



International High-Level Conference

Moscow, 26-28 October 2011

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON COUNTERFEITING OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS AND SIMILAR CRIMES INVOLVING THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH (MEDICRIME CONVENTION) COUNTERING THE SPREAD OF COUNTERFEIT MEDICAL PRODUCTS

FINAL CONCLUSIONS Thematic conference, 26-27 October 2011

We, the participants of the **thematic sessions** of the afore-mentioned International High-Level Conference,

- senior officials designated by the health, enforcement and judicial authorities of member States of the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS),
- representatives of international organisations and European institutions, of stakeholder associations of patients, healthcare professionals and the medical products' manufacturing and distribution chain,

jointly organised by the competent authorities of the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe's DGI – Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law and the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM), DGII – Directorate General of Democracy,

1. HAVING MET in Moscow, Russian Federation, on 26 – 27 October 2011, in order to:

- facilitate the rapid entry into force and effective implementation in Europe and beyond of the MEDICRIME Convention to be opened for signature in Moscow on 28 October 2011,
- make the fight against counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes (“medicrime”) a priority on the political agenda of states and intergovernmental and supranational organisations,
- exchange views between the public and private sectors on the practical implementation of the Convention through domestic legislation,
- deepen the understanding of the origins of medicrime, the implications for public health, notably the nature and dimension of the health damage caused by it,
- improve the international co-operation on criminal law and administrative matters related to medicrime;

2. AWARE that counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes:

- endanger peoples’ lives all over the world, causing serious health damage or even death;
- disrupt the integrity of healthcare systems and undermine the confidence of the general public in health authorities and healthcare, thus impacting negatively societies’ safety, cohesion, and prosperity;
- target all types of medical products and are on the increase worldwide;

3. RECALLING that:

- the right to life is provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, and is enshrined in the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- the right to health protection is provided for in the Council of Europe Social Charter;
- this is the first international treaty aimed to prevent and prosecute offences related to medicrime, also laying down a framework for national and international co-operation between the competent health, police, customs authorities at both the national and international levels, and providing for the protection of victims;

4. CONVINCED that:

- this instrument having an important global vocation should therefore be promoted by the Council of Europe worldwide;
- becoming party to the Convention will provide states around the world with the urgently needed and indispensable legal framework to protect their populations from medicrime;

5. CALL on all member States of the Council of Europe, observer States, as well as other States to:

- become party to the convention without delay and to ensure its effective implementation;
- allocate the necessary resources for the fight against medicrime;
- support existing regulatory structures, enforcement systems, and cooperation procedures at the national and international levels in a sustainable manner;

6. PROPOSE to implement and promote the Convention, including by:

- launching campaigns to raise public awareness on how to avoid unsafe medical products and issuing alerts;
- launching multidisciplinary and international training programmes for officials and health professionals on a continuous basis to better prevent and manage incidences of medicrime;
- developing and providing tools for the identification and follow-up of health damage caused by medicrime;
- providing an inventory of lessons learnt from incidences of medicrime in order to identify criminal trends, identify best practices, and evaluate measures;
- putting in place services for the traceability of medicinal products be they patented or on prescription or not, from producer to end-user, using under public governance mass serialisation and flexible and interoperable repositories;
- ensuring active participation in the programmes carried out by the Council of Europe and its expert bodies such as the European Committee of Crime Problems (CDPC), the European Committee on Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Care CD-P-PH, the Committee of Experts on Minimising Public Health Risks posed by Counterfeit Medical Products and Similar Crimes (CD-P-PH/CMED), the network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories (OMCL), and the European Pharmacopeia Commission, as appropriate;

7. ENCOURAGE

- the start of structured networking between designated contact points in the competent health and law enforcement authorities on a nation-wide level and between states through a national point of contact. Preferably, networking would cover co-operation and information exchange for managing cases based on the well established Council of Europe model of the network of Single Points of Contact (SPOC) and take account of the situation and specific needs of regions;
- a specific training for officials, designated contact points or working in a SPOCs entity, to be organised in the region of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Russian Federation in the forthcoming years with a view to facilitating a regional network;

8. WELCOME AND PAY TRIBUTE to

- the useful developments and initiatives worldwide and at regional level carried out by states, organisations, the private sector, and the civil society to combat the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes, and emphasise that such initiatives should be complementary, in a spirit of synergy, and solidarity;
- the long involvement, expertise and worldwide recognition of the Council of Europe in finding appropriate answers to the serious problems posed by counterfeiting of medical products and other threats to public health.

The participants sincerely thank the conference organisers, in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development of the Russian Federation and its Federal Service on Surveillance in Healthcare and Social Development of Russian Federation (Roszdravnadzor) for the excellent organisation of the conference and for the generous hospitality offered to them.