2026 MEDICRIME CONFERENCE

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Committe of the Parties to
the MEDICRIME Convention

Medicines and
Medical Devices Agency

PRESIDENCY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
NOVEMBER 2025 - MAY 2026

PRÉSIDENCE DE LA
RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
NOVEMBRE 2025 - MAI 2026

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

OPENING SESSION

Mr Rafael BENITEZ, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, Council of Europe

Rafael Benitez is the Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment of the Council of Europe. With over three decades of experience in international governance, he has dedicated his career to advancing human rights, the rule of law, and democratic principles across Europe.

Since joining the Council of Europe in 1994, Rafael has held several prominent roles, including: Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Director of Programme and Budget, Chief of Protocol, Head of the Public Law Department, Head of the Anti-Terrorism Division and Head of the International Law Division.

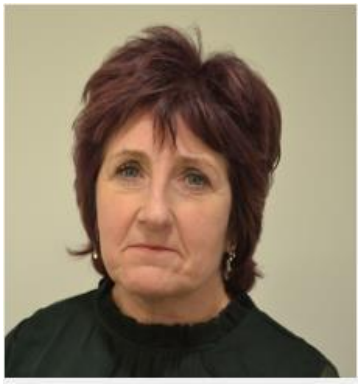
Throughout his tenure, Rafael has contributed extensively to legal fields such as human rights, administrative law, criminal law and justice, and international law.

He lectures in various academic institutions and served as members of the admission board of ENA.

Before joining the Council of Europe, Rafael gained valuable experience in the private sector, working in a law firm and a business association.

He holds a Master's degree in European Law from the College of Europe, Brugge and degrees in Law and Finance from ICADE, Madrid. He also pursued studies in Political Science at UNED.

SESSION 1 MEDICAL PRODUCT-RELATED CRIME IN THE REGION: CHALLENGES TOWARDS SOLUTION



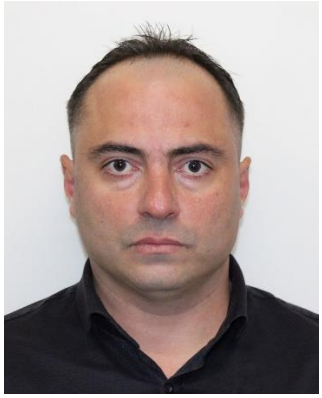
Ms Lynda SCAMMELL, Head of Borderline Products, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, United Kingdom

The MHRA is the Government Agency responsible for the regulation of human medicines and medical devices on the UK market and is an Executive agency of the UK Department of Health and Social Care.

The Borderlines team sits within the Healthcare Quality and Access Group at MHRA and has a broad remit involving the determination of products on the UK market where the relevant legislative framework is not clear and assessing their status as human medicines or medical devices.

Lynda took up the post of the Head of Borderlines in May 2022 after more than 30 years in the MHRA's Criminal Enforcement Group. The team has 7 members of staff. We are maintaining and developing close working relationships with other Government Departments, regulators and external organisations to exchange information and share best practice, reinforcing MHRA's position that patients come first.

Lynda was the Chair of the Expert Working Group on illegal activity involving medical products for the European Directorate for Quality of Medicines (EDQM) and instigated the establishment of a Borderlines Network (a sub-group) for regulators across Member States to seek advice and share information and intelligence about borderline products.



Mr Yasen TOKUSCHEIV, Attorney at law, Bulgaria

Yasen Tokuschiev is an attorney at law who worked at the Bulgarian State Agency for National Security from 2012 to 2025. He has nearly 14 years of experience as an intelligence officer, including serving as Head of the "Healthcare" Section, where he was engaged in the healthcare sector, with a particular focus on pharmacrime prevention, such as the diversion of legitimate products and the production and trafficking of counterfeit or falsified medicines and medical devices. He also served as a contact point for cooperation with Europol, gaining solid experience in conducting international investigations in this field.

Ms Sofia MANZANO RUIZ, Police Inspector, Spanish National Police

Sofía Manzano Ruiz is a Police Inspector in Spanish National Police. She works on cases related to trafficking of medicines used in sports, both professional and amateur.

