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Contribution of the Pompidou Group to the 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 14-18 March 2022)

1. Statement by the Portuguese Presidency of the Pompidou Group at the 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

First of all, also on behalf of the Pompidou Group, I would like to express our full support to our newest member state, Ukraine, which joined the Pompidou Group as of January 2022.

For the Pompidou Group, 2022 will be marked by collective reflections among its 42 member states on the main priorities for the next three-year work cycle (2023-2025) to make the Group fit for addressing future drug-related challenges. The new work programme will be adopted at the Pompidou Group's 18th Ministerial Conference planned in Lisbon on 13-14 December 2022.

In parallel with discussing new ideas, the Portuguese Presidency will be dedicated to finalising the current work programme (2019-2022), maintaining a strong focus on human rights in line with the 50th Anniversary motto: "Human rights at the heart of drug policies".

The revised statute of the Group was adopted on 16 June 2021. This year will be crucial for setting the Group on the path of using the full potential of its new mandate. The modernised statute should lead to:

- an extended scope of the Group's work to include addictive behaviours related to licit substances (such as alcohol or tobacco) and new forms of addictions (such as Internet gambling and gaming);
- a human rights approach in all our actions, being the only international drug policy platform with a statutory mission to promote and protect the rights of all individuals, including those who use drugs and their relatives;
- a reinforced multidisciplinary approach to addressing the drug challenge which can only be tackled effectively if policy, practice and science are linked;
- a strong focus on synergies, both within the Council of Europe and outside (with both our main international partners and civil society).

To achieve these goals, we will build on the success of the Pompidou Group's 50th Anniversary celebrated in 2021 and its reinforced identity as part of Europe's leading human rights Organization which is also reflected in the Group's new name: *Council of Europe International Cooperation Group on Drugs and Addiction*.

2. List of side-events in which the Pompidou Group is involved as organiser or co-organiser

1. 'Police and Drug Treatment Together: The Global Emergence of Deflection as a Humanitarian Crime Reduction Approach to Drugs' – The Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (USA), Villa Maraini Foundation – Italy;

2. 'Collaboration with civil society and governments in drug policies' - Lithuania, Eurasian Harm Reduction Association;
3. 'Human Rights: The Right to Equitable Health Social and Justice Remedies for People who use Drugs' - Malta;
4. 'The Humanitarian approach to drug policy: opportunities and challenges for an effective cooperation between public authorities and health-based organizations' – Italy;
5. 'Driving change from a shrinking space: Challenges to effective civil society participation in drug policy making' - Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD);
6. 'The Death Penalty for Drug Offences: Latest developments and impact on Foreign Nationals' - Harm Reduction International (HRI);
7. 'Identifying, tracking and controlling drug precursor products' – Governments and enterprises joining forces - joint side event; the PG is the organiser, CICAD/OAS is co-organiser;
8. 'Children and Families Affected by Parental Drug Use: current gaps and promising practices' - Dianova, Croatia and other countries.