

## **Joint Expert Group**

### ***developing Policy Guidelines on combating organised crime relating to drug trafficking, based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights***

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The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has invited the Pompidou Group to prepare policy guidelines on combating organised crime related to drug trafficking, based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. In its efforts to contribute to the organisation's stance against corruption and organised crime, while leveraging knowledge and inputs from within the sector, as of December 2024, the Pompidou Group established a Joint Expert Group (PG-OCDT). The Joint Expert Group is tasked with developing Policy Guidelines on combating organized crime related to drug trafficking, in accordance with the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. It is comprised of the following nominated members:

- Three experts nominated from Pompidou Group member states (PG)- Cyprus, Ireland, Switzerland
- One expert from the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC)-Italy
- One expert from the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)-France
- One expert from the Committee of the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME) – Ireland
- Two experts from academic and research institutions, engaged as independent consultants – Belgium
- One expert from the Council of Europe Secretariat (MEDICRIME)

Additionally, four members of the Council of Europe Secretariat will support the Joint Expert Group.

### Short Bios

#### **Mr Gareth HENRY (Ireland): Chair of the Joint Expert Group (PG)**

*Gareth Henry currently serves as the Head of International Legal at Ireland's National Police and Security Service (An Garda Síochána), where he oversees the development and enhancement of international legal services, including Mutual Legal Assistance, and liaison with entities like Europol, Interpol, and European Public Prosecutor's Office. Prior to this role, Mr Henry held positions such as Senior Principal Prosecutor and Acting Deputy Chief Prosecutor, with extensive experience in international cooperation, prosecution support, and legal advisory roles within Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. He has a robust background in legal strategy, policy development, and collaboration with various national and international stakeholders.*

#### **Ms Theano Christodoulou MAVROMOUSTAKI (Cyprus): Vice Chair of the Joint Expert Group (PG)**

*Theano Christodoulou Mavromoustaki is an Attorney in Cyprus and Head of the civil section at the Law Office of the Government. With extensive experience since 1997, she handles litigation, provides legal opinions, drafts legislation, and represents Cyprus in national and international committees. Ms Mavromoustaki has played a crucial role in drafting new Civil Procedure Rules and reforming the Law Office. As a Legal Correspondent to the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addictions (now EUDA) for over 20 years, and the Legal Advisor for the National Addictions Authority Cyprus, Ms Mavromoustaki has contributed significantly to drug-related policy and legislation, especially with focus on the rights of the mentally disabled, charring disciplinary boards, and examining military service exemptions. Additionally, she has previous experience with the Pompidou Group as an expert in quasi coercive treatment for drug offenders.*

**Dr Christian SCHNEIDER (Switzerland): Member of the Joint Expert Group (PG)**

*Dr Christian Schneider is a Strategic Crime Analyst and the Co-Vice-Chair of the Swiss Federal Commission on issues relating to Addiction and the Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases. This government-appointed, extra-parliamentary commission advises the Swiss Federal government on drug-issues. Since 2019 he leads the Strategic Crime Analysis unit of the Zurich Cantonal Police, the largest police force in Switzerland. From 2012 to 2018 he was a Policy Analyst at the Federal Office of Police specializing on national and international drug control policies and drug markets. Before becoming a crime analyst, Dr SCHNEIDER worked in academia, where his research focused on illicit markets and the regulation. He holds a MSc in Security Sector Management from Cranfield University (GB) and a PhD from the University of Zurich (CH).*

**Ms Milène BLANCHARD (France): Member of the Joint Expert Group (CDDH)**

*Ms BLANCHARD is currently the Deputy Director for Human Rights at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. Since September 2024, she has been leading and coordinating interministerial activities related to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and United Nations (UN) institutional litigations. Her role involves also overseeing the execution of judgments and negotiating international human rights texts on behalf of the French government. Previously, Ms BLANCHARD served as a consultant handling criminal law, freedom of expression, and the right to privacy matters as well as leading the working group on the status and election of judges at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). Additionally, she also oversaw the works of the committee on the rights of the child at the United Nations (UN). Ms BLANCHARD has represented the French Government in administrative and judicial disputes and managed the legal analysis of international human rights law. Her earlier career includes positions as Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Judicial Courts of Melun and Évreux, where she dealt with prison-related issues, juvenile offenses, and family law cases. Her educational background features advanced studies in European law and international judicial cooperation. Ms BLANCHARD is the French member of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Human Rights and member of its Bureau.*

