



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## **4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE MEDICRIME CONVENTION**

With the participation of representatives from:  
Algeria, Belarus, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland,  
Greece, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Norway,  
Slovak Republic, Sweden and Tunisia

### **PROGRAMME**

10-11 November 2015  
Larnaca  
Cyprus

[www.coe.int/medicrime](http://www.coe.int/medicrime)

## **Background and objectives**

The Council of Europe has drafted a convention which constitutes, for the first time, an international treaty in the criminal law field dealing with the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (the MEDICRIME Convention).

Safeguarding public health through penal measures targeting criminal behaviour, protecting victims, promoting co-operation at national and international levels, and providing preventive measures are the principal aims of this Convention.

The core values of the [Council of Europe](#) are the protection of human rights and essential freedoms and the promotion of the rule of law and democracy. Our organisation aims to identify solutions to the challenges faced by today's society.

The counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes threaten the right to life enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR). Incidences of counterfeit medical products and similar crimes undermine public trust in healthcare systems and the authorities' surveillance thereof.

The counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes has spread worldwide, no country has been spared.

The Council of Europe has long been concerned about the absence of harmonised international legislation, the existence of non-deterrent sanctions in proportion to the harm caused to patients, and the involvement of criminal organisations which operate across borders.

Thanks to its pan-European membership and co-operation with States and regions beyond Europe, the Council of Europe has been able to develop an international criminal law treaty focusing on public health and with a truly global impact: mandated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and supported by intersecretariat co-operation between the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law through its Criminal Law Division and the Directorate General of Democracy through its European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM). The Convention was opened for signature in Moscow (Russian Federation) on 28 October 2011 and will enter into force on 1 January 2016 after the ratification of five signatories (Ukraine, Spain, Hungary, Moldova and Guinea).

## **Aim of the conference**

The aim of this conference is make significant advances in the fight against counterfeit medical products and similar crimes in Europe and worldwide through seeking political support for the practical implementation of the MEDICRIME Convention. The objectives are the following:

1. to encourage states to sign and ratify the Convention;
2. to raise awareness among members of parliament, law enforcement agencies, NGOs, the media and professionals working in the field;
3. to discuss the benefits and challenges in ratifying the Convention;
4. to exchange experiences, know-how and make contacts.








## **Target audience**

The target audience of the conference includes officials responsible for policy-making, representatives of judicial, health and enforcement authorities as well as State Prosecutors, Heads of Police and Customs Agencies, Heads of Medicines Agencies and members of relevant international and European institutions and organisations.

## **Speakers**

Details of the speakers are listed in the appendix to this programme.

## **Organisation**

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| <i>Venue</i>          |   | Palm Beach Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus                             |
| <i>Registration</i>   |    | 8.45 - 9.30   |
| <i>Coffee break</i>   |    | Conference venue  |
| <i>Lunch</i>          |    | Conference venue  |
| <i>Dinner</i>         |   | Offered by the Republic of Cyprus                             |
| <i>Interpretation</i> |  | Simultaneous interpretation (English/Arabic) for all sessions |
| <i>Group photo</i>    |  | 10.00   |
| <i>Press point</i>    |  | 10.15   |
| <i>Social event</i>   |   | 17.45   |

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| 8.45 - 9.30 |  Arrival and registration of participants |
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| <b>9.30</b> | <b>OPENING SESSION</b> |
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| <p><b>Chair:</b> Mr Oscar Alarcón Jiménez<br/>Co-Secretary of Council of Europe's Committee of Crime Problems (CDPC)</p> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mr Andreas Mylona, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Cyprus</li> <li>➤ Mr Ivan Koedjikov, Head of Action against Crime Department, Council of Europe</li> <li>➤ Ms Popi Kanari, Director, State General Laboratory, Ministry of Health, Cyprus</li> </ul> |
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10.00  Group photo

10.15  Press point

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| <p><b>SESSION 1</b></p> <p><b>OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS OF THE MEDICRIME CONVENTION</b></p> |
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| <p><b>Chair:</b> Ms Lynda Scammell<br/>Medicines &amp; Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), United Kingdom</p> |
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| 10.30 | <p><b>MEDICRIME Convention: background, origins and objectives</b><br/>Mr Hugo Bonar, Enforcement Manager, Health Products Regulatory Authority, Ireland</p>   |
| 10.45 | <p><b>The work of the Parliamentary Assembly in the MEDICRIME Convention</b><br/>Ms Stella Kyriakides, Sub-Committee on Public Health, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe</p>                         |
| 11.00 | <p><b>Cyprus added value against counterfeiting of medicinal products</b><br/>Ms Popi Kanari, Director, State General Laboratory of Cyprus, Ministry of Health</p>   |
| 11.15 | <p><b>Cyprus strategy against counterfeiting of medicinal products</b><br/>Ms Anna Paphitou, Pharmaceutical Services, Head of Good manufacturing and distribution practice (GM DP), Ministry of Health, Cyprus</p> |

