



Fighting Drugs – From Different Angles

14th ECAD MAYORS' CONFERENCE



On May 10-11 Istanbul hosted the 14th ECAD Mayors' Conference, which turned out to be a success story.

Almost 350 delegates from some 60 cities in more than 20 European countries were represented at the conference, where Milan, Jurmala, Arilje and Nis became new signatories to the Stockholm Resolution and, consequently, the latest cities to become a member of the European Cities Against Drugs.

Prominent speakers included Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the Vienna-based UNODC (United Nations office on Drugs and Crime) and John P. Walters, Director of The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

In his speech on Thursday 10 May, Mr Costa urged the mayors to build upon TREATNET, an international network of 20

drug treatment and rehabilitation resource centres developed by UNODC.

"I want to see 100 times more centres in this network, starting with one in every European city represented here," said Mr. Costa. "Think of the cost of drug addiction - human and financial. Studies suggest that treatment is actually cost effective, both in terms of enriching society and improving productivity."

Mr. Costa encouraged European cities to establish twinning and mentoring projects to help cities in developing countries tackle drugs and suggested that ECAD could be expanded into a new World Cities against Drugs organization. "We all have a shared responsibility to fight drugs and protect those who are vulnerable to them."



Conference participants



John P. Walters, "Drug Czar", USA

Editorial

ECAD newsletter presents Highlights of the addresses to the delegates of the 14th Mayors' Conference. Read texts in full on www.ecad.net. Visit our home site to view the Photo gallery which will bring up memories of the event or will help to complete the picture of the Conference for those members of the ECAD who could not join us in Istanbul.

New Grant from Reykjavik

The Reykjavik City Council adopted on May 4, 2007 Mayor Vilhjalmur Vilhjalmsson's proposal for an additional



financial support of 30,500 Euros to Youth in Europe this year in order to strengthen the management of the programme as well as for promoting this excellent work.

Workshop

In connection to the conference, participants and researches from the Youth in Europe Drug Prevention Programme met during an open Workshop on the status of Europe and the ways of limiting the demand for illicit drugs. One working session was devoted to an overview of the preliminary results of surveys conducted in 9 European cities*. The follow-up discussion focused on the successful evidence-based approaches in drug preventive work.

* Helsinki, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Oslo, Reykjavik, Riga, Sofia, St. Petersburg, Vilnius

Antonio Maria Costa: Drug Control in an Urban Millennium



Three "T"s: Testing, Treatment and Twinning

I suggest an approach based on three "T"s: testing, treatment, and twinning.

First, **drug testing**. No one wants to be killed or maimed by a drunk driver. So society accepts police controls to check if someone has been drinking. Is this an encroachment on privacy, even civil liberties? ... Slowly, public opinion is wak-

ing up to the fact that some people are driving cars, public transport, operating heavy machinery or even flying airplanes while on drugs. I applaud efforts by the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and some EU countries to introduce drug testing to curb drug abuse on the road, in sensitive industries, and in situations where substance abuse may hurt oneself and others. Road testing works for alcohol; it will work for drugs.

While you are at it, why not encourage your fellow mayors from around the world to follow your example and organize themselves into African, Asian, or North American cities against drugs - all linking up as World Cities Against Drugs. That would certainly improve networking and the sharing of information.

Antonio Maria Costa

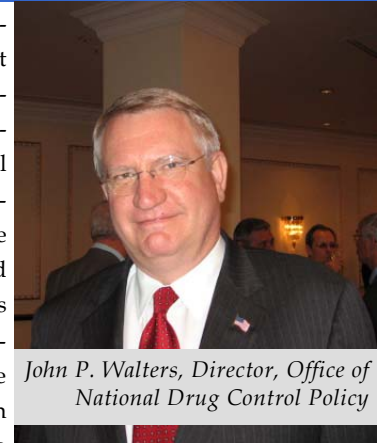
Second, **treatment**. For the past two years, UNODC has been building an international network of drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation resources centres called TREATNET. It aims to identify and develop best practice, share information, and build capacity. At the moment there are 20 participating resource centres world-wide, of which four are in Europe.

I want to see 100 times more centres in this network, starting with one in every European city represented here. Too expensive? Think of the cost of drug addiction - human and financial. Studies suggest that treatment is actually cost effective - both in terms of enriching society and improving productivity.

I therefore urge you to identify well-run drug treatment and rehabilitation centres in your cities, and link them up to the TREATNET. If you don't have enough such centers, I urge you to upgrade old ones or open new ones. It is an investment in the public health and security of your cities from which you will reap dividends several times over. If you need technical assistance to build capacity, my Office can try to help. (Find out more about TREATNET at www.unodc.org/treatment/index.html)

Third, **twinning**. Cities can help other cities. Many of your cities have learned important lessons about drug control and have experts, either in law enforcement or health services, who are familiar with the challenges of community-based prevention and treatment.

