

Second Annual Law Enforcement Conference:

Drug Control Networks

Programme

19-21 November 2024

Strasbourg, France

Plenary Session Room 1 (English/French)	
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:20	Welcome address and introduction to the Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Rafael BENITEZ, Director, Directorate of Social Rights, Health, and Environment, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law Dr Franz PIETSCH, Pampidou Group Permanent Correspondent and Bureau member for Austria, Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria (video) Mr Sé MCCORMACK, Conference Chair, Expert of Council of Europe
Sector	Drug Production, Supply and Trafficking <p>Moderator: Mr Sé MCCORMACK, Expert of Council of Europe Rapporteur: Mr Gilles VAN 'T HOF, Expert of Council of Europe</p> <p><i>Drug production, supply, and trafficking represent a significant global challenge, increasing organized crime and violence. When addressing drug production and supply, the formulation and enforcement of drug policies and supply management are crucial. Recent reports from the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) provide a comprehensive overview highlighting both progress and current challenge where despite significant investments in public health initiatives and law enforcement, the degree of the problem remains substantial. The proliferation of new psychoactive substances and the persistence of traditional drug markets continue to pose significant challenges. Major challenges identified through these reports and where special attention is required is the inclusion of new elements and the regulation of drug supply given the discrepancies in how countries define drug production and manage the drug supply, addressed simultaneously with effective tools to combat drug trafficking, and dismantle these operations.</i></p>
09:20 - 09:35	Trafficking routes from the Balkan region
09:35 - 09:50	The role of OSCE and other international organizations in addressing emerging security threats emanating from Afghanistan
09:50 - 10:10	War and conflict zone consequences on drug production and trade
10:10 - 10:30	Organised Crime Groups in Europe - Overview
10:30 - 10:45	Drug related gun violence in the European Union
10:45 - 11:00	Deflection: A Bridge Between Drug Control and Drug Demand
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break + group picture
11:30 - 12:30	Tour de Table (Country Situation Briefs) Drug production, supply and trafficking -- <i>emerging trends and challenges</i> Moderation by Mr Sé MCCORMACK, Conference Chair, Expert of Council of Europe
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch

Focussed Groups' Session	
Focused Group (1): Room 2 (English)	Focused Group (2): Room 5 (English/French)
<p>Precursors</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Samantha CLOITRE-ORENSTEIN, Secretariat Rapporteur: Mr Ahmet YILMAZ, Expert of Council of Europe</p> <p><i>One of the primary challenges in regulating drug precursors is the rapid innovation by criminal organizations. Recent trends indicate a growing diversity in the types of precursors and the methods of their production. There is an increasing use of synthetic routes that involve multiple precursor chemicals, making detection and regulation more challenging. The July 2024 EU Drug Agency report confirms that the availability of drug precursors remains high across Europe, largely due to the sophisticated methods employed by organized crime groups. These groups diversify their sources and methods of production, with China and India identified as significant suppliers of these chemicals, often diverted from legitimate industrial use. Moreover, there is a tendency in the development of new derivatives and substitute chemicals to circumvent existing regulations, highlighting the need for more responsive legislative measures and a consistent law enforcement.</i></p>	<p>Synthetic Drugs</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Sé MCCORMACK, Expert of Council of Europe Rapporteur: Mr Andrija PEJIC, Expert of Council of Europe</p> <p><i>The UNODC's World Drug Report 2024 points out the evolving synthetic drug landscape and the alarming rise and use of synthetic opioids, particularly nitazenes, (worse than fentanyl). This trend has led to an increase in overdose deaths. The same report notes that synthetic drugs are being more and more linked with other illicit activities, thus exacerbating instability and environmental degradation.</i></p> <p><i>In Europe, the EU Drug Agency 2024 report highlights the growing threat of potent synthetic substances and new drug mixtures, and moreover, resulting to the monitoring of about 950 new psychoactive substances by the end of 2023. These findings underscore the urgent need for enhanced international cooperation and evidence-based interventions on addressing the emerging new synthetic drugs and their market and environmental impact.</i></p>
<p>14:00 – 14:20 INCB Precursors Control Section: A comprehensive approach to prevent illicit drug manufacture</p>	<p>14:00 - 14:20 Changes in the global landscape of the synthetic drugs</p>
<p>14:20 – 14:35 The precursor situation in Luxembourg</p>	<p>14:20 - 14:45 The ascent of fentanyl: A global crisis in the making?</p>
<p>14:35 - 15:00 Never a dull moment in the world of designer precursors</p>	<p>14:45 - 15:00 National prevention plan against misuse of fentanyl & synthetic opioids</p>
<p>15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break</p>	<p>15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break</p>
<p>15:30 – 16:15 Cannabis and cannabinoids: appearance, production, and adulteration</p>	<p>15:30 – 16:15 Nitazenes – Background & measures</p>
<p>16:15 - 16:35 Dutch & Drugs: what about the waste material?</p>	<p>16:15 - 16:35 Captagon trade in the Middle East</p>
<p>16:35 - 17:00 Drug production waste – Quantifying production & assessing environmental impact</p>	<p>16:35 - 17:00 Captagon trade in Syria & Lebanon</p>
17:00 - 19:00	<p>RECEPTION -- INVITATION OF THE POMPIDOU GROUP Restaurant Bleu – Palais, Council of Europe</p>

