



## Empowering our citizens to live healthier lifestyles

### 17th ECAD Mayors' Conference



Photo: New Signatories, Malta: Birzebugga, Gharb, Gzira, Kalkara, Marsarskala, Qrendi, San Giljan, San Gwann, Ta'Xbiex, Xghajra.

At last ECAD members were able to meet together at our annual Mayors' Conference! As you remember, the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference was moved from April to 23-25 September due to the volcanic eruption on Iceland.

More than 150 delegates from 66 cities, 17 countries, participated in the conference which took place on the beautiful Mediterranean island of Gozo. A regular Advisory Board meeting and a Youth in Europe update preceded the event. Intensive work hours took turns with interesting and diverse cultural programme.

The second day ended with the Signing ceremony when 10 new Maltese communities became members of the organisation. As more members we have, as stronger we are, as better at achieving our goals!

ECAD expresses its gratitude to the Maltese hosts – Government of Malta and Pembroke Local Council for outstanding organisation and warm hospitality! ECAD thanks also all speakers and participants – you made our meeting rich in content and fun! We congratulate one more time the laureate of the ECAD Award 2010 for achievements in the anti-drug work, the City of Veliky Novgorod, Russia. Please visit our site to

read the detailed motivation of the Award.

We encourage all our member cities to take a chance and visit this winner city – remember that ECAD offers a study visit grant of 500 euro per person to visit another ECAD city, see "Grants" at [www.ecad.net](http://www.ecad.net).

“ It is obvious that the milieu in which ECAD operates today is so different to the tasks which predominated its activities in the early 1990's. However, ECAD, while not having the capacity to organise the anti-drug programme in any one city, strives to spread best practice and to encourage and facilitate cooperation between the member cities.”

“Running an international organisation in the Europe of 2010 is a difficult and demanding task. Recession and financial insecurity have compelled cities to prioritise expenditures and in some cases, financial provisions for combating the destructive human consequences arising from experimentation with illicit drugs are deemed to be discretionary expenditure which maybe cut back.”

*Cllr. Jim Corr, ECAD Chairman*



Olga Vasileva, Veliky Novgorod, receives the ECAD Award 2010

### ★ ECAD NEWS

#### Editorial

This issue of the ECAD Newsletter aims to make you interested to visit the site [www.ecad.net/conference-papers](http://www.ecad.net/conference-papers) and read the published conference materials. We hope that the photo gallery will also give you some nice moments.

## “There is a striking parallel between the mandates of ECAD and INCB ...”

*Prof. Hamid Ghodse, President, International Narcotics Control Board - INCB*

It is a pleasure to address this important and unique gathering of Mayors of European Cities against Drugs – cities that have committed themselves to showing a united front against illicit drugs, guided by the United Nations Conventions on drug control. I thank the Government of Malta for their generosity in hosting and organizing this event. Your work, as part of ECAD, towards a drug-free Europe is both noble and necessary and I applaud your effort and commitment. Indeed, the efforts of local government – cities and towns – can play a major role in operationalizing some of the key elements of the international drug control conventions. Indeed, it is the city authorities – rather than national governments – that are generally in direct contact with citizens. Cities therefore have the opportunity to influence behaviour and put appropriate mechanisms into place to reduce demand for illicit drugs.

### **ECAD – a framework for partnership**

ECAD is a framework for partnership in drug demand reduction and there is a striking parallel between the mandates of ECAD and INCB. A few examples ... ECAD promotes adherence to the conventions and highlights the need for strict monitoring of adherence. The mandate of INCB is to promote Government compliance with the United Nations drug control conventions – the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. While you, European Cities Against Drugs, work at improving coordination and information exchange among European Cities, INCB works with Governments around the world to ensure that the international drug control system works effectively.

### **Achievements in international drug control**

Significant achievements have been made in international drug control, especially over the past decade. The Board's efforts have contributed to considerable progress towards universal adherence to the international drug control treaties. The almost universal accession to the treaties illustrates the commitment of Governments to comply with the conventions in addressing the world drug problem.

The effective implementation of the international drug control treaties (and relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly) have contributed to stopping, almost completely, the diversion of licitly manufactured drugs to the illicit market at the international level. However, the diversion of licit drugs to the illicit market at national level is still a significant problem.