Ms Lucy HAMBLOCH, Anti-falsified Medicines Associate Director, Europe & Middle East, Novartis

Lucy Hambloch is an Associate Director at Novartis and serves as the Anti-Falsified Medicines Regional Lead for Europe and the Middle East, based in Basel. She brings six years of pharmaceutical-sector experience, which includes leading regional investigations and capacity-building efforts to strengthen detection, response, and prevention of falsified medicines. Before joining Novartis, Lucy spent 13 years in UK policing in intelligence analysis and research. Across both policing and pharma crime investigations, she's known for strong governance and a clear guiding principle: *"Just because we can, doesn't mean we should."* And if you ask Lucy what really builds resilience, she'll tell you three things:

governance, collaboration, and owning a stubborn bulldog with firm opinions and zero interest in compromise!

Mr Vadim TIRON, Head of the International Police Cooperation Directorate, General Police Inspectorate

Vadim TIRON leads, coordinates, and manages the exchange of operational information at international, regional, and national levels, including through secure channels, in the field of crime prevention and combating, with the aim of preventing and fighting transnational crime.

Ms Verica TRBIC, Expert adviser, Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina NCB INTERPOL, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Verica Trbic worked from 1992 to 2000 as a pharmacist and coordinator with international humanitarian organizations, including Pharmaciens Sans Frontières-France, Médecins du Monde-France, and UNHCR, delivering pharmaceutical and medical support throughout the Balkans.
Since 2000, she has served at INTERPOL Sarajevo as an Expert Adviser, in charge of searches and extradition of persons, pharmaceutical and environmental crime, and works of art. As contact point and coordinator for INTERPOL's Project PANGEA since its inception, she has played a key role against the illegal trade and online sale of medicines and participated in major international operations.

Between 2014 and 2022, she was also a doping control officer. She is an active delegate to the Council of Europe and member of the multisectoral working group on Bosnia and Herzegovina's implementation of the MEDICRIME Convention, where she has served as member and Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Parties. In 2025, she was appointed chair of the Working Group on unauthorized removal from the medical supply chain.

Verica Trbic completed her education in Paris and earned a pharmacy degree from the University of Sarajevo. She has published several papers on pharmaceutical standards, counterfeiting, and medicine smuggling.

Mr Niall McCARTHY, Director EMEA, Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI)

Niall McCarthy took up the role as Regional Director EMEA at the Pharmaceutical Security Institute, in April 2024. Prior to joining the PSI, he has over 23 years' experience at The Health Products Regulatory Authority in Ireland, working in the Enforcement Section conducting a wide range of investigations, in Pharma Crime both Nationally and Internationally. Currently the PSI has 40 of the major manufacturers, in its membership.

SESSION 2 **MEDICRIME COMMITTEE HELPING THE PARTIES**

Mr Mkrtich SHAKARYAN, Head, Inspection Department, Ministry of Health, Armenia

Mkrtich Shakaryan has long experience in medicines regulatory authority.He has completed PhD in 2020 in field of implementation European Good Manufacturing and Good Distribution Practices in the Republic of Armenia.

Since 2009 Mkrtich Shakaryan has been involved in the issues of combating counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes, he has participated in training related to SPOC concept, communication of risks posed by falsified medical products.

He is, also, co-author of the scientific article "The development and appraisal of a tool designed to find patients harmed by falsely labeled, falsified (counterfeit) medicines" related to assessment of the risk of harm of the patients from falsely labelled, falsified and illegally supplied medicines, as well as the co-author in studies "Operation Volcano – The Herceptin Case" devoted to falsified medicinal product.

Ms Annaïck LE GOFF, First Vice-President in charge of judicial investigations, Ministry of Justice, France

A magistrate since 1995, Annaïck LE GOFF has been coordinating the investigation department of the Judicial Court of Marseille since January 2021, dealing in particular with economic and financial cases. Her career includes six years as a civil judge handling medical liability and blood transfusion cases, followed by her role as investigating judge at the Marseille Public Health Unit from 2010 to 2018. There, she led investigations into medicines, medical devices and related fraud.