John P. Walters: Drug Legalization's Threat to Our Cities



... ECAD represents an important international consensus that illicit drug use cannot be tolerated. Already, 27 member countries and, specifically, 21 capital cities have pledged their commitment through ECAD to fight the disease of drug addiction and upholding the United Nations Conventions. This group is absolutely central to not only the reduction of illicit drug use in Europe, but to global efforts to defeat the well funded, but tragically misguided drug legalization movement.

...

The International Consensus and Shared Responsibility

It is almost hard to believe that anyone of sound mind would seek to weaken our controls against dangerous drugs or otherwise lower the barriers we have built to protect our youth from drug abuse. Nonetheless, we face well-funded and shrewd opponents to our strong anti-drug approach. They have worked hard not to take on the U.N. Drug Conventions directly, but to chip away at the spirit of the conventions through incremental steps. I must be very clear - drug enabling "harm reduction" policies, such as needle exchange, injection rooms, heroin distribution, and decriminalization of personal use of drugs pose a dire threat to our work. In the short term, more citizens will fall victim to drug abuse, and fewer will receive the type of drug treatment they need to free themselves from the grip of addiction. The long term threat is even more daunting. We know where the advocates for drug enabling harm reduction are heading - they want to abandon the conventions. We must not let them.

Together, we need to oppose any attempt to weaken the UN Conventions and resist any pressure to abdicate our obligations to our citizens. We all must work towards healing our drug users, giving them the opportunities to become and remain drug-free. Let us not listen to the voices of surrender, let us not sacrifice our youth to the interests of wealthy, elitist political activists. Their campaign is one that must be defeated, and, if we do our part, it will be.

The United States has proven that a well-balanced strategy reduces drug demand and abuse. Since 2001, past month youth drug use has declined 23.2 percent. We have experienced even greater reductions in specific drug use: 60 percent for LSD, 50 percent for methamphetamine, 56 percent for Ecstasy, 21 percent for steroids, and 25 percent for marijuana.

John P. Walters

Other subjects discussed in John P. Walters' address:

Global Cannabis Blind Spot; "Government Endorsed Drug Distribution"; Evidence Based Treatment; Challenges Ahead; Conclusion - Next Steps





*New signatories to the
Stockholm Resolution, from left:
Mayor Smiljko Kostic, Niš;
President Ljubica Bogosavljevic, Arilje;
Director Tomas Hallberg, ECAD;
Mayor Letizia Moratti, Milan;
Mayor Raimonds Munkevics, Jurmala*

MAYOR OF MILAN LETIZIA MORATTI

... Experience and better practices formed and developed in our country have demonstrated that the consumption of all drugs, none excluded, is a symptom, perhaps the most evident one, of a short-circuit in the education and developmental process of an autonomous identity for millions of young people in our societies. Young people unable to find in the society and world of adults points of reference, credible examples, behaviour models, parents they may oppose but with whom they can discuss to seek improvement and have interchanges, affection and shared feelings.

Taking drugs means feeling alone within the world and toward oneself. It means escaping one unpleasant reality in search of another. It means choosing the shortcut of irresponsibility versus facing the challenges of daily life. Taking drugs means being afraid to live, not to die.

...

From a political point of view, the persistent distinction between light and heavy drugs had the consequence of an increasing number of persons who perform their day-to-day activities in a state of mental alteration with dangerous effects on the consumer health and security and social problems related to their behaviour.

It's time to clearly state that the policies with the objective of social control have been a failure and that the only action to be followed is the total rehabilitation of the individuals.

...

Therefore Public institutions must focus on prevention policies on education, training, communication and support to those organisations that proved to be successful in the rehabilitation process and on the return to work and to social responsibilities.

MAYOR OF NIŠ SMILJKO KOSTIC

... Niš is an administrative, industrial, transport, university cultural, historical and tourist center of Southern Serbia.

We realize that drug abuse is present in all European cities. This problem has not passed by our city either. Recognizing the problem, the City of Niš puts in a lot of effort in demand and supply reduction in order to create a safe and attractive city for life and work.

As it is well known, primary prevention has a strategic importance in the fight against drugs. Niš was one of the first cities in Serbia to establish a special Department for Drug Abuse Prevention within the City Administration with such specialists as doctors, psychologists, sociologists, special pedagogues.

