



II World Forum Against Drugs prizes UNODC Executive Director A.M. Costa twice

II World Forum Against Drugs have gathered most prominent drug policy figures and representatives for over 60 countries on 24-26 of May in Stockholm. ECAD is a member of the World Federation Against Drugs, took part in the event in cooperation with other Swedish and international NGOs.

The first ever *Nils Bejerot Award for Global Prevention* was given to the UNODC Director Antonio Maria Costa at the conference **World Forum Against Drugs** in Stockholm. At the same ceremony he also was presented the Moxie Award by the Drug Free America Foundation for his work against drugs.

– Mr Antonio Maria Costa exemplifies the wisdom, compassion and unshakeable determination that recognize the distinguished professor Bejerots work, whom also is the father of the restrictive drug policy in Sweden, doctor Kerstin Käll said when she submitted the price. Mr Costa – executive director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – has been a beacon for the world in confronting the modern scourge of drug abuse. His vision is clear and his policy prescriptions are as direct and effective as those of professor Bejerot, rooted in a restrictive and balanced drug policy.

Costa was also given the **Moxie Award** by Calvina Fay (picture), director of Drug Free American Foundation, and is the first international recipient of this prestigious award. To have a “Moxie” is to have the ability to face difficulty with spirit and courage and to have skill and know-how.

– I am very surprised and deeply honoured for the privilege of getting these awards, Director Costa said after the ceremony.

/Source: Drugnews.nu

President Obama released the Administration's inaugural National Drug Control Strategy, which establishes five-year goals for reducing drug use and its consequences through a balanced policy of prevention, treatment, enforcement, and international cooperation. The Strategy was developed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) with input from a variety of Federal, State, and local partners.

The 2010 Strategy highlights a collaborative and balanced approach that emphasizes community-based prevention, integration of evidence-based treatment into the mainstream health care system, innovations in the criminal justice system to break the cycle of drug use and crime, and international partnerships to disrupt transnational drug trafficking organizations.

"This Strategy calls for a balanced approach to confronting the complex challenge of drug use and its consequences," said President Obama. **"By boosting community-based prevention, expanding treatment, strengthening law enforcement, and working collaboratively with our global partners, we will reduce drug use and the great damage it causes in our communities".**

During a nationwide listening tour soliciting input for the development of the Strategy, National Drug Policy Director Gil Kerlikowske met with police and medical professionals, drug treatment providers and people in recovery, elected officials, corrections officials, academics, parents groups, faith leaders, and others.

/CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

EU Justice and Security Cooperation Plan

New five-year plan for collaboration between EU member countries on judicial matters and internal security has been adopted in May. Consisting of 12 main proposals, the plan touches on areas as different as cybercrime, border control, asylum, and fair trials.

It fleshes out the wide-ranging political objectives set out in the law-and-order agenda adopted by EU leaders in December. Unlike national agendas, the so-called Stockholm programme, which runs through 2014, looks at issues in justice and security from the perspective of all 500 million Europeans. Although EU countries have strengthened cooperation on justice and security in recent decades, the diversity of legal traditions in the 27-nation union still often makes it hard for Europeans to live and work in EU countries other than their own. Many civil documents, for example, are not recognized across borders.

/CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EU Justice and Security Cooperation Plan



/FROM PAGE 1

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The plan aims to not only lower barriers like this but also to foster an EU-wide approach to issues that transcend national borders, like disaster response, immigration, organized crime and terrorism. In line with the Stockholm programme's concern for privacy in the information age, the plan calls for overhauling EU data protection laws dating to 1995 and for negotiations with the US on sharing financial information for fighting terrorism. It includes proposals to criminalise identity theft and attacks on information systems.

Another priority is raising the standard of rights for the accused in criminal proceedings. Proposals will be introduced to give defendants more access to information, legal advice and aid. These are in addition to a proposal last month to provide interpreters and translators for suspects who do not speak the language of the court hearing their case.

The plan also calls for the development of an EU-wide protection order and comprehensive rules on victims' rights. **Eurojust**, a network of national prosecutors, magistrates and police officers that has existed since 1999, would be given the power to initiate investigations - not just cooperate in them. And a European public prosecutor's office might be created to deal with offences against the EU's financial interests, such as tax fraud.

Earlier this year, the commission proposed a greater role for **Frontex**, the European border control agency. This will be followed by proposals for a common asylum system and for automated border-crossing facilities for the passport-free Schengen area.

The Stockholm Programme is to define the framework for EU police and customs cooperation, rescue services, criminal and civil law cooperation, asylum, migration and visa policy for the period 2010-2014.

Russian forum on drug production in Afghanistan

International drug agency and law enforcement representatives are expected to come to Moscow June 9-10 for international Forum on Drug production in Afghanistan. It implies working on common platform for dealing with drug production and trafficking challenging international community.

