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Governments meeting in Vienna in March at the 43rd session of the UN's Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) agreed to step up efforts to implement strategies aimed at achieving measurable results in reducing the supply and demand of illicit drugs.¹

To underscore the importance attached by Member States to the global problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, countries agreed to invite the United Nations General Assembly to include the drugs topic on the agenda of its Millennium Assembly and a Millennium Summit of Heads of State and Government to take place from 5–6 September in New York.²

To maintain the political momentum in tackling drugs, the Commission also decided to convene high-level ministerial meetings in 2003 and 2008 to coincide with the target dates set for specific objectives agreed at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in June 1998 (see page 2).

At the CND session, participants assessed progress in the field of reducing the illicit demand for drugs and eradicating illicit drug crops, by reviewing the steps taken to date to achieve the goals set at the UNGASS. Governments, together with the Vienna-based United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), also agreed on measures that should ensure a more focused approach in meeting these targets.

In the course of the meeting, the CND adopted a total of 16 resolutions, eight of which were promoted by the European Union, following co-ordination

43RD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS



Photo: UN/DPI

The UN's forthcoming Millennium Assembly will include drugs on its agenda.

meetings during the session between Member States under the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Among these was a resolution – presented at the initiative of the United



Photo: NIAD

Participants at the CND assessed progress in the field of reducing the illicit demand for drugs and eradicating illicit drug crops, by reviewing the steps taken to date to achieve the goals set at the UNGASS.

Kingdom and supported by all EU countries, Australia, Canada and the Russian Federation – which puts forward concrete proposals related to the ongoing revision by the UNDCP of its Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ).³ The resolution aims to avoid duplication of effort and to improve the transmission of data from all countries worldwide.

The resolution adopted also takes note of the 'Lisbon Consensus Document' (see page 2), the product of a meeting supported by the UNDCP and hosted by the EMCDDA in Lisbon in January 2000 which involved experts in the field of epidemiology from key regional and

international organisations.

Other resolutions, adopted by the CND and supported by the EU, related, among others, to international cooperation in maritime drug-law enforcement; assistance to drug users; cooperation and exchange of information on synthetic drugs; and the Action Plan on Demand Reduction drawn up to implement the *Declaration on the Guiding Principles for Drug Demand Reduction* adopted at the UNGASS.

Alain Wallon

¹ The CND is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council of the UN and is the main policy-making body for all international drug control matters. The EMCDDA participates as observer at its meetings. The results of the 43rd session, which convened in Vienna from 6–15 March, may be consulted in a press release at http://www.undcp.org/newsflash_media.html.

² In order to consider how to strengthen the function of the UN in the face of the challenges of the 21st Century, the UN General Assembly is devoting its 55th period of sessions to the Millennium and will celebrate a Summit of the Millennium.

³ An instrument through which countries are required by international Conventions to report on their national drug situation.

*Lisbon Consensus Document
'Drug information systems:
Principles, structures and indicators'*

On 20 and 21 January 2000, the EMCDDA hosted a technical meeting, supported by the UNDCP, dedicated to improving internationally the quality, comparability and usefulness of epidemiological information on drug use and its consequences needed to inform policy-making at national, regional and global level.

The purpose of the meeting was to advise the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) – as the UN's decision-making body on drugs issues – on how to revise the UNDCP's Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ) (see page 1). Twenty experts, representing international bodies and regional networks, discussed: objectives and requirements for strategically relevant information; structures required to support data collection; and a possible set of core epidemiological indicators for national reporting.

The resulting 'Lisbon Consensus Document' (see <http://www.emcdda.org>), represents agreement at a technical level between experts. It includes: a statement of principles for data-collection quality and comparability; recommendations on structures needed to support implementation of integrated information systems for data collection and

analysis at national, regional and global level; and a list of topics of strategic/policy interest on which information is still required.

A restricted subset of topics is proposed in the document as the basis for a common core indicator package. These build on key indicators developed by the EMCDDA and take account of instruments used in other regions. The importance of developing analytic capacity alongside improved data collection is also stressed, as is the need to recognise differences in levels of development between countries.

