



ECAD NEWSLETTER



EUROPEAN CITIES AGAINST DRUGS
www.ecad.net www.ecad.lu www.ecad.riga.lv www.lbb.gov.tr/ecad www.ecad.hit.bg/home.html

Volume 1 No 116
February 2009

“Working together for a drug-free society”

Second World Mayors’ Conference on Drugs 16th ECAD Mayors’ Conference



“Cities have the drug problems of their choice”

On February 5-6 Göteborg hosted the Second World Mayors’ Conference on Drugs which was held together with the 16th ECAD Mayors’ Conference. Over 230 participants representing 66 cities in 29 countries took part in this global manifestation in support for humane, restrictive drug policies based on the United Nations Conventions on Drugs.

Year 2009 marks the 100th anniversary since the first international opium commission in Shanghai, China, brought up on the international agenda the issue of devastating consequences caused to individuals and societies by opium trade and abuse of this drug. Three years later, the first international opium convention was adopted in the Hague. By 1925 not only opium but also cannabis and cocaine were included in the international treaties thereby creating a legal framework for drug control in a modern form.

Antonio Maria Costa, the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, reviewed for the conference delegates the effects of drug control system. He emphasized that it is due to the development of the international drug control we can now define the global situation as “contained”: “The world drug problem can no longer be as-

simulated to the run-away train of the early 1900s (namely before Shanghai), or to the late 1990s (namely before the UN General Assembly Special Session of 1998) when drugs were – or they appeared to be – an uncontrolled and uncontrollable problem.”

The conference programme presented a balanced combination of global and local perspectives. Antonio Maria Costa and Jan Eliasson, former Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs stood for the global view while local reports were delivered by speakers from a number of great world cities such as Nelson Mandela Bay in South Africa; Hanoi in Vietnam; San Ramón in Costa Rica; Washington in USA; Moscow in Russia; Bari in Italy and the host city.

The mayor and chairman of the Göteborg

**“Drugs have
no place
in our society”**

Anneli Hultén

Executive Board Anneli Hultén was strong in her performance and clear in the message to the worlds’ mayors, stating that “drugs have no place in our society”. Göteborg regards the consequent, restrictive drug policy based on the UN conventions as a vital ingredient for the sustainable development of a modern city.

The Conference concluded adopting a Declaration to be presented to the 52nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs which will take place in Vienna in March. This Declaration signed by the World Mayors’ Conference is aimed to show yet another section of the world community – municipalities – united behind the UN drug control system. At the same time, the Declaration reinforces our own engagement in tackling the drug issues in a sustainable way.

ECAD expresses its gratitude to the city of Göteborg for great organisation of the conference and for the inspiration of the Göteborg’s engagement in drug issues that the delegates could take home.

Editorial

ECAD Newsletter presents highlights of the addresses to the delegates of the 16th Mayors’ Conference. The full texts of the addresses and presentations are available at www.ecad.net under “Conference papers”. On our home site you will also find a photo gallery.

Anneli Hulthén: *Building the sustainable drug-free city*

Mayor and Chairman of the City Executive Board, Göteborg

“We believe in the importance of maintaining restrictive and humane drug policies. We believe that the fight against drugs is a common and shared responsibility, and that this fight must build upon international co-operation. We believe that joint efforts feed good ideas. We continue to believe in the fierce urgency of the resolution signed in Stockholm now 15 years ago (1994), starting off the European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD).

“Local cooperation is a prerequisite for our success. To this, it is imperative to act together on an *international scale*. The situation regarding drugs, the attitudes and work towards drugs is highly dependent upon the work done in other countries. Together, we can go far, if our aim and purpose are common and our will resolute. The interests that would have us fail are many, and their economic forces strong. But if we stand together, share our ideas and in international cooperation bring our cause forward, there is no stopping us. The city of Göteborg wants to make its commitment absolutely clear when it comes to the international fight against drugs. Our vision is that of a drug free society. There shouldn't be any place for drugs in our communities, in our cities, in our societies.

