via the snowball sampling technique*** using faxed questionnaires to a variety of networks. These included: SPI's 'Rave Network' of researchers in European cities; the EMCDDA's REITOX network; the European IREFREA network; and co-ordinators of programmes featured in the 1997 study. Thanks to the translation of the questionnaires into four European languages, the study attained a better representation than its predecessor of activities undertaken in southern Europe.

Developments identified in this study as helping to reduce the demand for synthetic drugs include: an increase

in the number of specific projects organised; greater diversification of interventions; and progress in evaluation or the perceived need for evaluation. However, the study reveals that the majority of interventions still primarily address drug-abstinent or casual consumers rather than high-risk consumption groups. It also shows that the majority of activities still focus on the provision of information, regardless of the fact that scene-oriented and personal-communication approaches might prove more effective.

Gregor Burkhardt

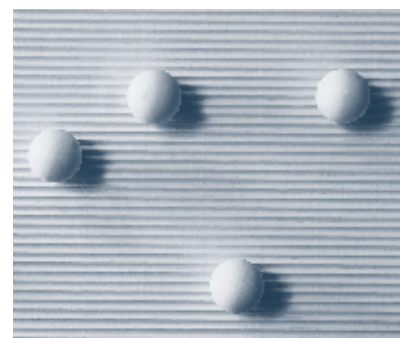
* See *DrugNet Europe* No. 16.

Contact: gregor.burkhardt@emcdda.org

** EMCDDA Insights series No. 1, *New Trends in Synthetic Drugs in the European Union: Epidemiology and Demand Reduction Responses*, Lisbon: EMCDDA, 1997.

ISBN: 92-9168-030-3.

*** In this type of sampling, researchers orient themselves towards a target population, make contacts and interview respondents. At the end of each interview, interviewees are asked to assist in identifying new respondents. In this way, chains of respondents are created thus extending the sample. The method is well suited to research in hidden populations.



15th Nordic Drug Conference

The EMCDDA participated in the 15th Nordic Drug Conference from 30 August to 1 September, hosted this year by the City of Nuuk, Greenland.

The event revealed a general tendency in Nordic countries to decentralise prevention activities. It unveiled a particular leaning towards community-based prevention, multi-professional and intersectoral co-operation and the creation of partnerships between professionals and groups working close to young people (e.g., bartenders). The participants underlined the need for networking in the area of drug demand reduction. In this context, the EMCDDA highlighted an ongoing REITOX project on the topic

co-ordinated by the Swedish National Focal Point.*

Extensive information was presented at the event on alcohol and drug misuse in Greenland, in the context of the country's cultural and political environment. It was reported that several public and private organisations and committees are involved in drug and alcohol prevention, adopting approaches ranging from health promotion to the Minnesota treatment model.** Alcohol is the main problem drug in Greenland with drunkenness the cause of public nuisance, violence, accidents and high suicide rates. Cannabis use is also widespread, whereas opiate, amphetamine and intravenous drug use are not reported.

Margareta Nilson

* See *DrugNet Europe* No. 18.

** A type of treatment progressing in 12 steps in which the 'patient' (person treated) is required to confront and overcome earlier behaviour in order to attain complete abstinence.

EMERGING TRENDS AND 'LEADING-EDGE' INDICATORS

Traditional indicators of drug trends, such as treatment and survey data, rarely pick up the latest changes in drug use. In fact, in the early 1980s, they failed to identify the emergence of ecstasy and its diffusion into mainstream youth, music and dance culture.

Information on emerging trends *is* available, however, from a number of sources close to the lives and culture of drug users. These sources already exist in the European Union Member States and could yield useful information quickly. They include:

- key-person panels (local ethnographers, drug services, outreach workers, etc.);
- on-site drug-testing projects to analyse pills on the drug market;
- youth media (music, lifestyle, etc.);
- Internet sites and discussion groups;
- key forensic laboratories and local police;
- local multi-disciplinary drug-action teams;
- city networks;
- telephone helplines;
- hospital emergency departments and regional poisons units; and
- outbreak investigations.

However, the full utility (for monitoring purposes) of data from these sources relies heavily on both the co-ordination of data collection and the creation of a forum for the assessment of these data by appropriate experts.

To meet these requirements and to develop its work on emerging trends in drug use, the EMCDDA has begun to co-ordinate the collection of data from the above sources and to enrol experts to analyse the information. In a practical pilot exercise, the Centre is focusing on 'heavy recreational' drug use. This exercise also covers epidemiological information required under the 1997 Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs.