Alongside her judicial work, she has contributed to training for magistrates and doctors at the National School for the Judiciary and participated as an expert in a project promoting the MEDICRIME Convention in Africa. She has also shared her experience before the Senate and the National Assembly and was heard by a parliamentary inquiry committee in 2019.

From 2023 to 2025, she took part in the scientific committee overseeing the reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure. An investigating judge for around fifteen years, she has a particular interest in public health litigation, multidisciplinary work, and the conduct of investigations.

Mr Iván Ákos BUJDOS, Deputy State Secretariat for Criminal Law Codification, Ministry of Justice, Hungary

Ivan started his career as a customs officer dealing with public procurement and customs law for a short period, then switched uniforms and became a military legal officer, building up a track record of practising various fields of law depending on the problems at hand, including criminal investigations, disciplinary matters, employment law, real estate law or damages. He gained international experience as a UN peacekeeper with UNFICYP (United Nations Forces in Cyprus) as a military observer and liaison officer while also serving as the legal officer of the Hungarian contingent. After having been discharged, he went on to work as a junior investigative prosecutor at the Hungarian prosecution service. Currently, he is a senior legal advisor at the Hungarian Ministry of Justice, primarily dealing with international criminal matters from a legislative perspective, inter alia, EU criminal legislation and Council of Europe criminal matters. He also has a PhD degree in criminal law.

Mr Younes ESCAYD, Head of Unit on Organised Crime by Exceptional Laws, Presidency of the Public Prosecutor's Office, Morocco

Younes Escayd is a First Grade Judicial Commissioner, currently serving as Head of the Unit responsible for offences governed by special legislation within the Special Criminal Affairs Section, under the Special Criminal Affairs Division of the Presidency of the Public Prosecution of the Kingdom of Morocco.

In the course of his duties, he has participated in several activities organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as an expert specialising in environmental offences.

Mr Hugo K. Bonar, Independent expert

Hugo has been engaged in the fight against Substandard and falsified medical products for over 25 years on the international, regional and national spheres. He has supported Council of Europe's initiatives since 2003, including as a drafting expert to the MEDICRIME Convention.

Most recently, since 2020, he has been appointed an expert to the MEDICRIME Committee on counterfeit/falsified medical products and related crimes, and to the Santiago de Compostela Committee on the trafficking in human organs. He has also supported, as an expert, the UNODC's development of the guide to good legislative drafting on falsified medical product, and also drafted situation and training documents related to falsified medical products. He was Ireland's delegate to the WHO's member State mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products and later provided experts reports for WHO relating to substandard and falsified medical products. He was a member of INTERPOL's steering committee on Operation Pangea from its inception until 2018.

Hugo currently provides expert consultancy service relating to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of frameworks and coordinating systems in the field of falsified medical products.

Ms Judith VONEY, Head of the Penal Division of Swissmedic, Switzerland

Judith Voney studied law at the University of Bern in Switzerland, qualified as an attorney-at-law. Since qualifying, she has devoted her career to the field of criminal prosecution. Among other roles, she served as Deputy Head of the Criminal Investigation Division at the Cantonal Police of Bern, was Head of the Money Laundering Reporting Office Switzerland and Head of the Terrorism Investigation Division at the Federal Criminal Police. Currently she held the position as Head of the Penal Division of Swissmedic, the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products. She completed various leadership training programs, including a Certificate of Advanced Studies from the Swiss Police Institute, graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico/USA and completed leadership trainings in mediation, professional negotiation, as well as in civil protection.

Mr Marcel DOUA, Magistrate and technical adviser, Ivory Coast

Mr Marcel DOUA is a trained magistrate. He holds a PhD in Law, specialising in Environmental Law and Forestry Law, obtained in Rennes, France. He has held numerous judicial positions in Côte d'Ivoire, serving as Deputy Public Prosecutor in both Bouaflé and Abengourou, President of the Bouna Court, and Judge at the Abidjan Commercial Court.