At the CND's 43rd session in March, a Resolution¹ was passed requesting the UNDCP to revise the section on epidemiology in the ARQ, taking guidance from the Lisbon Consensus Document.² The new ARQ would then be tested in countries at different stages of development in 2000, and a final draft submitted to the next CND meeting in March 2001 with a view to being introduced in 2002.

Richard Hartmoll

¹ Streamlining the Annual Reports Questionnaire (E/CN.7/2000/L.8/Rev.1 – UNDCP).

² Drug information systems: Principles, structures and indicators (E/CN.7/2000/CRP.3 – UNDCP).

*11th International
Conference on the
Reduction of Drug-
related Harm*

The 11th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-related Harm took place in Jersey (UK) from 9–13 April.¹

In opening speeches, representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and UNAIDS, expressed explicit support for an integrated and collaborative effort to respond to drug-related harms. Subsequent presentations on the epidemics of drug-related HIV and hepatitis C infection confirmed how urgently action is needed in the developing world, particularly in Eastern Europe and South-East Asia.

High-level representatives from the governments of Germany and Jersey indicated how seriously harm-reduction measures are now being taken by Member States and local jurisdictions.

The Conference presented an international opportunity for clinicians, epidemiologists, service-providers and drug-user groups to meet and exchange experiences. Several speakers stressed the importance of evidence-based approaches to drug policies.

The EMCDDA contributed with papers on: estimating the prevalence and incidence of problem drug use; measuring the implementation of harm-reduction measures; and the implications of globalisation for supply and demand.

Roger Lewis and Lucas Wiessing

¹ Further information on the conference is available at <http://www.jersey2000.co.je>.



UNGASS targets

In June 1998, countries attending the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) committed themselves to attain measurable results in combating illicit drugs.

By 2003, they would:

- have in place comprehensive drug demand reduction strategies;
- set up or strengthen national legislation and programmes to combat the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants as well as their precursors;
- adopt national money-laundering legislation and programmes.

By 2008, they would:

- eliminate, or significantly reduce, the manufacture and trafficking of psychotropic substances and the diversion of precursors;
- achieve significant and measurable results in reducing illicit demand;
- eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit growing of the coca bush, cannabis plant and the opium poppy.

The relationship between social exclusion and drugs, focusing on minorities

Over the last five years, social exclusion has been a recurring theme in research into drug use. More recently, the accent has been on population groups experiencing 'multiple exclusion processes', such as belonging to a minority group, taking drugs, and experiencing economic or social deprivation.

It has often been assumed that minority populations are more likely to experience drug problems than 'native populations'. However, they are also more likely to suffer from other general problems, such as poor housing; social deprivation; economic disadvantage; and reduced access to information, prevention and treatment.

In September 1999, the EMCDDA launched a project to map available information on social exclusion and drugs, focusing mainly on minorities.¹ Co-ordinated by the UK National Focal Point and Middlesex University, it covers all 15 EU Member States. The project will aim to clarify concepts and definitions and review and critically assess existing information. It will also analyse the relationship between social exclusion, minorities and drugs and identify key issues of concern. Recommendations for future European research will be made in the course of the project.

National key partners involved in the project met in Brussels from 25–26 February. In addition to setting national data in a European perspective, they expressed strong concern regarding the sensitivity of this research topic. Findings will be presented in a final report in November 2000.

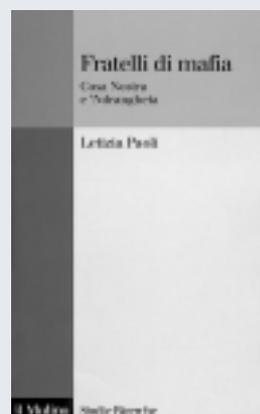
Chlo Carpentier

¹ This followed an expert meeting held at the EMCDDA in December 1998 where an overview was presented of research carried out to date in the EU on the specific theme of drugs and minorities. The meeting identified a work plan for the EMCDDA in this domain.



Social exclusion, a recurring theme in drugs research.

