



19th Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group
Strasbourg, France, 27-28 November 2025
Venue: Palais de l'Europe - Room 1
(Avenue de l'Europe, 67000 Strasbourg, France)

Annotated Agenda

Thursday, 27 November – Chaired by the Swiss acting Presidency

14:00-14:45 Openings		
1	Opening / Adoption of the Conference Programme	Swiss Acting Presidency
2	Address by the Swiss acting Presidency	Ms Anne Lévy, Chair State Secretary Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland
3	Opening Remarks from Director General	Mr Gianluca Esposito, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law at the Council of Europe
4	Address by the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe	Ms Daniela Cujbă Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the Council of Europe
5	Address by the Head of Delegation of Spain	Ms Francisca Sureda Llull, Government Delegate National Plan on Drugs at the Ministry of Health; and Permanent Correspondent of Spain
6	Acceptance Statement by newly elected Presidency / Vice Presidency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Delegation of elected Member State - Head of Delegation of elected Member State - Head of Delegation of elected Member State
14:45-15:45 Session 1: Pompidou Group's achievements in 2023-2025		
7	Main achievements and developments during 2023-2025 work Programme	Ms Mari Viro Moser, Chair of the Pompidou Group's Permanent Correspondents Committee; and Co-Head of Section at the Federal Department of Home Affairs Switzerland
8	Statement / Inputs by Ministers	Mr Michael Falzon, Minister Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Government of Malta
9	Key activities of Pompidou Group and Czechia's priorities	Mr Tomas Dub, Deputy Minister of European Affairs, Czechia
10	Statement / Inputs by National Authorities	Ms Vesna Marinko, Director General of the Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health, Slovenia

11	Statement / Inputs by National Authorities	His Excellency Harry Alex Ruzs, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe
12	Lessons learned and steps forward from national perspectives	Ms Constantina Achilleos, Vice President of the Cyprus National Addictions Authority
13	Shaping National Drug Policies	Ms Ketevan Sarajishvili, Head of the International Relations and Legal Cooperation Department, Ministry of Justice, Georgia
14	Voices from civil society	Mr Matej Košir, Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs
15	Voices from civil society	Ms Magdalena Bartnik, member of the Advisory Board of Correlation – European Harm Reduction Network
16	Voices from civil society	Mr Aleksei Lakhov, Executive Director of the European Network of People Who Use Drugs
15:45-16:15 Coffee break / Family photo for Heads of Delegations		
16:15 -17:15 Session 2: Addressing risks and harms related to online addictions		
17	Pompidou Group's work in addressing online gaming & gambling	Ms Katerina Horackova, Permanent Correspondent of Czechia and Head Coordination and Funding Unit at the Drug Policy Department within the Government Office of Czechia
18	Current scientific perspectives and the pressing need for effective interventions	Ms Sophia Achab, Pompidou Group expert Deputy Director, Addiction Division, Department of Psychiatry Head of WHO Collaborating Center for Training and Research in Mental Health, WHOCC SWI -- University of Geneva
19	National perspectives in addressing risks and harm of digital addictions	Mr Rareş-Petru Achiriloaie, State Secretary and President of National Agency for Policies and Coordination in the Field of Drugs and Addictions in Romania
20	Addressing risks and harms related to online addictions - the national experience	Dr. João Castel-Branco Goulão, National Coordinator on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies and Chair of the Executive Board of the Institute on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies, Ministry of Health, Portugal
21	Digital addictions in Greece: Emerging challenges and innovative policy responses	Mr Athanasios Theocharis, National Coordinator for Addiction Treatment at the Ministry of Health, Greece
22	The Importance of addressing risks and harms related to online addictions	Ms Alice Schogger, Head of Department for International Addiction Affairs, Federal Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Republic of Austria
23	Engaging treaty law in combating counterfeit medical products and protecting public health	Mr Christian Tournié, President of the MEDICRIME Committee at the Council of Europe
	Risks related to online and digital addictions	Mr Nicola Muccioli, Chair of the MONEYVAL Committee

