



Malin Baryard – San Patrignano 2005's New Spokesperson



Malin Baryard, Sweden's top female rider, will be lending her name and image in order to help promote this year's FEI European Jumping Championship, scheduled to be held at San Patrignano (Rimini, Italy) July 21st through 24th. She was enthusiastic at the idea from the start, in view of the partnership between Europe's largest drug rehabilitation community and ECAD (European Cities Against Drugs), an organization which gathers more than 250 member cities (22 of which are capitals) in 30 European countries.

Giacomo Muccioli, president of the event's organizational committee, expressed his pleasure upon hearing of the collaboration, "This Championship is truly a unique opportunity. For the first time, the event will be completely organized by the young men and women of a drug rehabilitation community. They are living proof that it is possible to overcome addiction. And the presence of someone as important as Malin Baryard is

extremely important in order to further spread our strong message against drugs throughout Europe."

Malin is thirty years old and a proud mother of a two-months old baby boy named Alvar. In her home country of Sweden she is a celebrity, hosting a weekly show about horses on the nation's largest network. In addition, she is often asked to pose as a

model for her sponsor, H&M, a well-known clothing chain based in Northern Europe. She is already the winner of two important medals: team silver from the 2000 World Championships at Jerez and an Olympic team bronze from the Athens games.

"I think it's great that the Championship is being held at San Patrignano - for us athletes, for the public, and for the young people of the community. This way, they have a chance to be involved in an important event and to show what they are capable of."
Malin Baryard

Malin, who is one of show's most well-known faces, wholeheartedly supports the social and cultural message behind this year's Championship. With the full force of her convictions, she stands behind the strong anti-drug message sent by the event throughout the world.

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Successful exchange between Gävleborg and Riga

County of Gävleborg, Sweden, participated in the ECAD exchange program for member cities together with Riga, Latvia.

In February this year, two social workers from Riga's Drug abuse prevention centre, Anna Auzina and Inita Eglite, visited Gävleborg (read article about their study visit in volume 2 No 78). A couple weeks later two Swedish representatives paid a reciprocal visit to Riga - Johnny Gustavsson, drug coordinator in the municipality of Gävle, and Ingrid Näslund, nurse and project leader for Söderhamn's treatment centre.

"It was a very interesting study visit, we have made many good contacts", Ingrid Näslund commented.

During the visit to the prevention centre Ingrid and Johnny could get a good insight into the centre's work, in particular, into their preventive work with young people. The staff of the centre consists of 35 people, among them social workers, psychologists, treatment and administrative personnel. They carry on diverse group activities and individual talks with teenagers in "risk zone". The work is conducted both at the

★ ECAD GRANTS

main office and in four different parts of town. The centre has also programs for parents/relatives. It has some difficulties to recruit parents to participate in these programs.

"The staff feels that they often meet a resistance from parents because of their fear of authorities. In some cases the fear originates in parents' own alcohol abuse", told Johnny Gustavsson.

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Sweden: "Drug issue has been upgraded"

In January 2002 the Swedish government presented a National action plan against drugs. In the document, it was laid down that the overall goal for the Swedish drug policy even in continuation would be a society free from drugs. Then on April 27, 2005 the government presented a report on measures taken to fight drugs to the Swedish parliament.

The drug issue has been moved up on the drug political agenda, more activities in the anti-drug field have been carried out and youth's use of drugs declines. This was the main effect of the current drug policy mentioned in the report that the government presented to the parliament on April 27.

The previous report made by a specially appointed "drug commission" dates 2001. The commission pointed out passivity in

regard to drug questions, which prevailed on all political levels. This passivity has thus been overcome during the last 4 years. The new report says that the issue has now been prioritised and that the overall goal remains - a society free from drugs.

ECAD COUNTRIES

Minister for Public Health Morgan Johansson commented that measures against drugs on local and regional levels have had an impact. Municipalities have intensified their work against drugs and the majority of them have adopted some sort of drug political action plan. Percentage of youth who experiment with drugs has decreased during the last three years, "so it seems that we are moving in a right direction".

During the period 2002-2005, 360 million Swedish crowns (38,500,000 Euro) have been used for direct measures in connection to the government's action plan. Besides this, other efforts were made to combat the drug problem. In addition, more than 800 million crowns have been directed to treatment. This area was pointed out as the one that needed the most attention. The number of heavy drug users is on the rise again while less people are going into treatment. The drug addict death-rate has also increased and has reached 400 per year.

And even if surveys on school youths' drug attitudes indicate that experimenting with drugs has decreased a bit, there still are alarming developments. Drug supply has never before been so big and prices have fallen.

By Drugnews/SL

New legal instrument on psychoactive substances:

Council of Europe

More new drugs can be controlled within the EU even if they are not listed in the UN Conventions on Drugs

The Council of the European Union has approved a legal instrument that broadens the scope of EU action on new substances appearing on the drug scene in the Member States.