BOOKSHELF



Fratelli di Mafia: Cosa Nostra e 'Ndrangheta

Letizia Paoli's new book on the evolution and current standing of two of the most prominent Italian mafia groupings constitutes a major contribution to the existing academic literature. Mafia has been presented in different lights over the years. Since the 1960s there have been two main interpretations. The first emphasised mafia as a way of being or behaviour. In rejecting the caricature of a monolithic mafia conspiracy, an assumption was made that there was little organisation on the part of mafia families or groupings. The second interpretation emphasised mafia as a form of illicit business involving a number of enterprises and activities.

The enormous income generated through the production and export of heroin had a profound impact on mafia organisation. Until that time, neither Sicily's *Cosa Nostra* nor Calabria's '*Ndrangheta* had been particularly wealthy. The business practices, utilised in tobacco and drug trafficking, undermined traditional values of loyalty and omertà (silence). Key investigations into the 1980s' heroin trade, and a ferocious armed conflict that occurred at the same time, forced national recognition of the power of mafia in Italy. Paoli argues that, for mafia, the attractions of power take precedence over the maximisation of profit. In doing so, she reconciles concepts of mafia as a way of being with mafia as an illegal economic enterprise. Lesser profits may be acceptable if they are accumulated in home territory where mafia ideology is politically dominant. It is frequently argued that market globalisation offers enormous opportunities to the mafia diaspora with worldwide connections. Paoli's hypothesis suggests that *Cosa Nostra*, '*Ndrangheta* and other mafia groupings may forego some of these opportunities to retain their traditional identity and power base.

Roger Lewis

Published by: Società editrice il Mulino, Studi e Ricerche. • **Author:** Letizia Paoli. • **Date:** 2000. • **Language:** Italian. • **Price:** L 35,000. • **ISBN:** 88-15-07339-6. • **Volumes may be ordered from:** Società editrice il Mulino, Strada Maggiore 37, 40125 Bologna, Italy. Tel: ++ 39 051 256011. Fax: ++ 39 051 256034. E-mail: info@mulino.it. Website: <http://www.mulino.it>

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IMPROVING THE EVALUATION OF DRUG PREVENTION: DEVELOPMENTS IN 2000

The long-term objective of the EMCDDA's ongoing EDDRA strategy (Exchange on Drug Demand-Reduction Action) is to offer a source of information on demand-reduction activities in the EU Member States and to help analyse the effectiveness of these interventions.

In the short-term, the aim is to serve programme-planners and practitioners in the field by providing them with educational tools on project conception, design and evaluation. Today, the EDDRA strategy includes a number of resources, entities and materials to attain this objective:

- the EDDRA database itself, now available at http://www.emcdda.org/databases/databases_eddra.shtml;
- a group of 'EDDRA managers' based at the REITOX National Focal Points, responsible for training, disseminating good practice and inputting country data into the EDDRA database;

- an EU standardised framework for presenting projects (a computer editing-software package);
- the EMCDDA manuals on evaluation techniques (e.g. *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Drug Prevention*);
- the EMCDDA Evaluation Instrument Bank (see below).

In order to better respond to field-workers' needs, considerable efforts are being made to improve access Europe-wide to the above resources and materials, among others, by extending the EDDRA strategy linguistically. The *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Drug Prevention* (published in English in 1998) are now available as a working document in all 11 official EU languages. Meanwhile, a multilingual version of the EDDRA database editing-software package (released in English in November 1999) became available in April. This allows local project co-ordinators to edit on-screen their individual project entries in their own national EU language.

Finally, the multilingual search facility introduced in June last year and offering navigation in the EDDRA database in English, French and German, will be extended in May to all Community languages. Despite budgetary restrictions, the EMCDDA is investigating, with national and EU partners, the possibility of making the EDDRA database entirely multilingual.

Considerable efforts have been invested by the EDDRA managers in boosting the quality of the information available in the database, among others, by improving the editing of data entries. The database is expected to carry some 300 projects by the end of 2000.

It is hoped that the above efforts will make a valuable contribution to improving the evaluation of drug-prevention activities throughout Europe in the medium- and long-term.