While information from one of the above sources may prove less reliable than data produced by traditional indicators, the strength and veracity of evidence gathered from more than one source will contribute to the development of 'leading-edge' indicators.* These will help guide the collection of the more structured and reliable data required to monitor trends in the appearance of new drugs, patterns of use or drug-using populations.

The EMCDDA's co-ordinated approach in this area is designed to produce information that will rapidly generate more appropriate policy-making and targeted responses.

Deborah Olszewski

* 'Leading-edge' signifies being at the forefront of a new trend.



BOOKSHELF



The United States and International Drug Control 1909-1997

The United States and International Drug Control 1909-1997 charts the American quest to internationalise the doctrine of drug prohibition. Drawing on extensive historical materials, the author uses the international career of America's first 'drug tsar', Harry J. Anslinger, to explore how the United States successfully exploited its superiority in 1945 to influence the philosophy of the multilateral drug-control system operated by the United Nations. More than a purely historical study, the book employs an interdisciplinary approach to understand the development, perpetuation and consequences of an Americanised multilateral drug-control system.

This is the first study providing a picture of US involvement in international drug control, from its inception to the present day. The book's wide-ranging scope makes it of interest not only to scholars of diplomatic history, US foreign policy and international relations, but also to all those concerned by the universal growth of the illicit drug problem.

Published by: Continuum Publishing Co., UK.
Author: David R. Bewley-Taylor, lecturer and researcher in American Studies, University of Wales, Swansea, UK.
Date: August 1999.
Language: English.
Price: £45 (in hardback) + postage and packing.
ISBN: 1-85567-610-9.

Volumes may be ordered from: Pinter, Orca Distribution, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole, Dorset, BH15 3AJ, England, UK.
Tel: ++ 44 1202 665432. Fax: ++ 44 1202 666219.

The EMCDDA is responsible for the selection of materials for the Bookshelf and for the text presented. However, responsibility for the content of these publications and the opinions expressed therein lies with the authors themselves.

NIDA/WHO global network meeting on HIV prevention research

The EMCDDA participated in the second annual meeting of the Global Research Network on HIV Prevention in Drug-using Populations held from 26–28 August in Atlanta, US. The meeting provided an opportunity for:

- identifying emerging developments in the epidemic with implications for HIV, hepatitis B and C prevention;
- discussing the nature, status and effectiveness of HIV prevention efforts among injecting drug users in different countries;
- increasing research capacity through national and international collaborative efforts;
- planning the Network's participation in the 13th World AIDS Conference to be held from 9–14 July 2000 in Durban, South Africa, during which the Network will hold its third annual meeting.

Participants in Atlanta presented overviews of research and evaluation findings in their particular region related to: HIV prevention/intervention; rapid assessment and response; and emerging issues. Information was also exchanged on the status of prevention networks focusing on HIV interventions for drug users, with particular emphasis on best practice. The EMCDDA presented an overview of HIV prevention activities in the EU Member States, demonstrating that prevention (or 'harm-reduction') measures are being widely implemented in most, but not all, Member States even though their coverage is not always clear.

Lucas Wiessing (source NIDA)

Models and socio-economic analyses of drug use

The first co-ordination meeting of the European Network to Develop Policy-relevant Models and Socio-economic Analyses of Drug Use, Consequences and Interventions was held at the EMCDDA from 16–17 September. The Network is funded by the European Commission's Targeted Socio-Economic Research (TSER) programme, co-ordinated by Directorate General XII (Science, Research and Development).

The Network was set up in the context of an EMCDDA project on dynamic modelling in the field of drug use and consists of over 30 experts divided into six working groups. Two of these groups focus on prevalence estimation (local and national); two on the diffusion of drug use (geographic spread and time trends/incidence); and two on socio-economic analyses (drug markets and costs and cost-effectiveness).

At the meeting, the working group co-ordinators presented the results obtained to date, discussed further collaboration and final results. The initial results achieved by the Network are promising. Work will now continue with greater focus on policy relevance and the dissemination of information via scientific publications, a web site and a seminar to be held in 2000.

Lucas Wiessing

EMCDDA COHORT STUDIES ON MORTALITY AMONG DRUG USERS

The EMCDDA has commissioned a number of projects to establish and follow cohorts of drug users recruited at treatment centres in order to assess their mortality.* Problem drug use may lead to a wide range of health problems, and mortality may be used as a relatively non-biased indicator of the health impact of such use.

