



In many cities, regions and countries in Europe, concerned citizens, experts and local authorities are coming to the same conclusion: the way that national and international authorities are tackling the drugs issue is creating more problems than the drugs themselves.

In March 2008, the United Nations will hold a summit in Vienna to evaluate the global fight against drugs of the past ten years. This summit will be an ideal opportunity to propose a revision of the UN Conventions on Drugs, in order to allow individual countries to carry out drug policies that are not based on prohibition.

On 6 and 7 November 2006 in the European Parliament in Brussels, local, regional and national authorities as well as civil society organisations from Europe and beyond will come together to present existing and future alternatives in European drug policy, and to explore the role of Europe in the process towards the UN summit in 2008.

The conference is a step on the road towards a different drug policy in and outside Europe. It is open to the public, but registration is necessary (please see below).

The conference is organised by ENCOD, European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies ([www.encod.org](http://www.encod.org)), with the support of the group of the Greens / European Free Alliance ([www.greens-efa.org](http://www.greens-efa.org)) and the European United Left (Delegazione PRC al Parlamento Europeo) ([www.guengl.org](http://www.guengl.org))



## **PROGRAMME**

### **Monday 6 November ROOM ASP 1G2**

#### **15.00 – 15.15 Welcome by Giusto Catania (MEP)**

#### **15.15 – 16.45 Harm reduction: policies and principles**

Two decades ago harm reduction was introduced as a social alternative to persecution of drug users. But what is the future of this concept in a context where drugs continue to be illegal?

Chair : Stijn Goossens, STAD/Breakline, Belgium.

Speakers: Belén Bilbao, Regional Counsellor of the Basque Government, Spain and Milena Naydenova, representative of HOPE association of drug consumers, Bulgaria

#### **17.00 – 18.30 Cannabis: is regulation a possibility?**

Cannabis is the most popular illicit drug in the European Union, with between 10 and 30 million regular users – every day, approx. 10 tons of cannabis is consumed in the EU. Is it possible to create a system in which the supply of cannabis to adults is regulated?

Chair : Grazia Zuffa, Forum Droghe, Italy.

Speakers: Jan Lonink, Lord Mayor of Terneuzen, the Netherlands, and Martín Barriuso, representative of Pannagh, association of cannabis consumers and producers, Spain

### **Tuesday 7 November ROOM ASP 1G3**

#### **9.00– 10.30 International co-operation**

The revision of UN conventions could have a major impact for the situation of producer countries. This situation is largely determined by the drug policy of the US government. Will Europe be able to produce an alternative also in this field?

Chair : Virginia Montañes, ENCOD, Spain.

Speakers: Felipe Cáceres, Vice-minister of Social Defense, Bolivia and Cindy Fazey, researcher, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom.

Testimonies from the USA (Doug Mc Vay, Common Sense for Drug Policy, [www.csdp.org](http://www.csdp.org) ), Colombia (Taita Querubin Queta, traditional authority of the Kofan People, [www.kofan.nl](http://www.kofan.nl) ) and Canada (Marc Emery, cannabis activist, [www.cannabisculture.com/](http://www.cannabisculture.com/) - by video conference)

#### **10.45- 12.15 Europe's message to the UN in 2008**

What should Europe's role be in the UN Drug Summit in 2008? Which initiatives could be taken by European institutions, governments and civil society organisations to use this opportunity for a better future?

Chair : Jan Van der Tas, Stichting Drugsbeleid, the Netherlands.

Speakers: Franco Corleone, former vice-minister of Justice, Italy and Peter Cohen, researcher, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

#### **12.15- 12.30 Closing remarks by Kathalijne Buitenweg (MEP)**

**After the conference, there will be a possibility for making interviews to speakers and participants.**

**Lunch**

**14.00 – 16.00 ROOM ASP 1C51 Meeting for ENCOD Members. Planning the road to Vienna 2008: MMM 2007, Hemp fairs and other activities...**

**If you wish to participate in this event, do the following please:**

**Send an e-mail to [encod@glo.be](mailto:encod@glo.be) and put REGISTRATION in the subject line with the following information:**

**I hereby register to attend the Conference 'European Alternatives on Drug Policies - the road to Vienna 2008' on 6 & 7 November in the European Parliament in Brussels**

**Name:**

**City:**

**Date of birth:**

**Bring your press card, so you can gain access through the press entrance**

**Deadline for registration: 1 November 2006**

**For more information, please contact:**

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