He is currently working in the office of the Keeper of the Seals, Minister of Justice and Human Rights, where he serves as a Technical Advisor. He is an arbitrator at the Arbitration Court of Côte d'Ivoire (CACI). He has also been President of the Disciplinary Chamber of Central Council 1 of the Order of Pharmacists of Côte d'Ivoire since 2025.

Author of several publications, particularly in environmental law, his area of expertise, Mr Marcel DOUA is also a trainer in this field and has participated in numerous seminars and other meetings on environmental law, both in Côte d'Ivoire and abroad.

He is a member of several international environmental associations and serves as President of the Ivorian Centre for Research and the Defence of Environmental Law (CIR2DE), an organisation dedicated to both environmental protection and research in environmental law.

Dr Asier URRUELA MORA, Full Professor in Criminal Law, University of Saragoza, Spain

He is currently Full Professor in Criminal Law at the University of Zaragoza since March 2022. He is Honorary Professor at the Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa (Peru) and at the Universidad José Carlos Mariategui de Moquegua (Peru). He holds a Doctorate in Law and a Doctorate in Medicine.

His research has focused on topics related to the Dogmatic of Criminal Law (guilty, insanity defense, criminal security measures, criminal dangerousness, etc.), DNA testing and the Administration of Justice, as well as in the field of Medical Law and Law and the Human Genome (xenotransplantation, stem cell research, transgenesis and law, the precautionary principle and biotechnologies.
He has been an advisor to the Spanish Ministry of Health in relation to the implementation of a national system for the reporting and registration of adverse events.

SESSION 3 **MEDICRIME AND BEYOND**

Mr Mark JACKSON, Independent Expert

Mark Jackson is a highly experienced former law enforcement professional with a distinguished career tackling serious and organised crime, including leading complex and high-profile investigations.

He went on to hold senior leadership roles at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), serving as Head of Intelligence and later Head of Enforcement, where he led the UK's response to pharmaceutical crime and threats to public health.

Mark subsequently served as Head of Counter Diversion and Illicit Trade at a global pharmaceutical company, developing and delivering a cross-functional strategy to address diversion and illicit trade risks at scale.

Now an independent consultant, he supports international efforts to combat pharmaceutical crime, providing technical advice, training, and operational support to national regulators, particularly across Sub-Saharan Africa. He also led the development and authorship of the recently launched UNODC Practitioner's Handbook on minimising the risk of diversion of pharmaceuticals containing controlled substances.

Dr Andrés GARCIA CAMPOS, Senior Programme Manager, World Organization for Animal Health

Dr. Andrés García Campos holds a veterinary degree from the University of Zaragoza (Spain) and obtained a PhD in Infection Biology from University College Dublin in 2016. He subsequently served as a Veterinary Officer at the Health Products Regulatory Authority, working on safety, efficacy and pharmacovigilance of veterinary medicines. In 2022, he was awarded the title of European Specialist in Veterinary Parasitology by the EBVS. Since July 2022, he has been a Senior Programme Officer in the Veterinary Products and Drug Resistance Department at WOAH, where he leads the programme on Substandard and Falsified Veterinary Products.

Mr Alexandr MANCIU, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Republic of Moldova

Alexandr Manciu is the Deputy Director for Sanitary and Veterinary Affairs at the National Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Moldova, a position he has held since November 2021. He has over a decade of professional experience within the veterinary public sector, including previous roles as Deputy Head and Senior Inspector within the Animal Health and Welfare Directorate.

Throughout his career, he has led and contributed to activities related to animal disease surveillance, zoonoses monitoring, and the development and implementation of veterinary policies and control measures. He has also been actively involved in national regulatory frameworks as a member of the Veterinary Medicines Commission and the National Codex Alimentarius Committee.

Prior to his current role, he served within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, focusing on animal food safety and veterinary medicine. In parallel with his administrative responsibilities, he contributed to academic development as an Assistant Professor at the State Agrarian University of Moldova.

He has participated in numerous international training programs and simulation exercises aimed at strengthening preparedness and response to animal health threats and enhancing food safety systems.

