

Information Note

19th Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group

Strasbourg, France, 27–28 November 2025

Venue: Palais de l'Europe – Room 1

1. Background

For over 50 years, the Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group) is serving as a leading platform for dialogue, policy development, and co-operation in drug policy, drug trafficking, prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Its unique intergovernmental framework as a partial enlarged agreement brings together policymakers, practitioners, and civil society, making it a vital actor in shaping coherent, human-rights-based drug related and addiction policies across Europe and beyond.

Currently, the Pompidou Group is focussing on the balanced approach that addresses both the security and health implications of drug trafficking and drug use by focusing equally on reducing drug supply and drug demand. Recognising the complex and multifaceted nature of drug issues, it is using a multidisciplinary strategy that draws on expertise from diverse fields. Central to its work are the principles of respect for human rights, gender equality and health equity. Moreover, the Group places great importance on the active participation and involvement of civil society, ensuring inclusive and effective policy development.

The Pompidou Group's **19th Ministerial Conference** took place at a pivotal moment:

- Analysing the level of impact and completion of the 2023–2025 Work Cycle;
- Acknowledging the increasing complexity and challenges of drug markets, with links to organised crime and international trafficking networks;
- Preparing to face the emerging challenges such as online addictions, digital risks, and evolving patterns of substance use; and
- Recognising the importance of human rights, public health, and co-operation frameworks at the core of drug and addiction policies.

The Conference featured the adoption of the 2026–2029 Work Programme and a Declaration by the Ministers, reaffirming their commitment to advancing the Pompidou Group's strategic priorities. In addition, the Conference which brought together about 140 participants from different sectors emphasised the importance of fostering synergies with international partners such as National Observatories against Drugs/Addictions or Commissions, and representatives from EUDA, CICAD/OSA, UNODC, OSCE, WHO and civil society.

2. Objectives of the 19th Ministerial Conference

- **Take stock of progress:** Review achievements and lessons learned from the 2023–2025 Work-cycle and propose any possible enhanced and comprehensive measures.

- **Address emerging challenges:** Focus on recent trends and adopted responses on drug supply issues, digital and other addictions as well as other relevant societal impact.
- **Reinforce core values:** Reaffirm human rights, democratic principles and evidence-informed approaches in drug policies.
- **Advance co-operation:** Strengthen collaboration against organised crime linked to drug trafficking, leveraging Council of Europe standards and case law of the European Court of Human Rights.
- **Elect the Presidency** of the Pompidou Group for the next work cycle (2026-2029).
- **Set strategic direction:** Adopt and endorse the 2026–2029 Work Programme backed by the Ministerial Declaration.
- **Present** the defined co-operation priorities for 2026-2029 between the Pompidou Group and the EUDA.

3. Format of the Conference

The Conference was organised over two days (half day each) featuring a combination of **high-level plenary sessions** and **thematic discussions** to encourage dialogue among Ministers, senior officials, international partners and civil society.

Key components of its programme included:

- Opening session, with interventions from the outgoing and incoming Presidencies of the Pompidou Group, senior representatives of the Council of Europe and partner organisations, highlighting the key themes of the conference and the importance of co-ordination and co-operation in drug policy and addiction responses. Around sixty interventions were made in the course of two days by Ministers, Heads of Delegations and senior officials in line with the four themes sectoral areas as introduced in the programme.
- High-level keynote speakers invited to participate in plenary discussions addressed themes per each session, addressing the achievements of the 2023–2025 work cycle, the challenges posed by social media and other digital addictions, and the role of Council of Europe in shaping a balanced and rights-based approach on drug and addiction policies; as well as challenges in combating drug production and trafficking, especially when shaped within organised crime forms.
- Interactive discussions fostered participation by sharing of experience, reviewing and presenting trends, while identifying common challenges and providing information on exploring innovative approaches toward prevention, treatment, harm reduction and combating of organised crime related to drug trafficking.
- Contributions from civil society, including those representing the affected communities, practitioners, and the academic community representatives provided information and exchanges on inclusive and evidence-based and informed practices and lessons learnt.
- For first time, a dedicated session addressed organised crime related to drug trafficking, which provided information about recent work of Pompidou Group's in elaborating draft policy guidelines informed by the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. Ministers and high-level officials exchanged views on operational challenges and opportunities for enhanced co-operation backed by Council of Europe standards from its treaty law paving the way for the adoption of these draft guidelines as a future comprehensive practical tool for member States.
- Other session was dedicated to reviewing and adopting of the Pompidou Group's Work Programme for 2026–2029, providing a strategic vision for the next cycle and reaffirming the Group's role as a leader in fostering coherent and comprehensive drug and addiction policies. In this context, Ministers examined progress made in integrating human rights standards into national policies and discuss the practical steps needed to strengthen this approach going forward.
- A ceremonial event: the Pompidou Group Prevention Prize, with youth participation and contributions to prevention efforts.

- The event concluded with the adoption of a [Ministerial Declaration](#), setting out shared priorities and reaffirming the collective commitment to innovation, human rights, and international co-operation in addressing drug and addictions related challenges.

4. Outcomes

- Adoption of a [Ministerial Declaration](#) reaffirming commitment to evidence based and informed- and human-rights-driven drug policies.
- Adoption of the [2026–2029 Work Programme](#), setting priorities for expanded action on current challenges and increased co-operation and innovation.
- **Endorsed the work of Pompidou Group on drafting policy guidelines** and processes to mainstream human rights in drug and addiction policies, [prevent and combat organised crime linked to drug trafficking](#) and address risks and harms of social media, digital and other addictions.
- Encourage and **strengthen partnerships** with international organisations, civil society, and academia.
- Increase **visibility of the Pompidou Group’s role** in shaping modern drug and addiction policies.

5. Participation

- Ministers and senior officials responsible for drug and addiction policies from member and observer States.
- Key international organisations (CICAD/OAS, Europol, EUDA, EC, OSCE, UNODC, and WHO).
- Civil society and networks working on drug policy, harm reduction and prevention.
- Academic and research experts in drug prevention, control policy and public health.
- Media representatives.

6. Communication and accessibility

- The 19th Ministerial Conference has a dedicated event [web page](#) at the Pompidou Group’s website. The page provides comprehensive information about the Conference, including the programme, speakers, background documents and media resources and logistical details.
- The event will be held in person.
- Simoultaneous interpretation in English and French will be provided.
- A press conference will be held at the conclusion of the Conference to share key outcomes.

7. Other related activities

- Prevention Prize Ceremony: Highlighting innovative practices and youth-led projects
- Press and media engagement to ensure visibility of event’s outcomes and endorsements.
- Networking opportunities for Ministers, experts and partners to foster co-operation and co-ordination on drug and addiction policies.

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