Philippe Roux

Evaluation Instrument Bank

The EMCDDA's Evaluation Instrument Bank (EIB), a database of instruments for evaluating drug prevention and treatment in the European Union, is now available in prototype form at <http://eib.emcdda.org/eib/welcome.htm> and is likely to be finalised before the end of the year.

Initiated in 1997, the EIB now contains around 40 prevention-evaluation instruments and 110 treatment-evaluation instruments (some of the latter being copyright protected). The EIB has also been expanding linguistically. All instruments are now available in English with some available in Dutch, French, Italian, Spanish and Swedish.

The Bank is designed to be a flexible and expandable tool that allows the continuous inclusion of new instruments and language versions and the adaptation of existing instruments to specific settings. The EIB was conceived to provide professionals with a forum for discussion and comment on issues such as the use and application of the instruments listed.

Navigating the EIB is facilitated by three search modes enabling the visitor to browse for instruments suited to his/her specific interest.

For further information, please contact: Ulrik.Solberg@emcdda.org or Gregor.Burkhart@emcdda.org

Ulrik Solberg

Information System on Training Activities

The EMCDDA is currently implementing its Information System on Training Activities (ISTRA). This database follows on from an EMCDDA study undertaken in 1999 into university and non-university training in the field of demand reduction.

ISTRA offers information and data on university and vocational training in the field of drug demand reduction to students, teachers, programme-planners and decision-makers in the European Union. The database contains information on over 100 training programmes and some 75 institutes and will be regularly updated and expanded to ensure maximum utility.

For each training programme entry, information is provided on: the entry requirements, contents, duration and frequency of the programme; e-mail addresses of contact persons; selection and evaluation criteria; and the substance addressed.

ISTRA will provide university departments involved in research and teaching in the field of drugs with a showcase to publicise recent developments or activities and to disseminate knowledge. The EMCDDA is currently expanding the list of contact persons listed in ISTRA so as to increase the scope of the database.

For further information and details on how to introduce new training programmes, please contact: Petra.Paula.Merino@emcdda.org.

Petra Paula Merino



THE EMCDDA AND ITS PARTNERS

EMCDDA and CICAD discuss Memorandum of Understanding

Staff of the EMCDDA and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) met in Lisbon on 21 March and discussed the possible signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2000. This development follows the formal approval by the EMCDDA Management Board in January 2000 of the scope and general objectives of a co-operation agreement between the two bodies. A draft MOU text was agreed at the meeting which will be subject to the approval of the organisations' internal bodies.

Concrete activities and potential joint projects were also discussed at the meeting. These included proceeding to an exchange of:

- information and know-how on the evaluation of drug-prevention projects;
- data on drug-abuse and production;
- experience on projects related to drug-abuse in prisons; and
- actions in the field of training on epidemiological issues.

At the meeting, the CICAD representatives presented a progress report on the implementation of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), an evaluation framework established by CICAD in 1999 to strengthen mutual confidence, dialogue and co-operation between countries in the Americas. Also discussed was the future development of an Inter-American Drugs Observatory.

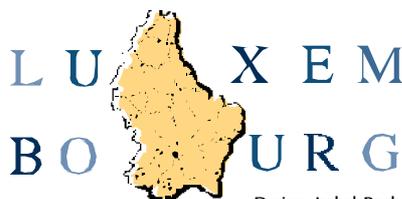
Ignacio Viquez Molin

Developing co-operation with the candidate countries to the EU

The conclusions of the Luxembourg European Council of December 1997 and a European Commission communication of 1998 (SEC 1685) both foresee the participation of the candidate countries to the EU in a number of Community programmes. They also prepare the way for the participation of these countries in the work of the EU agencies, with priority given to the EMCDDA and the Copenhagen-based European Environment Agency (EEA).

Visit of Hereditary Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg

Their Royal Highnesses the Hereditary Grand Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg visited the EMCDDA on 18 April during their three-day official visit to Portugal. Presentations were given on the work of the EMCDDA and the drug situation in Europe and Luxembourg.