Mr Athanasios THEOCHARIS, Permanent Correspondent of the Pompidou Group, Greece

Athanasios Theocharis is a Political Scientist with an MA in International Relations and an MBA, currently serving as Greece's National Coordinator for Addictions and as President of the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Prevention and Addiction Treatment (EOPAE).
He represents Greece at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations and the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs of the European Union, and he is Permanent Correspondent of Greece in Pompidou Group of Council of Europe and Member of the Management Board of the European Union Drug Agency (EUDA).

Additionally, he is appointed as a Member of the Public Health Committee of Experts, and a Member of the Central Board of Health in Greece.

Mr Michał RYNKOWSKI, Chair of the of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO), Poland

Michał Rynkowski, PhD, is engaged in the fight against doping in sport since 2009. Director of the Polish Anti-Doping Agency since 2017. Chairman of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe.

He holds a PhD in law from the Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Warsaw. Member of the board of Polish Sport Law Association and member of the Fair Play Council of Polish Olympic Committee.

He is the author of numerous scientific publications in the field of law and doping in sport. Active participant in many international projects in the field of anti-doping. Privately, passionate about various forms of physical activity, particularly triathlon and sailing.

SESSION 4 **MEDICRIME CONVENTION: MOVING FORWARD**

Mr Oscar ALARCÓN-JIMÉNEZ, Executive Secretary of the MEDICRIME Committee

Oscar Alarcón Jiménez is a Senior legal advisor at the Council of Europe, with a distinguished specialization in the defence and promotion of human rights, the rule of law and the consolidation of democracy. With over two decades of professional experience at the Council of Europe, his work focusses on combating transnational organised crime, particularly crimes that threaten public health. Since 2018, Mr Alarcón Jiménez has served as Executive Secretary of the MEDICRIME Convention, the landmark Council of Europe treaty combating the falsification of medical products-related crimes. He also serves as Executive Secretary of the Santiago de Compostela Convention, the pioneering international instrument dedicated to combating trafficking in human organs.

Since joining the Council of Europe in 2002, he has developed his professional experience across both its political bodies and its intergovernmental sector, primarily within the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law. He has worked for the European Commission for the Efficiently of Justice (CEPEJ), the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and the criminal law cooperation division, where he implemented projects on penitentiary, probation and law-enforcement institutions. He has also field experience having successfully led projects in Ukraine

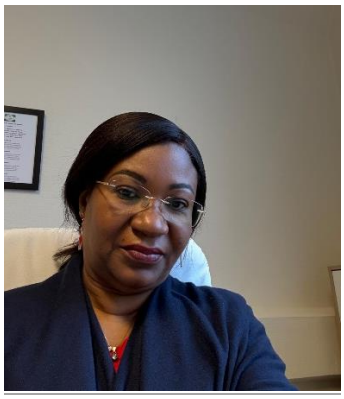
and Türkiye. Earlier, he worked at the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Doctor in Law, he also completed various postgraduate programmes, including a LL.M. in European Union Law and postgraduate degrees in International Economic and Media Law.

Mr Matus FERECH, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, DG SANTE, European Commission

Dr. Matus Ferech is a regulatory expert at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), where he leads a number of initiatives within Unit D2 – Medical Products: Quality, Safety, and Innovation. In this role, he plays a central part in implementing and enforcing the Falsified Medicines Directive, including the EU-wide serialisation and verification system.

Dr. Ferech collaborates closely with competent authorities across EU Member States and engaged stakeholders to strengthen supply chain security and ensure the seamless integration of the EU Hub and national repositories to safeguard EU citizens from falsified medicinal products. Combining expertise in pharmaceutical sciences and economics with cross-sectoral experience in medicines and tobacco regulation, Dr. Ferech brings a holistic, forward-looking approach to the challenges at the nexus of policy, technology, and public health.



Ms Paule ONOUVIET, Customs Attaché at the Embassy of Gabon in Brussels, Gabon

Colonel Paule Dalhia Onouviet has been a customs officer in the Gabonese Customs Administration for 26 years. She is currently serving as Customs Attaché representing the Republic of Gabon in Brussels, where she is responsible for monitoring dossiers related to the World Customs Organization (WCO).