11.30 - 12.00  **Coffee break**

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| 12.00 | <p><b>Combating falsified counterfeiting of medical products through criminal law</b><br/>Ms Elena Kleopa, Attorney of the Republic, Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus</p> |
| 12.15 | Discussion  |

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| <p><b>SESSION 2</b></p> <p><b>PROTECTING THE VICTIMS OF COUNTERFEIT MEDICAL PRODUCTS</b></p> |
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| <p><b>Chair:</b> Mr Asier Urruela Mora<br/>Professor of Criminal Law, University of Zaragoza, Spain</p> |
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| 12.30 | <p><b>Medicrime – What's the Big Deal?</b><br/>Ms Lynda Scammell, MHRA, United Kingdom</p>  |
| 12.45 | <p><b>The Medicrime Convention and the Falsified Medicines Directive – the same or different?</b><br/>Mr Hugo Bonar, Enforcement Manager, Health Products Regulatory Authority, Ireland</p> |

13.00 - 14.30  **Lunch break**

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| 14.30 | <b>A customs approach to combat trafficking in counterfeiting of medicines</b><br>Mr Genti Çani, Professional Associate, World Customs Organization |
| 14.45 | <b>Discussion</b>   |

**SESSION 3**  
**TOUR DE TABLE**

**Chair:** Mr Oscar Alarcón Jiménez  
Co-Secretary of Council of Europe's Committee of Crime Problems (CDPC)

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| 15.00 | <b>State of play of the signature/ratification of the MEDICRIME Convention</b><br>The following delegations will take the floor: Algeria, Belarus, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Norway, Slovak Republic, Sweden and Tunisia.<br><br><b>These delegations are requested to make a statement indicating the state of play of the signature/ratification of the MEDICRIME Convention in their country</b> |
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16.15 – 16.30

 **Coffee break**

**SESSION 4**  
**TACKLING A TRANSBORDER CRIME**

**Chair:** Mr Hugo Bonar  
Enforcement Manager, Health Products Regulatory Authority, Ireland

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| 16.30 | <b>How to combat illicit medicines?</b><br>Ms Cecilia Fant, Specialized officer, Medical product counterfeiting and Pharmaceutical Crime Sub-Directorate, INTERPOL   |
| 16.45 | <b>The experience in tackling the counterfeiting of medical products: a case study</b><br><br><b>The Pillendienst Case</b><br>Mr Alexander Roth, Prosecutor, Germany |
| 17.00 | <b>Video presentation on the MEDICRIME Convention</b>  |
| 17.15 | <b>Discussion</b>  |

**End of Day 1**

**Social Event**

**SESSION 5****COMBATING FALSIFIED MEDICINES THROUGH CRIMINAL LAW:  
THE CRIMINAL OFFENCE AND PROSECUTION OF THE PERPETRATORS****Chair:** Mr Ivan Koedjikov

Head of Action against Crime Department, Council of Europe

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| 09.30 | <b>The prosecution of the perpetrators: international experience and added value of EUROJUST</b><br>Mr Francisco Jiménez-Villarejo, Vice-President of EUROJUST, National Member for Spain |
| 10.15 | <b>The added value of the MEDICRIME Convention from the criminal law perspective</b><br>Mr Asier Urruela Mora, Professor of Criminal Law, University of Zaragoza, Spain                   |
| 10.40 | <b>The role of Customs Authorities in the fight against counterfeiting of medical products</b><br>Mr George Constantinou, Customs Officer, Customs & Excise, Cyprus                       |
| 11.00 | <b>Medicrime – Tackling the Online Threat</b><br>Ms Lynda Scammell, MHRA, United Kingdom  |
| 11.15 | <b>Discussion</b>   |

11.30 – 12.00

 **Coffee break****SESSION 6****REINFORCING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION****Chair:** Ms Popi Kanari

Director, State General Laboratory of Cyprus, Ministry of Health

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| 12.00 | <b>The Importance of Networking – The Council of Europe SPOCs Model</b><br>Ms Monika Macisowicz, Chief Specialist for International Cooperation, Main Pharmaceutical Inspectorate, Poland   |
| 12.15 | <b>The example of the Official Medicines Control Laboratories (OMCL) Network</b><br>Ms Dora Partassides, Senior Chemist for Section B, State General Laboratory, Ministry of Health, Cyprus |
| 12.30 | Discussion  |

**CLOSING SESSION**

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| 13.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mr Ivan Koedjikov, Head of Action against Crime Department, Council of Europe</li> <li>➤ Ms Popi Kanari, Director, State General Laboratory of Cyprus, Ministry of Health</li> </ul> |
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**14.00 End of the Conference**