Design: Isabel Rocha

The European Council of Helsinki in December 1999 decided to include a total of 13 candidate countries in the EU pre-accession negotiations. These include Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and 10 Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs).¹

Since the beginning of the year, the EMCDDA has taken a number of steps aimed at preparing for the participation of these countries in its activities, as follows:

- participating in the co-ordination meeting for drugs projects under the 2000 National Phare Programme (organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement on 10 March);
- analysing summaries of the 1999 Phare *National Reports* presented by the CEECs to the EMCDDA;
- preparing a chapter of the 2000 *Annual Report* on the drug situation in the CEECs; and
- setting up an internal EMCDDA working group for the participation of the candidate countries in the Centre's work.

At the same time, the EMCDDA has hosted a number of official visits to the Centre where ongoing co-operation between the EMCDDA and the candidate countries was discussed. These meetings explored the steps and requirements posed by the new countries' participation in the Centre's programmes and contributed to developing a positive climate of co-operation and mutual understanding. They will be followed in the coming months by more structured partnership through the EU (see next issue of *DrugNet Europe*).

Alexis Goosdeel

¹ The selected CEEC candidate countries are: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

Memorandum of Understanding: EMCDDA and WHO

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the EMCDDA

(see *DrugNet Europe* 22) took place via an exchange of letters in late March. The letters were signed by Marc Danzon, Director of the WHO

Regional Office for Europe and Georges Estievenart, Executive Director of the EMCDDA. The establishment of this agreement will be followed by talks to identify joint projects such as programmes relating to drug-abuse in prisons.

Ignacio Viquez Molin



EMCDDA STATUTORY BODIES

Management Board

The evaluation report on the EMCDDA – undertaken by external consultants Deloitte and Touche in 1999 – and related Management Board decisions will be available in May on the European Commission's website at : <http://europa.eu.int/>.

Kathleen Hernalsteen

Scientific Committee

The EMCDDA Scientific Committee held its 13th meeting in Lisbon from 16–17 March where it held indepth discussions on the findings of two evaluation exercises carried out in 1999:

- the independent evaluation of the EMCDDA, undertaken by external consultants Deloitte and Touche; and

- a technical evaluation study on the mechanisms set up to implement the Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs, undertaken by the Belgian Focal Point.

As a follow-up to these two exercises, the Committee made a number of operational recommendations for improving its work, including the development of task-specific sub-committees.

The existing two sub-committees on quality indicators for epidemiological and demand-reduction studies met on 16 March. They discussed scientific criteria for projects and reports and stressed the importance of the EMCDDA publishing material in scientific peer-review journals.

The Steering Group on New Synthetic Drugs also met on 16 March and further developed its *Guidelines for the Risk Assessment of New Synthetic Drugs*. In this area, progress was made on the process of weighting and scoring criteria via the use of a scoring table. The Steering Group recommended that MDMA (ecstasy) be used as the 'reference substance' to validate this scoring instrument. Accordingly, it was recommended that the Centre commission a study to prepare the relevant technical annexes to the *Guidelines* on MDMA. The Group also proposed that it be renamed the 'Sub-committee on the Risk Assessment of New Synthetic Drugs' for reasons of consistency.

Lena Westberg



FORUM

News on drugs from around the EU

Networking for the re-integration and social inclusion of recovered and recovering substance misusers

Strategies to tackle problems associated with substance misuse are currently being broadened away from mere health and welfare concerns and the needs of the courts to include new stakeholders.

Traditional strategies for dealing with substance misusers can be successful in addressing drug use, improving health and reducing crime. However, evidence exists demonstrating that recovered and recovering substance misusers are having to fight against prejudice and discrimination that prevent their re-integration into the community, both socially and economically.

Recovered drug users and those on methadone prescription can contribute to the local economy. To facilitate their re-integration, it is essential that new stakeholders become key members of a holistic approach to solving the problem. These new players include representatives of sectors including edu-

cation and lifelong learning, employment, social inclusion and economic regeneration.

