

P-PG/MinConf (2025)8
28 November 2025

Declaration

19th Ministerial Conference of the Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group), Strasbourg, 27–28 November 2025.

We, the Ministers participating in the 19th Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group in Strasbourg, France, on 27 and 28 November 2025,

- Reaffirm our support to the Pompidou Group, the Council of Europe international cooperation group on drugs and addictions, as a platform for intergovernmental co-operation on drug policies, acting within the institutional framework of the Council of Europe, the Europe-wide reference source for human rights;
- Recognise the pivotal role of the Council of Europe in safeguarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law and reaffirm the evolving mission of the Pompidou Group as a pan-European, enlarged partial agreement with over 50 years of expertise and institutional memory;
- Commend the Group's innovative contributions in addressing emerging challenges in harm demand and supply reduction, notably through recent initiatives launched in 2024–2025;
- Welcome the accession of Spain to the Pompidou Group as of 1 November 2025;
- Recognise the Pompidou Group's capacity to integrate policy, research and practice in addressing evolving challenges and its adaptability to the ever-changing dynamics of drugs and addictions;
- Welcome the activities under Italy's and Switzerland's presidencies, with the support and cooperation of all its members, including regional and thematic networks, capacity-building, peer review exchanges, and evidence-based studies;
- Welcome in particular the Pompidou Group's commitment to transversal and integrated policies with particular focus on children and gender equality, as well as the technical assistance and deliverables supported through voluntary contributions and external resources;
- Express strong support for Ukraine and our full solidarity with its people facing the tragic consequences of war;
- Reaffirm our commitment to protect human rights, including the right to life, health, human dignity, and particularly the protection of children from drugs and addictions;
- Congratulate the establishment of the European Coalition against Drugs (ECAD) within the European Political Community, launched at the Copenhagen Summit on 2nd of October 2025. In reaffirming our commitment to the balanced approach of this important initiative, we will support key initiatives to operationally and pragmatically address major drug-related challenges;
- Express gratitude to France, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland and Switzerland for funding initiatives and regional thematic networks during the past work cycle.

We express our concerns regarding:

1. the alarming trends highlighted in the *2025 World Drug Report*, which reveal a new era of global instability, with organised crime groups driving drug use to unprecedented levels; and the *2025 European Drug Report*, which demonstrates the rapid evolution of the European drug market driven by both suppliers and consumers;
2. the lack of and unequal access to treatment and harm reduction services, especially for vulnerable population, as highlighted in the latest Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Human rights challenges in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem;
3. the increasing availability of pre-precursors, illicit drugs and the misuse of legitimate prescription medicines, which together create a diverse and highly potent range of substances posing serious risks to public health, particularly for young people and other vulnerable groups;
4. the escalating violence associated with the drug trade, its corrosive impact on governance through corruption and illicit financial flows, and the growing use of cybercrime tools, fuelled by technological advances, which threaten global stability and security;
5. the violations of human rights, including the rise in the use of the death penalty for drug-related offences, caused in the name of drug control;
6. the persistent risks and challenges linked to drugs and addictions, drug trafficking, organised crime and related offences, which require a comprehensive approach based on scientific evidence and the respect of human rights;
7. the growing risks and harms associated with gambling and gaming among children and young people, which increasingly correlate with other addictions and adversely affect their mental health and well-being.
8. the strain on Europe's response capacities, as the scale and complexity of these problems exacerbates wider societal issues, including homelessness, migration, mental health disorders and youth criminality.

We recognise:

9. The need for balanced and comprehensive drug policies to integrate harm demand- and supply-reduction strategies, addressing root causes of production, trafficking, consumption and related mental health disorders;
10. The necessity to harness technology, strengthen cross-border co-operation and intensify judicial action against major actors, thereby ensuring coordinated international action along the entire illicit supply chain;
11. The need to recognise the transnational nature of drug trafficking, its entanglement with organised crime and the challenges of addressing it across continental and intercontinental borders, including the digital sphere within today's geopolitical context;
12. The importance to address emerging modes of transportation, including aviation, maritime and land routes, ports, postal services and private carriers;
13. The risks and harms of social media and other digital addictions, particularly their impact on young people's mental health;
14. The need for strong, evidence-based regulation and targeted prevention to protect young people from the risks and harms of online gambling, gaming, social media, and other digital addictions, as well as the increasing risk of criminal activity involvement. All related policies and enforcement actions should be guided by public health and youth protection principles.

15. The need for strengthened cooperation and efficient coordination between policymakers, law enforcement, the judiciary, health sector, civil society, and the scientific and academic community, to ensure a collective and effective response in full compliance with human rights.

We renew our commitments to:

16. the Pompidou Group's role as a forward-looking, policy-driven platform for international co-operation on complex drug-related issues, and to its continued strengthening;
17. uphold the values of the Council of Europe by developing a new standard-setting instrument on human rights in drug and addiction policies;
18. Support the development of policies to effectively combat organised crime and drug trafficking in full compliance with human rights, as informed by research on their trends and by the case law of the European Court of Human Rights;
19. Encourage member states to actively work for the abolition of the death penalty for drug-related offences and to condemn extra-judicial executions at global level;
20. Commit to developing standards and regulatory measures to mitigate risks linked to digital addictions, prioritising the mental health and well-being of young people;
21. Explore evidence-based and comprehensive approaches, including harm reduction measures, treatment and recovery aimed at protecting public health and human rights;
22. Mandate the Pompidou Group to implement its ambitious 2026–2029 Work Programme, structured around mutually reinforcing pillars: Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery, and Supply Reduction – with systematic integration of human rights, gender equality and youth safeguards;
23. Encourage the Group to deepen science-based research and policy development in close collaboration with the relevant Council of Europe's intergovernmental committees and other relevant bodies, as well as civil society, marking a groundbreaking step in multistakeholder co-operation.
24. Enhanced collaboration with international partner organisations, including EUDA, Europol, Eurojust, CICAD/OAS, OSCE, OHCHR, MAOC, WHO, UNODC, INCB, WCO, and Interpol, in order to expand and deepen cooperation frameworks.

To conclude, we:

25. Commend the progress made in addressing today's complex challenges through a comprehensive approach to drug production, trafficking, use, addiction and associated mental health issues. Reaffirm our commitment to a human rights-based approach, to advancing prevention, treatment and harm reduction recovery and to dismantling illicit supply chains;
26. Encourage the Pompidou Group to strengthen synergies and visibility within the Council of Europe by contributing to related activities on human rights, health in custodial settings, protection of children and vulnerable groups, information society, money laundering, cybercrime and drug-related crime;
27. Call on all member States to renew their commitment to the Pompidou Group and invite those not yet associated to formally join its mission and values, thereby reinforcing our collective capacity to meet evolving threats;
28. Entrust Austria as successive Presidency for the years 2026-2027 together with Czechia as shared Presidency for the years 2028-2029 and Mexico, as Vice-Presidency, with guiding the implementation of the new work programme, with the support of all member States and the Secretariat;
29. Call on the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to provide adequate financial support for the Group's activities during 2026–2029, and encourage additional voluntary contributions from member States able to do so;

30. Commit our public authorities to active participation in and support for the Pompidou Group's activities, ensuring that its deliverables are fully utilised to generate a meaningful impact on society.

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