The Centre's work on cohort studies to date has evolved in three phases: reviewing existing scientific literature on mortality among drug users and assessing the feasibility of setting up cohort studies in different EU Member States (in accordance with a common protocol); promoting and co-ordinating the establishment of cohorts in as many EU cities or countries as possible (following the common methodology set out in the protocol); following the cohorts and analysing their mortality rates (including basic retrospective analyses of existing cohorts in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Rome and Sweden).

From 27–28 September, the EMCDDA's working group on mortality cohort studies met in Rome at the Osservatorio Epidemiologico Regione Lazio, project co-ordinator. At the meeting, participants reported substantial progress in the overall project. Some countries are continuing enrolment under existing cohorts while others have started enrolment of new cohorts. The participants reported that mortality results had already been established for all existing, as well as some new, cohorts (Denmark, Dublin and Hamburg) while, in Lisbon and Vienna, retrospective cohorts and their mortality are being assessed.

The co-ordinator of the EMCDDA's parallel project on drug-related death statistics (co-ordinated by the Trimbo Institute, the Netherlands) attended the meeting to reinforce information exchange between the two projects and to identify common tasks. The EMCDDA considers the use of these statistics and cohort studies as complementary approaches in assessing mortality related to psychoactive drug use.

Finally, the working group discussed future perspectives including exploring additional funding sources in order to accelerate local work and reinforce international co-ordination.

Julian Vicente

* The term 'mortality among drug users' is a concept related to that of 'drug-related death' but is not equivalent. The term refers to the probability of dying from any cause (overdose, infectious diseases, accidents, suicide, etc.) and relates to a group of drug users followed over a period of time (a cohort). See *DrugNet Europe* Nos. 11, 14, 15.

US—EU co-operation

On 28 October, an exchange of views was held between the EMCDDA Management Board and Director of the US White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Barry R. McCaffrey. Delegates discussed US—EU co-operation in the field of drug information in general, and perspectives for ONDCP—EMCDDA co-operation in particular.

The visit was Director McCaffrey's second to the Centre following his trip to Lisbon in July 1998 on the occasion of the first informal US—EU Drug Forum organised by the ONDCP and the EMCDDA.* Mr McCaffrey's visit, a six-day tour of four European countries (UK, Belgium, Portugal, France), examined possibilities for holding a second informal US—EU Drug Forum in the US in 2000.

* Some 30 high-level US and European officials attended the first Forum where they discussed the state of the drug problem on both sides of the Atlantic and proposed a series of innovative ideas for US—EU co-operation and a more open and regular exchange of ideas and information on drug-related matters. See *DrugNet Europe* No. 13.



Photo: José Marques

ONDCP Director, Barry R. McCaffrey



THE EMCDDA AND ITS PARTNERS

EMCDDA and Pompidou Group sign MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formally establishing co-operation between the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe and the EMCDDA was concluded in Strasbourg on 28 September. The agreement was signed at the Council of Europe headquarters by the recently appointed Secretary-General of the organisation, Walter Schwimmer, and EMCDDA Executive Director, Georges Estievenart.

The Memorandum will help enhance the exchange of information and expertise between the two bodies and improve the co-ordination and planning of their respective work programmes, avoiding duplication of effort. More specifically, the MOU will unite the organisations in their efforts to: improve the collection and analysis of data; develop and promote data-comparison methods; enhance the dissemination of information; achieve optimal use of available information; improve the quality of reports; and ensure the most effective use of resources.

Commenting on the agreement, Mr Estievenart stated: 'The signing of this Memorandum further strength-

ens the close co-operation already existing between the two bodies. Furthermore, it will make a real difference to the pan-European campaign against drugs by drawing on the efforts and mechanisms established by both the European Union and the Council of Europe. The Memorandum will significantly increase the efficiency and visibility of action in the drug field at the eve of the new millennium and in the perspective of an enlarged and united Europe'.

The Memorandum of Understanding, drawn up in accordance with the statutes of the Council of Europe and the founding regulation of the EMCDDA, will be reviewed in 2001.



Georges Estievenart, EMCDDA Executive Director, and Walter Schwimmer, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, sign the MOU in Strasbourg.

