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## **Madrid Conference to promote Council of Europe MEDICRIME Convention as a key global tool to fight counterfeit medicines**

Strasbourg, 14.11.2013 – The Council of Europe will give a boost to the fight against counterfeit medical products and similar crimes in Europe and worldwide at a conference organised on 21 and 22 November in Madrid, in cooperation with the Spanish Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality. To date the [MEDICRIME Convention](#) has been signed by 21 countries and ratified by Spain and Ukraine.

The meeting will bring together policy makers, representatives of judicial, health and enforcement authorities as well as prosecutors, police and customs agencies officers, heads of medicines agencies from 18 countries (\*) and relevant international institutions and organisations, with a view to ensuring the necessary support for ratification and effective implementation of the Convention and encouraging international co-operation.

The MEDICRIME Convention is the first international legal instrument on the subject to make criminal offences of:

- manufacturing counterfeit medical products (a medical product, medicinal product or medical device or ingredient, whose identity, nature and/or source are fraudulently misrepresented, including on the label).
- supplying, offering to supply or trafficking in counterfeit medical products.
- falsifying documents.
- manufacturing and supplying medical products without authorisation, and marketing medicines without complying with industry standards (so-called "similar crimes" which are understood as the production, stock-piling, trafficking and/or offering for sale of medical products while intentionally by-passing the obligatory supervision/control of medicines authorities).

The counterfeiting of medical products is a growing problem in all regions of the world. The Convention offers a framework for national and international co-operation across the different sectors of the public administration, measures for coordination at national level, preventive measures for use by public and private sectors and protection of victims and witnesses.

### **Additional information:**

Minister of Justice of Spain Alberto Ruiz-Gallardón and Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality of Spain Ana Mato Adrover will participate in the **opening session at 10 am on Thursday 21 November** (San Bernardo St. 49, Metro Noviciado).

The opening will be followed by a **press briefing from 10.30 to 11am**.

[More information](#)

### **Press contacts:**

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(\* ) List of countries invited to the conference: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Republic of Guinea, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Other countries invited (members of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries, [COMJIB](#)) include: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.