The 'Council decision on information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances' (DOC. 7003/05 CORDROGUE 16 OC 134) replaces the 1997 Joint action (Official Journal L 167, 25.06.1997.), which was devoted exclusively to new synthetic drugs.

The new Decision allows the EU to now act on all new psychoactive substances (narcotic, psychotropic) which appear in the Member States and which may pose similar health or social risks to those listed in the Schedules to the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

The instrument not only covers a wider range of substances than before but also promises fast and more transparent results, due to the introduction of deadlines into every phase of the procedure established by this Decision. On transparency, the EMCDDA and Europol are required to report

annually to the Council, Parliament and the Commission on 'the efficacy and achievements of the system'.

Another innovation of the new instrument is that, unlike the Joint action, it also provides for the collection and exchange (but not control) of information on medicinal products diverted from their legitimate use. Here the London-based European Medicines Agency (EMA) is set to play a more active role by assessing with the European Commission, and in close cooperation with the EMCDDA, the need for further action on these products.

This Council decision has its roots in the last EU action plan on drugs (2000-2004), which called on the European Commission to launch an external evaluation of the 1997 Joint action. The results of this evaluation (2002) showed that the instrument had largely fulfilled the expectations of the Member States and the EU institutions - particularly as regards the early-warning system - but required reinforcement and re-orientation. Specifically the evaluation called for greater transparency and clarification of the Joint action's procedures and definitions and for an assessment of its scope.

www.emcdda.eu.int

Tajikistan elected member of UNODC

Tajikistan has been elected a member of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Tajik Foreign Ministry officials told RIA Novosti, Tajikistan received the overwhelming majority of votes - 46 out of 54 - as a result of a secret ballot conducted on April 29, 2005 during a plenary meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

"It is the first successful nomination of Tajikistan as a member of a UN official body since its accession to this prestigious international organisation and this success on the global arena has great and long-lasting significance for the country," the Tajik foreign ministry officials stressed.

ECAD NEWS

They believe Tajikistan will expand its involvement in various global issues and improve its international status as a result of becoming an UNODC member.

The major part of 1,300-km border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan passes through difficult-to-access regions, which are hard to protect. It is a main conduit of drugs to Central Asia, Russia and Western Europe.

/RIA Novosti

Successful exchange between Gävleborg and Riga

From page 1



Andrejs Vilks, Johnny Gustavsson, Ingrid Näslund, Anna Auzina och Inita Eglite

Every year the centre organises activities and lectures for public and schools, arranges educational programs for school staff, medical personnel and police. They also work with a motivation group for youth and women in one of Riga's prisons.

Johnny and Ingrid have visited the ECAD regional office in Latvia and met its director, Andrejs Vilks. Together with the Prevention centre, the ECAD office organises educational seminars for various audiences. Last year a seminar was carried out for those members of the Latvian parliament who were going to represent the country in the EU Parliament in drug political questions.

The exchange program included a visit to the Latvia's largest hospital for alcohol and

drug addicts. Alcohol is the biggest health and social problem in Latvia. What regards narcotic drugs, last years' trends have shown a decline in heroin abuse. At the same time, the abuse of amphetamines and cannabis has increased. The hospital receives many patients with overdoses where both heroin and amphetamines were very "dirty".

Johnny and Ingrid's particular interest in activities for youths was satisfied by visiting a couple of orphanage houses, along with a state-run youth recreation centre with 1900 registered members and nearly 50 study circles.

"We have been favourably received by our hosts who have shown us around in Riga. This is a good ground for future co-operation. As a first step into this co-operation, Johnny has managed to arrange a summer practice for our interpreter during the visit, social worker Visturs Trofimovs", as Ingrid stated.

Ingrid Näslund, Johnny Gustavsson

Read about conditions for receiving the ECAD subsidy for study visits between the ECAD member cities at www.ecad.net under "Grants"

Male and female drug use

Men in the EU are still more likely than women to use illicit drugs. But there are concerns around possible signs of a "narrowing of the gap" between male and female drug use, and greater similarities in lifetime drug-taking experience, particularly among school students. This are the findings from an EMCDDA technical paper analysing data from three sources: ESPAD school surveys (1995, 1999, 2003); general population surveys; and drug treatment centres.

"Differences in patterns of drug use between women and men" at www.emcdda.eu.int

Holland rejects "cannabis boulevard"

Dutch Cabinet reaffirms its opposition to a "cannabis boulevard" in border regions and rules out the legalisation of "soft" drugs. The statement comes after division appeared to open up between government ministers over the issue. Government Reform Minister Alexander Pechtold is in favour of the "cannabis boulevard" to combat inner city drugs problems, but Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner is keen to tighten the current policy of toleration.