Photo: Council of Europe



EMCDDA STATUTORY BODIES

Management Board examines Centre's medium-term perspectives

The EMCDDA's 2000 work programme and medium-term perspectives for 2000-4 were top of the agenda at the Centre's Management Board meeting held from 28-29 October in Lisbon. After a lengthy discussion, the Director was requested to adjust the work programme to take into account the comments made by the members of the Board. The

opinion of the European Commission and of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee will be sought on the revised version in the coming weeks. The Management Board will then be requested to adopt the 2000 work programme at its meeting in January.

In the context of the first phase of the Centre's Legal Information System on

Drugs, the Board decided to launch a study on the prosecution of drug misusers. The Board also heard progress on the ongoing external evaluation of the EMCDDA. The next meeting of the Management Board will take place from 12-14 January 2000 in Lisbon.

Kathleen Hernalsteen



VISITS TO THE EMCDDA

Canadian/CICAD delegation visits Centre



On 27 September, a Canadian delegation headed by Jean Fournier, Deputy Solicitor General of Canada* and President of CICAD's Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Working Party** visited the EMCDDA.

Mr Fournier introduced the main activities of the Ministry of the Solicitor General which is responsible for helping to maintain Canada as a peaceful and safe society. Mr Fournier also reported latest progress on the development of the MEM, an evaluation instrument established by CICAD to strengthen mutual confidence, dialogue and co-operation between countries in the Americas.

The MEM will allow CICAD to measure efforts dealing with the drug problem against the framework set out in the OAS' 'Hemispheric Anti-Drug Strategy for the American Continent'. This will be achieved by: the study of national anti-drug plans and strategies; prevention and treatment; reduction in drug



production; and improvement in law enforcement. The MEM will also measure the human, economic and social costs of drug problems in different countries.

The EMCDDA presented to the Canadian delegation its activities in the areas of epidemiology, demand reduction, synthetic drugs and international co-operation. Developing a framework for greater collaboration between CICAD and the EMCDDA was also discussed, leading to the scheduling of a further meeting in Lisbon before the end of 1999 where officials from both organisations will identify concrete areas of co-operation.

Ignacio Vázquez Molini

* The current Solicitor General is the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay. For further details consult: <http://www.sgcs.gov.on.ca>

The Ministry of the Solicitor General is divided into four departments namely: the Royal Mounted Police; the Canadian Security Intelligence Service; the Correctional Service of Canada; and the National Parole Board.

** The Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas-CICAD (Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission) was established under the auspices of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in 1986. For further details see <http://www.oas.org>. CICAD has been developing the MEM over the last year.

Forthcoming visits

• 8 November - Visit to the EMCDDA of Dr W alter, Fanganiello Maierovitch, National Anti-drug Secretary of Brazil.

• 15 November - Visit to the EMCDDA of the Joint Committee on European Affairs of the Irish Parliament.

• 23 November - Visit to the EMCDDA of King Albert and Queen Paola of Belgium and the President and First Lady of Portugal.

• 25 November - Visit to the EMCDDA of Mr Pal Csaky, Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Government.

SWEDEN: On 10 September, the Committee of Justice of the Swedish Parliament paid a fact-finding visit to the EMCDDA. The purpose of the visit was to gain an insight into the state of the drugs problem in the European Union as well as the activities undertaken by the EMCDDA under its second three-year work programme. The visitors showed particular interest in legislation on drug-related offences and the methods of treatment available to drug addicts in the European Union.

NORWAY: On 16 September, the Norwegian association **Aksjonsuke mot narkotika** (Action Week against Drugs) visited the EMCDDA to learn about the Centre's activities in general, and different data-collection and drug-prevention methods in the EU in particular. The ten-person delegation consisted of professionals from the police, youth and political organisations, drug-prevention projects and the media. This was the first Norwegian visit to the Centre following negotiations between the EU and Norway in July this year providing for the country's participation in the activities of the Centre. The visit gave participants the opportunity to enjoy a direct and open exchange of views and experiences with the EMCDDA staff.

Alexis Goosdeel

The EMCDDA attended CICAD's 26th Regular Meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 4-7 October where the MEM was formally adopted. The first round of country-evaluation initiatives should begin by early 2000 and should lead to reports at national and pan-American level by the end of 2000. Evaluation will be undertaken on the basis of data obtained via a standard questionnaire. The meeting also discussed a project to establish an Inter-American Monitoring Centre on Drugs which could be approved at CICAD's next regular meeting.