24	particularly those linked to virtual and real currencies	
25	WHO's perspective on prevention and control of addictive behaviours <i>Pre-recorded Video</i>	Mr Jeremy Farrar, Assistant Director-General for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Control at the World Health Organization (WHO)
26	Voices from Youth	Mr Konstantinos Papachristou, Founder of "Youth4Greece"
27	Voices from Youth	Mr Gavriel Efstratiou Member, Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth Department
17:15-18:00 Ceremony: Pompidou Group 2025 Prevention Prize		
28	Introduction of Pompidou Group Prevention Prize	Dr Franz Pietsch, Permanent Correspondent of Austria to the Pompidou Group and responsible Bureau member for the Prevention Prize activity
29	Introduction of Winner Selection Projects	Ms Mălina Turtureanu, member of the 2025 Jury of Prevention Prize for 2025
30	Introduction to the First Winning Project	Ms Catarina Veríssimo Baptista Correia, Coordinator of the "Gabinete de Apoio Psicossocial", Portugal
31	Introduction to the Second Winning Project	Ms Nikoletta Polydorou, from the Project Sistema Cyprus, Cyprus
32	Introduction to the Third Winning Project	Ms Bruna Viatico from Project: "CRISSCROSS" , Portugal
33	Prize Awarding Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Franz Pietsch, Austria – 1st Winning Project - Ms Anne Lévy, Switzerland – 2nd Winning Project - Ms Alice Schogger, Austria - 3rd Winning Project
34	Closing the Prevention Prize Ceremony	Dr Franz Pietsch, Permanent Correspondent of Austria to the Pompidou Group and responsible Bureau member for the Prevention Prize activity
35	Closing – Day 1	Anne Lévy, Chair – State Secretary, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland

19:30 Reception hosted by the Mayor of Strasbourg at the Hôtel de Ville, Place Broglie, Strasbourg

Friday, 28 November – Chaired by the new Presidency

09:30-09:45 Openings		
1	Opening	By new Presidency
2	Statements of Elected Presidency and Vice-Presidency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Delegation of elected Member State - Head of Delegation of elected Member State - Head of Delegation of elected Member State
09:45-11:00 Session 3: Council of Europe values at the heart of drug and addiction policies		
3	Drafting Committee on Human Rights and Drug Policies (DH-PDA)	Mr Lucien Colliander, Permanent Correspondent, Vice chair of Drafting Committee on Human Rights and Drug Policies (DH-PDA) Senior Advisor and Lawyer from the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA), Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), Switzerland
4	Draft recommendation on bringing human rights to the heart of drug policies	Ms Tonje Meinich, Chair of the Drafting Committee on Human rights and Drug Policies (DH-PDA) and Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH) at the Council of Europe
5	Pompidou Group's Work Programme (2026–2029)	Dr Franz Pietsch, Permanent Correspondent of Austria to the Pompidou Group and responsible Bureau member for the Prevention Prize activity Ms Katerina Horackova, Head of the Coordination and Funding Unit at the Drug Policy Department, Government Office of the Czech Republic
6	Inputs by Ministers: Synergies with Ireland's Drug Strategy	Ms Jennifer Murnane O'Connor Minister of State Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy Ireland
7	Inputs on Work Programme	Ms Anne Lévy, Chair State Secretary Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland
8	Inputs by Ministers: Perspectives from Moldova's new National Anti-Drug Strategy (2026-2032)	Mr Sorin Popescu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice Moldova
9	Comprehensive and Human-Centred approach to Drug Policy in Lithuania	Mr Andrius Krivas, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the Council of Europe
10	Development of Ukraine's Drug Policy in the Context of Wartime Challenges	Ms Maryna Slobodnichenko, Deputy Minister, European Integration Ministry of Health, Ukraine
11	Drug prevention policies between European action and local intervention	Ms Véronique Bertholle, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg Thematic Spokesperson on Youth of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities – Council of Europe
12	Country Perspectives on Drug and Addiction Policy	Sylvia Paola Mendoza Elguea, Multidimensional Security Coordinator, MFA, Directorate-General for the United Nations