Progress has been made to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Significant challenges in international drug control remain that require joint efforts and coordination. Firstly, psychotropic substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), could be better controlled, especially with regard to domestic diversion. Secondly, the abuse of prescription drugs continues to be a problem and, thirdly, the sale of such substances through the Internet requires adequate action from Governments.

### **Demand reduction – a key aspect of drug control**

Drug control strategies are generally aimed at achieving a balance between supply reduction and demand reduction – which are inextricably



*Hamid Ghodse & Jonathan Lucas, INCB*

cably linked – yet primary prevention receives little attention compared to other aspects such as supply reduction or treatment of drug abuse. It is sometimes argued that supply reduction efforts result in raising drug prices and reducing the accessibility to drugs in communities, eventually reducing demand. In theory, the reverse also applies – effective drug demand reduction results in a reduced supply of drugs in communities. In reality, if drugs are readily available and accessible, new drug abusers will soon replace recovered drug abusers. Elimination of a specific drug from the community does not imply the elimination of the drug problem completely – without demand reduction there will only be a shift towards other drugs or substances of abuse. Neither demand reduction nor supply reduction programmes alone have been fully successful in addressing the drug abuse problem. For this reason, governments need to implement supply and demand reduction policies concurrently.

However, supply reduction and demand reduction require fundamentally different approaches. Supply reduction measures must be implemented uniformly to ensure the functioning of the international drug control system. Therefore the legal framework for measures countering illicit drug manufacture, production, trafficking and diversion has been established and is monitored at the international level. In contrast, prevention of drug abuse primarily involves the communication of messages that should be designed according to the cultural, social and economic backgrounds of the target groups. Following this logic, the scope for cities in fighting the drug problem rests mainly in demand reduction.

### **Negative consequences of drug abuse**

It is very important to reduce the negative consequences of drug abuse and appropriate measures should be incorporated into comprehensive demand reduction programmes. Measures to prevent negative consequences, including the spread of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C and other blood-borne infections, are an important part of public health programmes. However, any such prophylactic measures should neither prompt nor facilitate drug abuse which might, in turn, lead to other, different types of negative consequence. Facilities such as consumption rooms, where individuals can inject drugs acquired from the illicit market and facilities for testing drugs for impurities prior to their use, remain of concern to the Board.



# Building International Drug Policy

David Turner, Chair, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs

*Consensus and Conflict – the 2010 Commission on Narcotic Drugs:  
What Happened in 2010?*

## No Change:

- The Treaties remain the cornerstone of international drug control
- No interest or desire to move to a licit market
- Focus remains firmly on preventing illicit production, supply and use

## Developments:

- Increased focus on health and human rights
- Greater attention on access to and availability of essential medicines
- Consensus on resolutions concerned with drug prevention and access to HIV/AIDS treatment and care
- Higher profile for the role of civil society

## Opening Speech

by Parliamentary Secretary Chris Said

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I welcome you to Gozo, this small island hosting around 30,000 people and opening its doors to thousands of tourists each year.

Here we are, all enthusiastic to renew our commitment against the use of illicit drugs in our cities and to promote drug-free societies. We are all well aware that it's up to us – governments, mayors, non-profit organisations and other entities, to come up with solutions ... to give our population more options ... and to offer our young generations new challenges and opportunities that can only make the use of illicit drugs – as our youngsters put it – 'uncool'.

Allow me to thank all those who have worked hard to gather us here today. My sincere gratitude goes to my team, especially to Johann Attard who did a sterling job, to the Pembroke Local Council, its mayor Joe Zammit and to all members of ECAD's advisory board.