"The issue of afghan drug production and smuggling is very grave; today we are all aware of the common need for drug experts and agencies all over the world to look for common solutions. It would intensify the problem in front of the international community concerned and help us initiate a broad anti-drug coalition," said the head of Russian federal Drug Control Service Victor P. Ivanov.

The Forum is initiated by one of the major Russian news agencies *RIA Novosti* and is supported by State Anti-Drug Committee (GAK in Russian), Council for external defense policy and Institute for Demography, migration and regional development. International guests to the Forum will include representatives for UN, NATO and other international organizations.

Russian federal drug Control Service registered that afghan opium causes annually 100 000 deaths in the world. UN data says Russia tops the list of heroin-consuming countries in the world - making use of 21% of all heroin in the world. UN mentions that Russian drug addicts consume 75 to 80 ton of afghan heroin per year 30 to 40 000 Russians die because of drug abuse.

/Source: Drugnews

Marijuana epidemic in the US?

According to the federal US government, domestic marijuana production has increased by a factor of 10 over the past 25 years. A 2006 study by researcher and pot legalization advocate Jon Gettman declared that cannabis is the nation's most lucrative cash crop, worth 35,8 \$ billion annually, more than corn and wheat combined!

- 7,7 \$ billion - annual public spending on enforcing pot prohibition, nationwide
- 40 000 - medical marijuana card holders in California
- 35,8 \$ billion - estimated value of US marijuana crop
- 2,5 \$ billion - annual medical marijuana retail sales
- 46% Americans who support legalizing marijuana
- 700 - medical marijuana outlets in California

Source: E-news of Drug-Free America

Afghan budget: propped up by drugs, corruption and aid



The drugs trade and corruption generate more money than lawful economic activities in Afghanistan. Opium sales generated an estimated US \$2.8

billion in 2009, while in the same year Afghans paid \$2.5 billion in bribes to government officials, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The drug-cum-corruption economy of \$5.3 billion in 2009 is more than the \$4.4 billion earmarked in 2010 for running the government and financing the development budget.

The overwhelming victims of corruption and drug-induced insecurity are ordinary Afghans, according to the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics (MCN).

"It is almost impossible to obtain a public service in Afghanistan without greasing a palm: bribing the authorities is part of everyday life," said a UNODC survey, which described corruption as "the biggest problem" in the eyes of Afghans. "Bribery not only robs the poor and causes misallocation of resources, it destroys trust in government."

Jean-Luc Lemahieu, UNODC's country representative, was skeptical of the notion of linking drug money with corruption "yet nobody can argue that drug money and corruption are one unholy alliance sharing the same sick bed."

Hamidullah Farooqi, a former minister and economist, said drug money had deep roots and involved powerful circles both within and outside government.

Afghanistan is the world's top opium producer, according to UNODC, and its government is the most corrupt in the world after Somalia, according to Transparency International. The opium trade employs about 1.6 million people (6.4 percent of the population), according to the World Bank. Backed by donors, the government has tried several counter-narcotics and anti-corruption strategies and ap-

proaches over the past eight years.

At the same time, Afghanistan's high level of foreign aid dependency could also be undermining government power: A \$2 billion development budget is largely funded by donors, officials at the Finance Ministry said.

Several years ago both the development and the "ordinary" budget

Tackling drugs and corruption, however, is risky as law enforcement institutions are weak and those with vested interests in the illicit economy powerful.

"The so-called elite that thrives on the illegal economy is so powerful that it can destabilize the country if revolutionary steps are taken to change the status quo,"

— Saifuddin Saihoon, a professor of political economy at Kabul University.

were mainly donor-funded. Over the past four years the government has increasingly contributed (via domestic revenue) to its "ordinary" budget, but its contribution was still only 60 percent of the \$2.4 billion total in 2010.

Many Afghans say foreign assistance is not indefinite and the post-Taliban donor-driven development process will fall away soon after NATO withdraws its troops.

A huge illicit economy and unending dependence on foreign generosity is unsustainable, experts say. Meanwhile, UNODC's Lemahieu says corruption and drugs will be a tough nut to crack: The illicit economy trusts "that lawlessness and crime are its best partners, not transparency and accountability", he said, adding that these problems would fade away with state growth.

/Source: www.irinnews.org

New national Strategy on Drug Control in the US

/FROM PAGE 1

Throughout the consultation process, significant themes emerged which connect the drug issue to major Administration policy priorities, including the economy, health care reform, youth development, public safety, military and veterans' issues, and foreign relations.

"It touches virtually all of us, whether we know a family member, a friend, or a colleague who suffers from addiction or is in recovery, a police officer working to protect the community, or a parent striving to keep a child drug free," said Director Kerlikowske, according to ONODCP Press release.