		Mexico
13	Addressing gender mainstreaming and vulnerable groups in national strategies: a Council of Europe principle	Ms Maria João Fernandes, Vice President, National Commission for the Promotion and the Protection of children (CDENF) designated member to DH-PDA
14	Liechtenstein's adherence with the Prevention and International Cooperation elements into the Work Programme (2025-2029)	Mr Martin Birnbaumer-Onder, Permanent Correspondent to Pompidou Group; Addiction Commissioner, Office of Social Affairs, Liechtenstein
15	Values at the heart of drug and addiction policies	Mr Marco Ganci, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Council of Europe
16	Inputs on Work Programme	Ms Vesna Marinko, Director General of the Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health, Slovenia
17	Statements by International Organisations Research on nexus between trafficking in human beings and illicit drugs	Ms Tarana Baghirova, Programme Officer Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Human Trafficking (OSCE)
18	Statements by International Organisations Common mission and co-operation of CICAD with Pompidou Group <i>Pre-recorded Video</i>	Ms Angela Crowdy, Acting Executive Secretary Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Secretariat for Multidimensional Security Organization of American States
19	EU perspectives and cooperation priorities in addressing drug related harms and risks <i>Pre-recorded Video</i>	Mr Alexis Goosdeel, Executive Director European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA)
11:00-11:20 Coffee break / at the Foyer of Committee of Ministers		
11:20-12:20 Session 4: Combating Organised Crime related to Drug Trafficking		
20	Key Priorities when addressing organised crime related to drug trafficking	Mr Gareth Henry, Chair of the Joint Expert Group (PG) on organised crime related to drug trafficking (OC-DT) Pompidou Group expert designated by Ireland
21	Presentation of Draft Guidelines on combating organised crime related to drug trafficking	Mr Lorenzo Salazar, Member of the Joint Expert Group (PG) on organised crime related to drug trafficking (OC-DT) Vice-Chair of CDPC -Pompidou Group expert designated by CDPC
22	Inputs from Ministers: National perspectives in addressing organised crime related to drug trafficking	Mr Lubomir Iossifov, Deputy Minister, Interior Ministry of Ministry of Interior, Bulgaria
23	Challenges, trends and practices in combating organised crime	Mr Darius Domarkas, Head, Public Security Policy Group, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic, Lithuania

24	Country Perspectives in Combating Organised Crime related to Drug Trafficking	Mr Risto Stavrevski, Chief of Cabinet of the Minister, Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia
25	New tools/standards for increasing the efficiency of international cooperation in tracing and recovering criminal assets	Mr Cornel Virgiliu Calinescu, Chair, Committee of Experts on Criminal Asset Recovery (PC-RAC)
26	Statement/Input from International Organisations	Ms Candice Welsch, Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
27	Statement/Input from International Organisations Customs' key role in combating drug trafficking	Ms Astrid Heiter Technical Attaché, Policy & Standards Directorate World Customs Organization (WCO)
12:20 – 12:50 Ministerial Declaration		
28	Reading of Text of Ministerial Declaration	Dr Franz Pietsch, Permanent Correspondent of Austria to the Pompidou Group
29	Statement from the Austrian Presidency	Ms Alice Schogger, Head of Department for International Addiction Affairs, Federal Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Republic of Austria
12:50 Concluding Remarks and Closure of the Conference		
30	Concluding remarks	Rafael Benitez, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment
31	Concluding remarks	Ms Alice Schogger, Head of Delegation
32	Concluding remarks	Mr Tomas Dub, Deputy Minister of European Affairs, Czechia

13:15 Seated luncheon for Heads of Delegations, at the Restaurant of the Palais de l'Europe - hosted by the Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe, on behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

13:15 Buffet luncheon for other participants at the Foyer of the Committee of Ministers

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