## Areas of Disagreement:

- Cohesion between different UN bodies with relevant mandates
- Interpretation of the UN Treaties
- The acceptability of specific interventions
- The evidence base for specific interventions

” I was disappointed in 2009 at the follow-up (High Level Segment meeting reviewing the effectiveness of drug control during the past 10 years). Instead of being honest and saying that we didn't achieve the objectives, the governments said we are doing ok. That is why NGOs need to shake up governments and say no, we are not doing ok. The objectives are good but we also need to be efficient. We need to be honest with ourselves. “

## Drug abuse caused by poverty?

Anniken Hauglie, Commissioner, Oslo, Norway

Why drugs? My personal standing is that the traditional explanation that drug abuse is caused by poverty and social class alone is insufficient although still important. According to the social heritage theory and class division theories, the rapid growth of drug abuse in Norway is paradoxical – it simply does not follow the theoretical rules. The country is very rich, and we have a well organised welfare system. Every citizen who needs accommodation and nutrition has a right to claim it and will be offered it. No one has to starve in Oslo. We have established medical care for drug abusers. We have it in spite of our very restrictive laws against drug, distribution and individual use. So we ask ourselves; why is it so? There must be something more to it than economy and class division – have we lost anything in our pursuit for material wealth? Have we blurred wealth with happiness?

## Frans Koopmans, MA

Now, over the last decennia a paradigm shift in the view on addiction and, consequently, on drug policy has taken place, at least in the West. There has been a shift from a more *moral* perspective on drugs and drug use towards a much more, even primary *biomedical* perspective. One might call this the *medicalisation* of the addiction problem. The assertion is tenable, in my opinion, that this shift has been accompanied by a substantial, what I would venture to call, 'de-moralizing' of the views on drug use and addiction.



Conference Participants at the Cultural Centre "Citadel"

# ECAD AWARD 2010 for achievements in the work against illicit drugs



Evelyn Vella Brincat, Joe Zammit, Malta; Olga Vasileva, Veliky Novgorod; Jim Corr; Georgy Zazulin, Russia



ECAD instituted a yearly award for member cities to honour outstanding achievements in the work against illicit drugs and thereby encourage engagement and commitment in anti-drug fieldwork and policy making.

The laureate of the ECAD AWARD 2010 is the **City of Veliky Novgorod, Russia**. By giving the Award to V. Novgorod, ECAD

- draws attention to the dedicated anti-drug work carried out in this city on many levels by different actors;
- praises the city's consequent drug policy and efficiency of its drug action plan;
- marks its efforts in the anti-drug fieldwork, particularly in the area of primary drug prevention among the population, young people in particular.

*Surveys shows that number of people testing illicit drug is decreasing. This is one of the indicators that the general drug situation in the city is improving!*

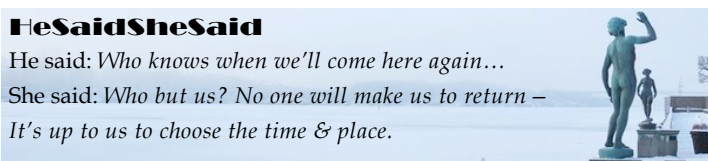
**Contact Person in Veliky Novgorod:** Olga Vasileva, Senior specialist of the Health Care Committee of V. Novgorod: [zon@adm.nov.ru](mailto:zon@adm.nov.ru)

## HeSaidSheSaid

He said: *Who knows when we'll come here again...*

She said: *Who but us? No one will make us to return –*

*It's up to us to choose the time & place.*



*Our European societies have experimented and evaluated both tolerance and intolerance to illicit drug use and drug abuse. It is our reflection upon this which guides us towards non-use. This in regard to **our cities'** well-being.*



**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.  
**Has your city joined ECAD?**

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## Roman Vidov, Mayor, Vidin, Bulgaria

The City of Vidin invests in drug prevention among young people because we know that each Euro spent on prevention will in the end save more for the society that money spent on treatment. Our main goal is to pursue a comprehensive, consequent drug policy. That is why in 2009 we without any hesitation joined ECAD. We share the goal of this organization: by democratic means to make Europe a territory free from drugs.

### I would like to make a proposal:

Let us in connection with the UN Day Against Drugs and Tobacco to carry out - in many cities across Europe at the same time - specially designed activities. Even if are located far from each other, this day we will feel united in our work towards the same goal.

## ★ ECAD NOTICE

Economical difficulties experienced by ECAD today which are caused to a certain extent by the fact that not all ECAD signatories pay the membership fees impels us to cut down the number of staff. ECAD thanks Janina Romanova and Lana Willebrand for their long-term great work for the benefit of the organisation. We wish them all success in their further professional career.

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