The 2010 Strategy establishes five-year goals to reduce drug use and its consequences, including:

- Reduce the rate of youth drug use by 15 percent;
- Decrease drug use among young adults by 10 percent;
- Reduce the number of chronic drug users by 15 percent;

- Reduce the incidence of drug-induced deaths by 15 percent; and
- Reduce the prevalence of drugged driving by 10 percent.

In addition, the Strategy outlines three significant drug challenges on which the Administration will specifically focus this year: prescription drug abuse, drugged driving, and preventing drug use.

Prescription drug abuse is the Nation's fastest growing drug problem, driving significant increases of drug overdoses in recent years. Drugged driving poses threats to public safety, as evidenced by a recent roadside survey which found that one in six drivers on weekend nights tested positive for the presence of drugs. Preventing drug use before it starts is the best way to keep America's youth drug-free. **In addressing each of these issues, the Strategy outlines a research-driven, evidence-based, and collaborative approach.**

Positive Results of Drug Treatment Courts

The Organization of American States (OAS) released a survey report in May produced by its Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and a research team from American University in Washington, DC.

The CICAD study titled, *"Establishing Drug Treatment Courts: Strategies, Experiences and Preliminary Outcomes,"* is based on a survey of drug treatment courts.

According to the first-ever publication of results of Drug Treatment Courts from 12 countries outside the U.S., **Belgium** (Ghent); **Bermuda** (Hamilton); **Brazil** (representing São Paulo, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, and Rio Grande do Sul States); **Canada** (received from courts in both Calgary, Alberta and Toronto, Ontario); **Chile** (representing Colina Depulveda, Ojeda, Pavez, Pinochet, San Bernardo, and Santiago); **England** (Liverpool); **Ireland** (Dublin); **Jamaica** (Kingston and Montego Bay); **Mexico** (Mexico City); **Norway** (representing Bergen and Oslo); **Suriname** (Paramaribo); **United States** (composite summary for 2,000+ drug courts operating in all states and territories).

The objective of drug treatment courts is to offer offenders who are addicted to drugs a structured program of treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to incarceration.

Among the study's most relevant results are the following:

- Drug treatment courts have helped reduce local crime
- There has been a significant reduction in recidivism among drug dependent offenders involved in drug treatment court programs
- Drug treatment courts have lowered costs for incarceration
- Participants in drug treatment programs are getting immediate help to control their addictions but also other services, such as health care, family support and housing

Among the biggest challenges faced by drug treatment courts is obtaining and maintaining adequate resources.

Overall, the report presents a positive picture of what drug treatment courts in the above-mentioned countries have accomplished in providing drug treatment to local populations and in addressing the social ills and costs of drug abuse and crime.

"We hope the publication of this first-ever compendium of experiences with drug courts in 12 different countries will encourage other countries to consider the feasibility and desirability of establishing drug courts," - said Anna Chisman, Head of Demand Reduction for the CICAD.

Heroin distribution for old people in Switzerland

In March 2010 the number of drug addicts in the city of Berne, who lived in a home for elderly people, peaked. 10 people, 5% of all addicts, who get heroin daily in a drug distribution facility, were no longer able to live alone and take care of themselves, though most of them are only between 50 -60 years old.

"The number has doubled since the beginning of 2010", said the director of Koda (controlled drug distribution) in Berne. Several homes for old aged and nursing homes are willing to take care of drug addicts in a heroin program.

In 2009 in Berne 28.5 kilos of heroin was distributed. The cost of the drug was 456,000 Swiss francs or 300,000 Euro. To have the same effect, 200 addicts on the heroin program had to buy 190 Kilos of street heroin.

In my opinion, if the addicts were unable to get so much money and therefore so many drugs, the drug consumption would never be so high and regular. For their health this would have been much better. The motivation to change their lives would be better. In Switzerland most addicts entering so called heroin based treatment come from methadone programs. When they leave most of them(55%)

go back to methadone program. The average time they stay on heroin programs is 3 years. Nonetheless, an increasing number of addicts depend on their heroin program until they are forced to resort to homes for the elderly. Last year four people on the heroin program died in Bern.

Commentary:

Heroin programs lead to the situation that addicts are on drugs till they are so weak and they have to live in a home for old people or nursing homes. This means - as we always warned - the conception of a heroin program is not to bridge the time till addicts are ready or strong enough to go to drug free therapy. Drug consumption is in this sense a life style, practiced till people die. So addicts never get the chance to live free. The drug problem is managed and under control of an administration. The most important thing is that all is well controlled organized.

By Hans Koeppel, M.D. Physician, Board Member, *Swiss Physicians Against Drugs* Board Member, *Youth Without Drugs* Scientific and Advisory Board of *EURAD*, Baden, Switzerland



ECAD is Europe's leading organization promoting a drug free Europe and representing millions of European citizens. ECAD member cities work to develop initiatives against drug abuse supporting the United Nations Conventions.
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