Such an approach requires a network to: provide mutual support; identify and co-ordinate research needs; allow for the sharing of good practice; and influence policy at the strategic level. In order to establish such a network, we would like to hear from other initiatives throughout Europe dealing with social inclusion through 'normalisation', training and education, and employment for former drug users or those stabilised through methadone substitution.

Dorrit Schmidt and John Hollis-Davies

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Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

On 5 April, Director of the EMCDDA, Georges Estievenart attended a seminar of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in the UK, an independent body tasked by the British government with keeping national drug misuse under review.

In his presentation to the group, Mr Estievenart outlined the role of the EMCDDA and the way in which the information it produces may influence policy at national and European level. In the context of the Centre's next three-year work programme (2001– 2003), he stressed the need 'to build and systema-

NEW EMCDDA PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF DRUG LAWS AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

Study on the prosecution of drug users in the EU

The EMCDDA is currently investigating the different approaches, procedures and measures adopted by law-enforcement authorities in the European Union Member States when prosecuting drug-use offenders.

The purpose of a new study, launched in April, will be to describe the ways in which the police, prosecutors, courts and social actors interact within and around the Member States' legal systems and decision-making processes regarding offences directly linked to the individual's drug use.

The study, which will highlight the most common offences and the most common responses made by national authorities in the EU, is expected to be available by the end of 2000.

Danilo Ballotta



tically develop the links between information collection, and scientific analysis on the one hand, and policy-making in the European Union on the other'. He pointed to achievements in 1999 under the Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs as a successful example of this relationship.¹

The Advisory Council comprises 33 experts in the drugs field and holds seminars triennially to help take stock of the UK government's drug strategy and consider its own work programme.

¹ On the basis of findings by the EMCDDA and Europol on 4-MTA, and following their formal risk assessment of the substance under Article 4 of the Joint Action, the Council of the EU decided in September 1999 to submit 4-MTA to control measures and criminal penalties in the EU Member States.

Study on public expenditure on drugs in the EU

Drug use, drug trafficking and their consequences incur heavy costs on the community in the areas of health and social affairs, education, public order and justice.

The EMCDDA is investigating the field of public spending on drugs to highlight costs borne by Member States in implementing national drug policy. It will distinguish between direct and indirect costs and encompass the different areas of national expenditure, namely: prevention; treatment; law enforcement; research; and international co-operation. The study conducted at EU level will be presented in November 2000.

Danilo Ballotta



Design: André Santos

Legal experts to meet in Lisbon

Legal experts from the EU Member States, nominated by the EMCDDA Management Board, will meet in Lisbon from 25–26 May to assess the feasibility of a common system to report on, and monitor, national drug laws.

The EMCDDA's ongoing project to set up a European Legal Database on Drugs, which is expected to come to fruition early in 2001, offers the Centre the chance to establish data-exchange mechanisms on drug legislation at EU level.

Danilo Ballotta



EMCDDA PUBLICATIONS



New publications:

- EMCDDA *General Report of Activities 1999* (English, French, German).
- EMCDDA CD-ROM: *European Union Legal Texts on Drugs*



Coming soon:

- *Understanding and Responding to Drug Use: The Role of Qualitative Research*, Scientific Monograph series, No. 4 (English).

Further information on all EMCDDA publications and details of how to order titles are available on the EMCDDA web site at:

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

**REITOX Focal Points
discuss medium-term
perspectives**

The Heads of the REITOX Focal Points held their 19th meeting at the EMCDDA on 9 and 10 March to discuss the EMCDDA's 2000 work programme and medium-term perspectives for 2001–2003.

Among the key topics on the agenda was the recent revision of the guidelines for the 2000 *National Reports* (to provide the basis for the EMCDDA's 2001 *Annual Report*).¹ All Focal Points were widely consulted and involved in this revision process and the European Commission Focal Point was also requested to draw up a report updating information on EU strategies. Two workshops were held in relation to the above: the first on evaluation and feedback; and the second on key issues for the 2001 *Annual Report*.

