



Towards Multi-Level Cooperation Against Drug Trafficking in Europe

“Drugs are a major concern for the citizens of Europe and a major threat to the security and health of European society.

The EU Drugs Strategy deals with a complex phenomenon that requires a long-term approach to bring about change. It is centred on the two key dimensions of drug policy, *drug demand* reduction and *drug supply* reduction, complemented by three cross-cutting themes, *coordination, international cooperation* and *information, research and evaluation.*

There should be a balanced approach to reducing the supply and demand for drugs, that this should be based on reliable data regarding the nature and extent of the problem, on respect for fundamental rights and human dignity, and – increasingly – on coordinated and cross-border law enforcement aimed at drug traffickers and organized crime.”

– Communication from the European Commission on an EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012, COM(2008) 567/4, September 2008

Renaissance
Hotel
Brussels

13th April 2010

Organised by



Centre for
Parliamentary
Studies



“An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in counter-drug trafficking policy in Europe”

"Europe has developed as a formidable laboratory to study and understand drug use and drug-related responses, and this now provides us with considerable opportunities for collective learning and knowledge sharing."

"The new EU action plan identifies five key priorities that reflect its areas of action: improving coordination, cooperation and raising public awareness; reducing the demand for drugs; reducing the supply of drugs; improving international cooperation; and, improving the understanding of the problem."

- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2009 Annual Report

"The Commission is aware of the importance of the role that it will have to play in the development of a common EU position. If Europe is to be increasingly present on the international scene and make its voice heard, there must be closer coordination between the Union and the Member States. EU actions at international level to fight drug abuse and illicit trafficking will be informed by the awareness that responsibility for the worldwide drug problem is shared by all countries."

- European Commission Statement on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June 2008

Abstract and Programme

Illicit drug trafficking is an alarming phenomenon in Europe, highlighted by the existence of two million problem drug users and the stark reality of over 7,500 fatal drug overdoses per year. There are root causes which can be identified and tackled through long term **preventative strategies** at social, educational and healthcare levels. However, to be effective, such schemes must be connected to a coherent **policing** and **legal framework** to target drug trafficking, cross-border organised crime and other criminology factors.

In its 2009 Annual Report, the *European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction's* latest findings state that "Participation in European research activities was found to vary considerably between countries, with much of the international cooperation taking place on an informal basis...research capacity, overall quality and funding availability vary widely in the EU, and there is a considerable need for capacity building and for funding to cover a broader range of policy areas linked to the EU drug action plan."

It is clear that the successful implementation of an EU-wide drugs policy hinges upon overcoming many obstacles: patchy information gathering in many member states, significant disparities between national strategies and programmes, limited cooperation between national drug research communities within Europe, to name but a few. Furthermore, many questions remain unanswered regarding **demand** and **supply** factors at both strategic and operational levels.

With the launch of the **EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012**, hopes are high that a renewed commitment to address the gaps in capacity building across the EU will have a positive impact. This special International Symposium provides a timely opportunity for practitioners and stakeholders across the EU to discuss the latest challenges and consider the steps needed to revitalise the triple 'C' approach of **Cooperation**, **Collaboration** and **Coordination** in the fight against illicit drug trafficking through multi-level and cross-border approaches in Europe.

The *Centre for Parliamentary Studies* welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.



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Studies

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Tuesday 13th April 2010
Renaissance Hotel, Brussels

09:00 *Registration and Morning Refreshments*

10:00 **Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

*Prof. Brice De Ryuver PhD, Professor of Criminal Law,
Ghent University (confirmed)*

10:05 **Introduction of Participants**

10:30 **Panel Session One: Combating Drugs through Integrated,
Multidisciplinary and Balanced Approaches**

➤ Defining **Demand** Driven Factors and Indicators through Integrated Approaches

- Creating a Knowledge Based Demand Reduction System – Priorities and Initiatives
- Drug Related Social and Health Risks and Damages
- Early Interventions for Breaking Path-Dependent Behaviour
- Treatment Programmes, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Speaker:

*Dr. Michael Farrell, National Addiction Centre, King's College
London (confirmed)*

➤ Defining **Supply** Driven Factors and Indicators for Better Prevention

- Identifying Law Enforcement Mechanisms – Strengthening Cooperation among Member States
- Intensifying Preventive Action against Drug Related Organised Crime – Possibilities for Regional and Thematic Cooperation
- Drug Trafficking in an International Context – Prevention and Punishment Challenges

Speaker:

*Prof. Brice De Ryuver PhD, Professor of Criminal Law, Ghent
University (confirmed)*



- 11:10 *Morning Coffee Break*
- 11:30 First Round of Discussions
- 12:10 *Networking Lunch*
- 13:10 **Panel Session Two: Multi-Level Cooperation against Drug Trafficking – The Strategic and Operational Experience**
- Developing Further European Coordination Mechanism – Challenges and Future Action Plans
 - Identifying Local, National, Regional and Transnational Dynamics – Making Use of the Available Resources; Lessons Learned
 - Defining Minimum Provisions of Elements of Criminal Acts and Penalties
 - Enhanced Cooperation through “Thematic” and “Regional” Approaches
- Speakers:*
- Mr. László Salgó Ph.D., Associate Professor of Criminal Law, Assistant Director of Operations, Europol (confirmed)*
- Mr. Marc Vanhulle, Senior Officer, Federal Police – Central Drugs Office, Belgium Federal Police (confirmed)*
- Mr. Carel Edwards, Head of Unit, Coordination of Anti-Drugs Policy, JLC, European Commission (tbc)*
- 14:25 Second Round of Discussions
- 15:25 *Short Break*
- 15:45 **Session Three: Multi-Agency Cooperation as an Effective Tool in the Fight against Drug Trafficking**
- Supporting Agencies’ Work – Challenges and Best Practices
 - Improving Cooperation at National and Transnational Levels
 - Effective Prevention of Demand and Supply
 - Implementing Law Mechanisms – Challenges and Best Practices
- Speaker:*
- Mr. Patrick Penninckx, Executive Secretary of Pompidou Group, Council of Europe (confirmed)*
- 16:10 Third Round of Discussions
- 16:40 Chair’s Summary and Closing Remarks
- 16:45 *Networking Reception and Refreshments*