**Mr Lorenzo SALAZAR (Italy): Member of the Joint Expert Group (CDPC)**

*Mr SALAZAR joined the Italian Judiciary in 1982 where he served as Judge at the Court of Busto Arsizio (1984), Référendaire at the Cabinet of the Italian Advocate General to the European Court of Justice (1987), Member of the legislative cabinet at the Italian Ministry of Justice (1989), Justice Counsellor at the Italian Permanent Representation to the EU (1997), Member of the Cabinet of the Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs (2005), Director for International Criminal Affairs at the Italian Ministry of Justice (2009), Deputy Prosecutor General to the Court of Appeal of Naples (2015) - where he retired from Judiciary (2024). Mr SALAZAR has been Vice-Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery (2014-2022); Chair of the Council of Europe's Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (GMC), Chair and Vice-Chair of the European Committee on Criminal Problems at the Council of Europe (CDPC); and Focal Point for Italy in relation to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). He served as Coordinator for criminal matters during the 2014 Italian Presidency at the EU; and was the Chair of the working group on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). He is member of the Editorial Board of EUCRIM "The European Criminal Law Association Forum", edited by the Max Plank Institute, and author and co-author of many articles and books in the field of corruption, economic crime, judicial cooperation and European and International Criminal Law.*

**Hugo K. BONAR (Ireland): Member of the Joint Expert Group (MEDICRIME)**

*Mr BONAR is a qualified lawyer and holds degrees in laws, public administration, and forensic psychology. He is an independent expert in falsified and substandard medical products, providing advice to international organizations such as the Council of Europe, UNODC, and WHO. He has drafted reports and guidance documents, and actively participated in the drafting of the Council of Europe's MEDICRIME Convention and UNODC's "Guide to Good Legislative Practices on Combating Falsified Medical Product-Related Crime." For about 20 years, Mr Bonar has been excelling in the field dealing with falsified and other illicitly diverted medical products, where he developed and led law enforcement facilities, including investigations and intelligence and supervision of prosecutions, relating to offences against medical products for Ireland's Health Products Regulatory Authority. He also chaired several regional and international enforcement groups in this field and has been a member of INTERPOL'S steering committee on Operation Pangea focused on the online supply of falsified and other illicit medical products, and the Ireland delegate to the WHO Member State Mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products.*

**Prof. Dr Letizia PAOLI (consultant): Member of the Joint Expert Group (KU Leuven-Academia)**

*Prof. Dr Letizia PAOLI (PhD, European University Institute, 1997) is a professor of criminology and the Chair of the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology at the KU Leuven Faculty of Law and Criminology. She is also a Life Member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, and the first criminologist to be elected a Member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Science and Arts. Since the 1990s she has published extensively on different forms of organized crime, illegal drugs and PIEDs, and the related control policies. With a coauthor, Dr. Victoria A. Greenfield (George Mason University), she has developed a methodology, the harm assessment framework, to assess the harms of crimes and policy interventions. With several collaborators, she has applied this tool on drug production, drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime, and piracy. Paoli's latest publications include "Assessing the Harms of Crime: A New Framework for Criminal Policy" (2022, with V.A. Greenfield, Oxford University Press), which won the 2023 Book Award of the European Society of Criminology. Additionally, Prof. Dr Paoli has previous experience as an expert for the UNODC and the European Commission.*

**Prof. Dr Frank VERBRUGGEN (consultant): Member of the Joint Expert Group (KU Leuven-Academia)**

*Prof. Dr Frank VERBRUGGEN, is a PHD and a Professor in KU Leuven and the Head of the Institute of Criminal Law. He teaches European Criminal Law and International Criminal Law, as well as several courses on Belgian criminal law. He has been editor or member of the editorial board of several publications in the field of (European) criminal law and procedure. In his PhD he studied the fight against organised crime as a justification for major shifts in criminal law and procedure. His research still concerns organised crime and terrorism, criminal justice efforts against these phenomena and the role of human rights in that field. Other research focuses on the Europeanisation of substantive criminal law, sentencing and the execution of sentences and how states should deal with crime in a digitizing society.*

**Dr. iur. Oscar ALARCÓN-JIMÉNEZ**

*Oscar Alarcón-Jiménez is a lawyer at the Council of Europe, with a distinguished specialization in the defence and promotion of human rights and the consolidation of democracy. With over two decades of professional experience, his work primarily focuses on combating transnational organized crime, with an emphasis on crimes related to cultural property and those that threaten public health.*

*He is the Executive Secretary of two criminal-law Council of Europe conventions: the MEDICRIME Convention, which addresses the counterfeiting of medical products and other similar crimes, a position he has held since 2018, and the Santiago de Compostela Convention, focused on combating trafficking in human organs.*

*Oscar holds a PhD in both Human Rights from the University of Strasbourg (France) and in International Law from the University of Málaga (Spain). He also holds various postgraduate qualifications, including an LL.M. in European Union Law and postgraduate degrees in Media Law and International Economic Law from the Europa-Institut (Germany).*