Online Information 99

Latest developments in the information industry will be exchanged and explored at **Online Information 99**, an international conference and exhibition to take place in London from 7-9 December. The event will offer delegates the chance to hear 125 experts from 20 different countries provide insights into the latest information trends. The extensive programme features topics such as: professional web searching; managing intranets; libraries and the web; managing knowledge; and moving beyond the millennium.

The EMCDDA will be among the participating services exhibiting at the European Union stand at *Online*. Other services include: the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, the European Commission's DG X (Information, Communication, Culture and Audiovisual Media); the European Environment Agency and Eurostat.

Events at the stand will include the launch of the EMCDDA's new public web site (<http://www.emcdda.org>) following a recent project to redesign the architecture, navigational structure and graphic image of the site to enhance its accessibility and appeal.

Further details on both the exhibition and the conference are available at : <http://www.online-information.co.uk> where the latest EMCDDA information and press releases will be posted in the coming weeks. Three leading IT publications will be sponsoring *Online* and carrying special reports in the run up to the event: *The Times Interface*; *Information World Review*; and *Knowledge Management*.

Kathy Robertson

The overall organisers of the event are Learned Information Europe Ltd, Woodside, Hinsley Hill, Oxford OX1 5BE, UK. Tel: ++ 44 1865 388 000. Fax: ++ 44 1865 736 354. Contact: jennifer_palmer@learned.co.uk. The organisers of *Online's* public-information activities are NGA Ltd. Contact: Jemma Livesey or Riona Johnston, NGA Ltd, The Barley Mow Centre, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London, W4 4PH, UK. Tel: ++ 44 181 742 0200. Fax: ++ 44 181 742 3734. Contact: jemma@ngapr.com or riona@ngapr.com.



Forthcoming launch: 1999 Annual Report

Every autumn, the EMCDDA releases the latest figures and information on drugs in Europe via its **Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union**. The *Report* is launched Europe-wide to decision-makers, experts and the media and constitutes a primary and much-coveted reference book on drugs for the coming year. The 1999 *Annual Report*, the fourth produced by the Centre, will be launched in late November.*

This year's *Report* will be published in both an extended and an abridged form, the extended version incorporating two new chapters. The first of these will address the latest trends and developments in drug use recorded in 1998 and outline the various policies, demand-reduction measures and legislation implemented to respond to the drug problem. The second will set out detailed information on established anti-drug practices and programmes and will focus specifically on prevention initiatives (particularly the 1998 European Drug Prevention Week) and responses to the use of cannabis and synthetic drugs.

EMCDDA at the Frankfurt Book Fair

From 13-15 October, the EMCDDA attended the 51st Frankfurt Book Fair, the largest international trade fair for the publishing world. The Centre participated at the stand of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (EUR-OP) where it displayed its latest publications along with full ordering information and general publicity material on its work.

The forthcoming *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union* 1999 was highlighted at the stand and copies of the latest edition of *EUR-OP News* (3/1999),



The *Report* will continue to provide detailed information on prevalence, patterns and consequences of drug misuse. Furthermore, it will build on core information contained in previous years' editions by providing fully-revised, scientifically-treated data on issues such as the national and local prevalence of drug use and seizures and arrests.

Gonçalo Felgueiras

* Extended version 96 pages (available in English, EURO 13); Cat. No. AO-22-99-717-EN-C; ISBN: 92-9168-086-9. Short version (free in all the official EU languages); Cat. No. AO-22-99-709-EN-C; ISBN: 92-9168-079-6. See next edition of *DrugNet Europe* and the EMCDDA web site for more details.

containing a special four-page pull-out supplement on the EMCDDA, were distributed to visitors.

The Centre's publications generated much interest from publishers attending the Fair. The EMCDDA's publications section will be following up requests to license some of the Centre's material for republication on the commercial market.

Rachel Neaman

Copies of *EUR-OP News* (3/1999) containing the above-mentioned supplement are available from Christine Michaut, **News EUR-OP**, EUR-OP, Office 266, 2 rue Mercier, L-2985 Luxembourg. Fax: ++ 352 2929 427 58.





EMCDDA PUBLICATIONS

New Publications:

- *Extended Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union, 1999* (English);
- *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union, 1999* (all 11 EU languages);
- *Report on the Risk Assessment of 4-MTA in the Framework of the Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs* (English).