The state of progress of the EMCDDA's 2000 *Annual Report* was also discussed at the meeting. The Focal Points were requested to provide comments on both translations and contents before final editing, in liaison with their Management Board member. The EMCDDA invited the Focal Points to participate more actively in the launch of this year's *Annual Report* (foreseen for October), from which both they (by increasing awareness of their work at European level) and the EMCDDA (by achieving greater impact of the *Annual Report* at national level) could benefit.

The revised format for the *Information Map* was addressed, and revised guidelines were drawn up after the meeting in consultation with the Focal Points.²

The EMCDDA presented a progress report on a preliminary information-gathering process regarding the substances GHB (Gamma-hydroxybutyrate) and Ketamine, undertaken in co-operation with Europol and involving the REITOX network. This exercise, which follows an official request from the Council of the European Union in September 1999, would result in a joint EMCDDA–Europol report on these substances in the coming weeks which would be distributed to the Horizontal Drugs Group for consideration.

Finally, the EMCDDA stressed the importance of the Focal Points' participation

EMCDDA Calendar

- 12 May – 2nd meeting of the Management Board's working group on mid-term objectives of the EMCDDA, Brussels.
- 22–24 May – Workshop on 'Dynamic drug policy: understanding and controlling drug epidemics', Vienna.
- 22–24 May – Pomidou Group experts in epidemiology meeting, Strasbourg.
- 25–26 May – National legal experts meeting, EMCDDA.
- 29–31 May – Meeting of the Heads of the REITOX Focal Points, EMCDDA.
- 8–9 June – Evaluation and EDDRA training, Odense, Denmark.
- 15–16 June – European expert meeting on young drug–user cohorts, EMCDDA.
- 15–16 June – EMCDDA project meeting on 'Mortality among cohorts of drug users', Rome.
- 22–23 June – European expert group meeting on the infectious diseases indicator, EMCDDA.
- 29–30 June – European expert group meeting on the treatment demand indicator, EMCDDA.

Other Meetings

- 22–23 May – High-level meeting on the co-ordination and co-operation mechanism between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean, Lisbon.
- 1–3 June – 8th annual meeting of the Society for Prevention Research, Montreal, Canada.
- 21–23 June – V Jornadas sobre Prevención de Drogodependencias, Alcorcón, Madrid.
- 26 June – International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking.
- 29 June–1 July – Universidad de Verano 2000 sobre 'Culturas y Drogodependencias' (Summer university 2000 on 'Culture and Drug Addiction') T3E network, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Selected EU Meetings

- 17 May – Horizontal Drugs Group, Brussels.
- 28 June – Horizontal Drugs Group, Brussels.
- 19–20 June – European Council meeting, Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal.

in the various stages of the integration process of the Central and East European Countries (CEECs) into the Centre's activities.

A special 'thematic' REITOX meeting has been planned from 29–31 May in the context of the recent external evaluation of the EMCDDA and EU strategies. This will discuss, among others, the EMCDDA's 2001 work programme and the Centre's next three-year work programme (2001–2003).

Fredric Denecker

¹ A recent task of the EMCDDA's REITOX Co-ordination Department has been to consider, together with other EMCDDA departments and the REITOX Focal Points, a simplification and harmonisation of the NFPS' *National Report* guidelines. During the meeting, these guidelines were discussed and amended and a final draft sent to the Focal Points on 15 April.

² The EMCDDA's Epidemiology Department stated that it would revise the 2000 *Information Map* by requesting information exclusively on law-enforcement data. It also stated, that from 2001 onwards, information formerly gathered via the *Information Map* exercise would be collected via the five key epidemiological indicators. As regards information on Documentation Centres, the questions and guidelines used in the 1998 *Information Map* exercise remain the same but will be revised on a biennial basis.

In Memoriam

We regret to inform our readers of the sudden loss of our dear colleague, Roger Lewis, who tragically passed away on 25 April. Roger joined the EMCDDA on 1 July 1998 as Head of the REITOX Co-ordination Department and was a cherished member of our team. We will fondly remember him for his humanity and exuberance as well as his generosity and very special brand of humour and expression. Our thoughts go now to his family at this sad and difficult moment. Roger was a very dear friend to all of us and will be sadly missed.

**Georges Estievenart
Executive Director, EMCDDA**