Plenary Session Room 1 (English/French)	
Sector	Drugs Online Moderator: Mr Sé MCCORMACK, Expert of Council of Europe Rapporteur: Mr Gilles VAN 'T HOF, Expert of Council of Europe
<p><i>The online drug market has evolved significantly, presenting new challenges and trends. According to the UNODC’s World Drug Report 2024, the internet, particularly the dark web, continues to be a major platform for the distribution of illicit drugs due to its accessibility, scope and anonymity. This trend is particularly alarming as it is clearly facilitating the spread of highly dangerous drugs as synthetic opioids.</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, the integration of artificial intelligence into the online drug market has further complicated the landscape. AI technologies are being used to enhance the efficiency and anonymity of drug transactions, and thanks to machine learning algorithms to facilitate the purchase of illicit drugs without human interaction. Consequently, the AI and the online drug market, along with the new dangerous substances in such markets, represent an alarming challenge for law enforcement agencies when it comes to interception and investigation as well as any potential adjudication.</i></p>	
09:30 - 10:00	Online illicit drug trade – Emerging trends
10:00 - 10:30	AI Tools and what to watch as law enforcement
10:30 - 11:00	The last frontier of the online drug market
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:30	Workshop: Disrupting Online Trafficking of Synthetic Drugs and Related Chemicals
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch

Focussed Groups' Session	
Focused Group (1): Room 5 (English/French)	Focused Group (2): Room 2 (English)
Drugs Online	Artificial Intelligence
<p>Moderator: Mr Sé MCCORMACK, Expert of Council of Europe Rapporteur: Mr Ahmet YILMAZ, Expert of Council of Europe</p>	<p>Moderator: Ms Samantha CLOITRE-ORENSTEIN, Secretariat Rapporteur: Mr Andrija PEJIC, Expert of Council of Europe</p>
<p><i>The integration of social media and encrypted messaging apps into the drug trade / market, as well as those customer service tools, have already created a complex and resilient environment for the law enforcement agencies while significantly benefiting drug traffickers.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, it is crucial to enhance international co-operation, introduce sustainable and comprehensive frameworks and policies, and implement adequate regulations. These measures are essential to address and disrupt the unique challenges posed by the evolving threat and impact of internet-facilitated crimes.</i></p>	<p><i>AI technologies are being utilized in various fields, including drug production, distribution optimization, and law enforcement. This is due to the complex relationship between illicit drugs and AI. Nowadays, some law enforcement agencies use AI to combat drug trafficking and organized crime by identifying patterns and predicting drug-related activities, aiming to dismantle drug networks. Additionally, AI tools are being used to develop new treatments and protocols for addiction and rehabilitation programs. However, the use of AI in these areas poses significant regulatory and ethical challenges, highlighting the need for careful observation of this evolving landscape.</i></p>
<p>14:00 - 14:20 Clear web marketplaces – research</p>	<p>14:00 – 14:30 What should law enforcement understand about artificial intelligence?</p>
<p>14:20 - 15:00 Money laundering and criminal asset recovery</p>	<p>14:30 – 15:00 How do criminals use artificial intelligence?</p>
<p>15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break</p>	<p>15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break</p>
<p>15:30 - 16:30 Online recruitment for drug production, trafficking, and trade</p>	<p>15:30 - 16:30 AI Security Screening: A Vital Tool for Modern Law Enforcement</p>