Coming soon:

- *Reviewing Current Practice in Drug Substitution Treatment in Europe*, EMCDDA Insights series, No. 3 (English);
- *Alternatives to Prison*, EMCDDA Insights series, No. 4 (English);
- *Methods to Integrate Epidemiological Indicators to Address Policy-related Questions on Drug Use*, EMCDDA Scientific Monograph, series No. 4 (English);
- *Understanding and Responding to Drug Use: The Role of Qualitative Research*, Scientific Monograph, series No. 5 (English).

<http://www.emcdda.org/html/publications.html>

NOTICEBOARD

Please note that on 31 October, the area code for Lisbon was replaced by 21 for callers both inside and outside Portugal. The EMCDDA's telephone and fax numbers have therefore changed to:

TELEPHONE: ++ 351 21 811 3000

FAX NUMBERS:

General: ++ 351 21 813 1711

Director's office: ++ 351 21 813 0615

Administration: ++ 351 21 813 7013

Accounts: ++ 351 21 814 6630

Information: ++ 351 21 811 3055

Epidemiology, Demand Reduction and REITOX: ++ 351 21 813 7943

EMCDDA Calendar

- 4–6 November – 11th Annual meeting of the European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs (ELISAD), EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 8 November – Visit to the EMCDDA of Dr Walter Fanganiello Maierovitch, National Anti-drug secretary of Brazil, Lisbon.
- 8–9 November – Expert meeting on drug-related deaths, Lisbon.
- 9 November – Meeting between the EMCDDA and the Pompidou Group on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, Lisbon.
- 15 November – Visit to the EMCDDA of the Joint Committee on European Affairs of the Irish Parliament, Lisbon.
- 15 November – Internal meeting of the Heads of the REITOX Focal Points, Lisbon.
- 16–17 November – Meeting of the Heads of the REITOX Focal Points and the EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 18 November – Visit to the EMCDDA of Mr P. Dietzschy and Mr Ueli Locher, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Lisbon.
- 18–19 November – EMCDDA evaluation and training meeting, Santander.
- 22 November – Launch of the EMCDDA's 1999 Annual Report (provisionally).
- 23 November – Visit to the EMCDDA of King Albert and Queen Paola of Belgium and President and First Lady of Portugal, Lisbon.
- 25 November – Visit to the EMCDDA of Mr Pal Csaky, Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Government, Lisbon.

- 30 November – EMCDDA Scientific Committee Steering Group meeting, Lisbon.
- 2–4 December – 2nd European Conference on the Evaluation of Drug Prevention, Strasbourg.
- 6–7 December – EMCDDA Scientific Committee, Lisbon.
- 9–10 December – EMCDDA expert meeting on drug markets, Lisbon.

Other Meetings

- 3 November – VI National Encounter on Drug Addiction and its Community Focus, Cádiz.
- 4–5 November – Permanent Correspondents of the Pompidou Group, Strasbourg.
- 5–7 November – 4th General meeting of CHANGE, European network of NGOs in HIV prevention, Naples.
- 10–12 November – 1st International Conference on Night Life, Substance Use and Related Health Issues, Amsterdam.
- 11–13 November – UNAIDS/WHO Meeting on HIV surveillance in hard-to-reach populations, Berlin.
- 29–30 November – Pompidou Group epidemiology group meeting, Strasbourg.
- 29–30 November – Mainliners 4th International Hepatitis C Conference, London.
- 7–9 December – Launch of the EMCDDA new web site at Online Information 99, London.

Selected EU Meetings

- 17 November – Horizontal Drugs Group, Brussels.
- 1 December – Horizontal Drugs Group, Brussels.
- 17 December – Horizontal Drugs Group, Brussels.

REITOX developments

New ideas are emerging from joint work conducted by the EMCDDA and the REITOX Focal Points aimed at reinforcing and stimulating local and regional networks.

It is likely that the Centre's scientific commitment to qualitative research and 'leading-edge' indicators in fulfilling its overall goals and implementing the Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs will increasingly engage the NFPs in monitoring latest trends at 'street level'. The French National Focal Point has established ten sites to monitor

developments and trends in a local context.

The overall implementation of the REITOX network's activities will be enhanced by further development of its electronic capacities thanks to the European Commission's second Interchange of Data between Administrations programme (IDA2)*.

Roger Lewis

* The IDA programme, managed by Directorate-General III (Industry) of the European Commission, was established to co-ordinate the development and implementation of telematics applications and services to enable national and European administrations to exchange information. The current electronic REITOX network was set up under the IDA 1 programme.

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