Prior to her posting in the Kingdom of Belgium, she worked in several departments within the Customs Administration, including the IT Directorate, the Directorate of Trade and International Relations, and the Directorate of Surveillance Services. Through these roles, she developed expertise in maritime crime, illegal deforestation, and control operations in the fight against fraud.

During her time in the Surveillance Services, she took part in numerous operations to combat pharmaceutical crime, in collaboration with the judiciary, the Medicines Agency, and defence and security forces. Together with her team, she dismantled networks involved in the importation of counterfeit medicines, notably via coastal shipping and from China**.**

Mr Hugo K. Bonar, Independent expert

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Hugo currently provides expert consultancy service relating to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of frameworks and coordinating systems in the field of falsified medical products.

Mr Moussa THOMBIANO, Criminal Intelligence Officer, INTERPOL

Moussa Thombiano is a Criminal Intelligence Officer working within INTERPOL's Illicit Goods and Global Health Programme with over a decade of experience in law enforcement, and his role is mainly to gather and collate criminal intelligence within his crime area and make it available for INTERPOL member countries.

Dr Asier URRUELA MORA, Full Professor in Criminal Law, University of Saragoza, Spain

He is currently Full Professor in Criminal Law at the University of Zaragoza since March 2022. He is Honorary Professor at the Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa (Peru) and at the Universidad José Carlos Mariategui de Moquegua (Peru). He holds a Doctorate in Law and a Doctorate in Medicine.

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Human Genome (xenotransplantation, stem cell research, transgenesis and law, the precautionary principle and biotechnologies.
He has been an advisor to the Spanish Ministry of Health in relation to the implementation of a national system for the reporting and registration of adverse events.

Mr Kai MJAANES, General Manager, European Medicines Verification Organisation (EMVO)

Kai Mjaanes joined the FMD community in 2017 and has served as Managing Director of Nomvec and NoMVO from 2018 to 2024, overseeing the successful implementation and operation of Norway's national medicines verification system. He has extensive expertise in the pharmaceutical sector, including roles in both wholesaler and pharmacy organisations. He is a graduate of the Norwegian Air Force Academy, holds an MBA and has pursued further qualifications in project management, finance, and logistics. From January 2025, Kai is serving as EMVO's General Manager.

Mr Thiago MORELLO PERES, Policy Control and Anti-Fraud Unit, World Customs Organization (WCO)

Thiago Morello Peres is a Professional Associate with the World Customs Organization, serving in the Enforcement Policy Unit.

He is a customs professional with more than ten years of experience in enforcement, risk management, and illicit trade control. Previously, he served as Head of the National Risk Management Division for Customs Enforcement in the Brazilian Customs administration. His work focuses on customs enforcement policy, risk analysis, targeting, and international cooperation.

Drawing on an academic background in Electronics Engineering and further specialization in Data Science and Big Data, he brings a strong analytical and systems-oriented perspective to customs enforcement, supporting the advancement of intelligence-led and data-driven approaches to more effective customs control.

CLOSING SESSION

Mr Christian TOURNIE, Chair of the MEDICRIME Committee, rapporteur, France

Mr Christian Tournié is French representative at the Committee of States Parties to the Council of Europe's Medicrime Convention. He served as Vice-President from 2019 to 2022 and currently the chair.

From 2006 to 2012, as a French expert seconded to the European Commission in Brussels, he played an active role in the development of this Convention, and its subsequent adoption by France and other countries, as well as the EU directive aimed at preventing the introduction of falsified medicines into the legal supply chain.
From 2016 to 2022, he was a member of the bureau of the Working Group of Medicines Enforcement Agencies (WGEO) of the European Network of Directors of Medicines Agencies.
Mr. Christian Tournié contributes to the development of strategies to prevent and combat trafficking in medical products, particularly for the UN agency responsible for drugs and crime (UNODC). He has led and participated in state capacity-building initiatives in this area.

Mr. Christian Tournié is involved in the international activities of the Environment and Public Health Command (CESAN) of the National Gendarmerie.