In order to make these preventive programs function successfully, Department for Drug Abuse Prevention (DDAP) set several important principles:

- Improvement of protective factors and reduction of risk factors;
- Continuity as an imperative in prevention – recurrent activities in order to achieve preventive objectives;
- Prevention programs based on interactive methods;
- Constant information flow regarding harmfulness of drug abuse, including building skills for resisting social/peer pressures and improvement of social competence;
- Inclusion of all kinds of drug abuse (narcotics, tobacco and alcohol) in preventive programs;
- Participation of parents and their education;
- Community awareness raising.

We believe in and work in order to create a drug-free European city. This was the main reason why we asked for ECAD membership, since this is one of the basic objectives of this association.

CHAIRMAN OF ECAD JIM CORR

Let me say a sincere word of thanks to the Mayor and Council of the historic city of Istanbul, a city which for centuries has been a vital link in uniting the people of the continents of Europe and Asia, for hosting this year's conference.

Perhaps Istanbul will soon continue its historic mission by uniting and energizing the members of ECAD in their war with illicit drugs.

Istanbul's generosity and commitment is deeply appreciated by all the members of ECAD. This conference provides a platform for

Mayors and Deputy Mayors as well as other city officials to review the existing situation on the ongoing struggle against the use of illicit drugs in our cities,



and to share best practices so that cities may become more effective as they strive to protect their citizens from the scourge of illicit drugs as they enhance and improve their policies for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug addicts into the mainstream life of our city communities.

Message to the Mayors of American cities



ECAD organization sent U.S. mayors a message about drug policy and efforts to legalize drugs in the United States:

"To the Mayors of the United States:

We, the mayors of the European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD), urge you to join us in fighting against the marijuana/cannabis legalization movement. Those that claim marijuana/cannabis is harmless are wrong. We know that many of our citizens are suffering health, psychological, and social consequences from marijuana/cannabis use. As leaders, we understand that the inaccurate and misleading information spread by well-funded legalization advocates must be countered. Europe and the United States must work together to get the facts out to all of

our citizens.

In our cities and countries, activists are organizing initiatives to decriminalize marijuana/cannabis or otherwise discourage enforcement of controls on marijuana/cannabis sales and possession. We must fight back. Legalization of drugs, or measures that facilitate marijuana/cannabis use, should be opposed, both because of their negative impact on the individual and because of the broader message of tolerance of drug abuse such actions communicate to youth. These measures both violate the spirit and the letter of the UN antidrug Conventions which we are committed to upholding. We urge you to join with us in a global effort to oppose marijuana/cannabis legalization in order to protect all of the world's citizens from the terrible consequences of drug abuse.

Signed,
European Cities Against Drugs"

David Raynes, National Drug Prevention Alliance, UK

Core views of European pro-legalisation campaigners:

- "Drugs must be legalised to remove criminality from their distribution," nonsense of course, a larger (legal) market would provide more opportunity for criminality - not less.

"I propose to you, that the quantity of ANY drug taken in a society is a matter of local culture & that the culture can be changed, for the better or for the worse."

- They promote constant argument about, in their words, "The limitations of the UN Con-

ventions". These limitations never properly described!

- They provoke constant argument about "reducing drug related harms, harm reduction and harm minimisation".

I say, & I hope you will say in response: Yes but what about TOTAL HARM? Keep mentioning TOTAL HARM, they have no answer.

"UK drugs law & drug using culture changed by one man, who had been in his job only months. I say there must have been hidden influence on him. He is blind and obviously very dependent on those who brief him. How did it happen?"

*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. 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 legalization and promote policies to eradicate drug abuse worldwide. Has your city joined ECAD?

Andrea Muccioli, San Patrignano

Many countries' social policies however reflect the belief that drug addiction is a disease and that relapse is inevitable. Believing it is impossible to cure addiction, the general goal has then become the reduction of social harm, through the stabilization of drug addicts rather than full rehabilitation, in the illusion that this also is the more financially convenient option.

"San Patrignano is currently home to about 1800 people, each of them costing roughly 12,000 euro annually to maintain, which translates into a cost of just over 40,000 euros for each completed recovery program. 3 out of 4 of these completed programs are successful and proven to be relapse free."

Even when taking into account only the direct costs of drug addiction, such as methadone distribution, needle exchange and those for medical, psychiatric and legal assistance, the expense is enormous: in 2005 Italy spent 800 million euro, France spent 1 billion while the United Kingdom spent almost 2 billion euro.

"...Already in Canada, Sweden and Holland we have helped start similar projects. It is therefore possible to replicate. It has been done."

With 2 billion, in one year we could have placed 41,600 people into San Patrignano's program. Four years later, 31,200 if these people would have been fully recovered drug free and living their lives. But as things stand currently, these 41,600 can only be multiplied over and over again into an ever increasing number of individuals subsisting on replacement therapies and revolving clinic and prison doors. A waste of money, of potential and most tragically, of human life.

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