Plenary Session Room 1 (English/French)	
Sector	International Cooperation against Drug Trafficking Moderator : Mr Sé MCCORMACK, Expert of Council of Europe Rapporteur : Mr Gilles VAN 'T HOF, Expert of Council of Europe
<p><i>Drug trafficking is a major challenge with significant impacts on public health, security, and economic stability and due to its complexity and scale it requires a robust international cooperation in order to be effectively addressed (prevention, combating and dismantling). Trafficking networks operate across borders and the diversity of borders make it difficult for individual countries to address the issue alone. This has brought the international cooperation on this matter to become essential in addressing the problem, and more specifically in sharing intelligence, coordinating law enforcement, and implementing strategies to prevent, combat and disrupt these networks. All these operations are possible thanks to international treaties and agreements in place, and which have already created the basis for their own national legal framework and provide the roadmaking and standards of such cooperation.</i></p>	
09:30 - 09:50	Intermodal trafficking – <i>Cooperation</i>
09:50 - 10:10	The DCSA model and the global network of law enforcement attachés
10:10 - 10:30	Information exchange between South America, the Caribbean and EU / UK on general aviation and seaworthy yachts
10:30 - 11:00	Tools of and experience with the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:30	<p>Panel: Role of International Cooperation Tools and Legal framework against Drug Trafficking (UN, EU and CoE' role [PG, AIC, PC-ENV, AML/PC-RAC, PC-OC)</p> <p><i>Drug trafficking and illicit drug trade present a complex global challenge that requires a solid, harmonised, and consistent international response. This includes and is provided only through the regional and international legal frameworks, treaties, and standards that underpin efforts to combat drug trafficking, highlighting the roles of main stakeholders and road-mapping responses on emerging issues. International cooperation is anchored by several pivotal treaties. These treaties establish comprehensive measures for controlling drug production, distribution, and use, while promoting international collaboration in law enforcement and in judicial matters.</i></p>
12:30 - 14.00	Lunch

Focussed Groups' Session	
Focused Group (1): Room 5 (English/French)	Focused Group (2): Room 2 (English)
<p>Airports, General Aviation, Maritime <i>Sectoral complexities: shaping future policies</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Sé MCCORMACK, Expert of Council of Europe Rapporteur: Mr Andrija PEJIC, Expert of Council of Europe</p> <p><i>The interconnected realms of airports, general aviation and maritime operations form the backbone of global transportation and trade making them significant sectors. More specifically: Airports covering passenger and cargo transport where use of artificial intelligence and biometric solutions has already facilitated (regulated) international connectivity, economic growth and security; General Aviation covering all non-commercial aviation activities making use of security and airspace management tools; and Maritime operations covering about 80% of international goods as transported by sea, as such involving prevention security measures (inter alia) and dealing with environmental hazards. The maritime sector is also embracing digitalization and automation to improve efficiency and sustainability.</i></p>	<p>International Cooperation <i>Case studies</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms Samantha CLOITRE-ORENSTEIN, Secretariat Rapporteur: Mr Ahmet YILMAZ, Expert of Council of Europe</p> <p><i>International cooperation is pivotal in shaping future policies against drug trafficking, leveraging the collective strength of various organizations and enhancing further the international standard setting process. The Council of Europe (CoE), through its Pompidou Group, plays a crucial role by promoting human rights-centred drug policies and fostering collaboration among member states. The United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) contribute by setting global standards and facilitating cross-border cooperation, while INTERPOL through intelligence sharing and international cooperation ensures law enforcement. Council of Europe framework treaties and new standard setting initiatives (AI Convention, PC-ENV, PC-OC, PC-RAC) are expected to form a robust framework that not only addresses the immediate challenges of drug trafficking but also will lay the groundwork for sustainable, long-term prevention solutions.</i></p>
<p>14:00 - 14:20 Annual seizures report - European airports and mail centres</p>	<p>14:00 – 14:45 El Capta – Case study</p>
<p>14:20 - 14:40 General Aviation trafficking in France</p>	<p>14:45 - 15:00 Fentanyl – Case study</p>
<p>14:40 - 15:00 General aviation and maritime trafficking - Counter measures in Sweden</p>	
<p>15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break</p>	<p>15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break</p>
<p>15:30 - 15:55 Development of passenger's data (API/PNR) for GA and small vessels</p>	<p>15:30 – 15:45 Operation Lionfish – Case study</p>
<p>15:55 - 16:20 Home Office Intelligence - International collaboration ferry routes Turkey to Italy – Trieste</p>	<p>15:45 - 16:00 Cooperation between France & USA – Case study</p>
	<p>16:00 - 16:20 Drugs and Environment - Knowledge gaps in monitoring environmental impacts of drugs</p>
<p>16:20 - 16:50</p>	<p>Summary from the rapporteurs (Council of Europe Experts): Mr Andrija PEJIC, Croatia; Mr Ahmet YILMAZ, Türkiye; Mr Gilles VAN 'T HOF, Belgium</p>
<p>16:50 –17:00</p>	<p>Concluding Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Denis HUBER, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group, Council of Europe Mr Sé MCCORMACK, Conference Chair, Expert of Council of Europe