/Expatica

Blair reconsiders cannabis-decision

Right before the recent elections in Great Britain, Tony Blair, speaking on narcotic drugs gave to understand that the British government's decision to downgrade cannabis was a mistake that might be reconsidered. This the prime minister said in an interview to the morning-TV program GMTV.

It was about a year ago that the danger of cannabis (marijuana and hashish) had been considered "exaggerated" and therefore a decision was made to reclassify it from a class B into a class C drug. So to say, into the same class that includes such drugs as anabolic steroids. Now it seems that reconsideration is on its way, again, to upgrade back to class B.

Tony Blair said in the interview that what the government did was fully reasonable but he believes that it sends out a wrong message. He has also pointed out that there is growing medical evidence for the fact that cannabis is more dangerous than what was earlier thought. Home Secretary Charles Clark has already asked the government's council in drug political questions about a new evaluation of this issue.

What regards other bigger parties in the British politics, position of the Liberal Democrats is that the reclassification was correct and that in the future cannabis needs to be available on a "legal and controlled" basis. The Conservatives would like to see the decision about downgrading of cannabis cancelled.

★ ECAD NEWS

Editorial

Dear readers,

I will be taking maternal leave until the middle of 2006, until then Janina Romanova will be filling in. With this "He Said, She Said" will take a "breather".

Lana Radionova, Editor

★ HE SAID SHE SAID

"Getting there"

He said - Ouch!

She said - Take a breath and keep going!

Malin Baryard – San Patrignano 2005's New ...

From page 1



Malin Baryard and Tomas Hallberg, ECAD

"I think it's great that the Championship is being held at San Patrignano - for us athletes, for the public, and for the young people of the community. This way, they have a chance to be involved in an important event and to show what they are capable of."

Malin has always expressed an interest in social problems - especially when speaking about young people, and the volunteer organizations which deal with their problems. She is wholly conscious of her role as a model for young people, being a star athlete. Malin is aware that all athletes must give an example in their behavior on and off the field. "To be an athlete at a higher level, you are a role model. It's nothing you choose, it's nothing you can take away. You are a role model and you should be happy to be it. The point of life is surely not to win competi-

tions, though I love winning. I am a role model as an equestrian and I treat my horses well. I think an athlete is a role model anytime. You just have to be sure you do a good job." This is why Malin agreed to pose for a photo shoot and conduct an interview on her farm in Norrköping, where she is preparing for the European Championship. She helps us to promote one of the projects which San Patrignano is undertaking in view of next summer's competition: collaboration between San Patrignano and ECAD. The project aims to spread a message of solidarity throughout Europe, and, through the realization of the Championship by the young people of San Patrignano, to show that it is possible to overcome addiction.

Malin does not hesitate to express her fears in regards to this serious social problem. "I think it's very scary when you hear how much drugs there is available. Especially for young people. One can get drugs anywhere. Something needs to be done about this, we need to get rid of it."

So it seems that Sweden's top rider is more than happy if an event such as this one can be helpful on a social level. All of this without forgetting (as she says) that horses and sport, equitation have given meaning to her life. In other words, the perfect antidote to social marginalization.

The interview and photo session with Malin Baryard are available on www.sanpatrignano2005.org San Patrignano Press Office

Drugnews about the Rainbow-conflict

Chief editor of the news agency *Drugnews* Sven Liljesson comments on Alec Carlberg's contribution to the ECAD newsletter (volume 3 No 79, see even article in volume 1 No 77):

The news agency *Drugnews* declines to be a "punching bag" in a drug-political conflict of power in regard to rights to Rainbow's name and logotype. *Drugnews* have reported about the conflict after interviewing several people involved, among them Alec Carlberg who now accuses *Drugnews* of lying.

★ ECAD REMARK

It is possible that Rainbow Sweden has never been officially a member of a loose compound network *Rainbow International*, even if Carlberg himself was one of the founders of both (and still is the Chairman of Rainbow Sweden and Basta arbetskooperativ). Andrea Muccioli, president of *Rainbow International* and San Patrignano, nevertheless wrote in the Swedish newspaper *Aftonbladet* (4/12 2004) that the *Rainbow International's* Board "decided to exclude Basta and Rainbow Sweden from the international network and Carlberg from the board of directors."

Don't try to move focus from the main question by throwing the blame on media, Carlberg!

Sven Liljesson, chief editor of Drugnews

With this, ECAD newsletter concludes a series of articles concerning conflict between *Rainbow International* and *Rainbow Sweden*

*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 **children's** well being.*



ECAD is Europe's leading organisation promoting a drug free Europe and representing millions of European citizens. Drug dealing and drug abuse cause enormous problems in Europe. Nations and their citizens are affected by the consequences of drug abuse. ECAD member cities work to develop initiatives and efforts against drug abuse supporting the United Nations Conventions which oppose legalisation and promote policies to eradicate drug abuse worldwide. Has your city joined ECAD?

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