“As former chairperson for the National Drugs Commission, our findings when we delivered our final report eight years ago, were clear – Sweden's restrictive drug policy must be sustained and reinforced. This is a finding that must be evoked still. It is my firm belief, and that of a vast majority of the Swedish people, that our drug pol-

” If our fight against drugs is not rooted in wide, public support – our quest is lost beforehand.”

Anneli Hultén

icy must remain restrictive, and never lose sight of its vision. It is a demanding vision, a high objective – one that will not have you rest. It is about our society's attitude to drugs: we do not accept drugs becoming an integrated part in our society. This vision doesn't fulfil itself. Indeed, one of the findings of the Drugs Commission was that Swedish drug policy was at crossroads – either we face the bare facts that our vision can only be sustained through sufficient funding and with a *clear sense of leadership and direction*. Or, we should lower our sights and allow a considerable acceptance of drug abuse. In the long run, I believe, such a stance would slowly but surely start to tear at the very social fabric of our society.

“In Göteborg, our vision to realize the sustainable city starts from what we believe to be the ends and the means to every political decision – the children. We believe in putting the children first – to see every aspect of political initiatives from their point of view. Then, and only then, we believe that the sustainable society can come about. No child should ever be forgotten, and should never be left behind. In making our cities drug-free, we are making the streets safer for our children, and sustainable for their future ahead.

“We must together take on this challenge, and we must work through international organisations, with declarations and conventions. The basis for our work must be that of clear legal instruments on the international arena. We must always give our full support to work done by the UN in this regards, with excellent organisations such as ECAD assisting in carrying this work forward. The conventions are the basis of our actions.”

Antonio Maria Costa: *What can I do as a mayor?*

“You may be thinking: This fellow is right, but not original. We are familiar with all this. Drug control is a government issue, or something for nations to negotiate. What can I do as a mayor?

Mayors of the world: you can do a lot, because drug prevention and drug control are primarily your responsibility. Over half of the world's population lives in cities, and your communities above all face the consequences of drugs. Cities should take the lead in the drug prevention and treatment in the order to reduce the harm caused by drugs to individuals and societies.

“I urge you to join a campaign that my Office has launched together with the World Health Organisation. It starts from the premise that drug abuse is an illness – a preventable and treatable illness.

Millions of dollars are being spent on curing cancer, diabetes, and AIDS – all noble causes. But let us do the same for drug addiction, a health condition that physically harm several hundred thousand people every year, and psychologically affects many times more. **“The steps leading to successful drug control measures are known.**

- First, reduce availability of drugs.
- Second, increase access to treatment.
- Third, take a broad view of harm reduction. The harm reduction syllabus must start from A – A from abstinence.
- Fourth, provide a continuum of care.
- Fifth, take an evidence-based approach.”



Upper row: Anneli Hultén, Mayor, Göteborg; Antonio M. Costa, UNODC; Cllr. Nondumiso Maphazi, Mayor, Nelson Mandela Bay;
Lower row: Jan Eliasson, Ambassador, Sweden; Angelo Pansini, Adviser, Bari; James F. Mack, Executive Secretary, CICAD

www.ecad.net

This issue is a guide to Conference materials
published on ECAD website

MAYORS' FORUM:

Challenges posed by drugs in our cities and measures to meet them through local and international cooperation



Cities which signed the Stockholm Resolution in 2008/2009:
Bulgaria: Dobrich, Kardzhali, Veliko Turnovo, Vidin
Belgium: Visé

Trude H. Drevland, Deputy Mayor, Bergen, Norway

"We consider it very important to continue our work with prevention of the use of drugs, carried out through systematic programs, and in cooperation between school authorities, health and social services, local police and organisations. In this work we have a challenge in bringing in updated local knowledge about the situation with the drop out from school, new approaches and methods, and at the same time ask critically for what is evidence-based best practice. Currently, we have a strong focus on the quality of medical assisted treatment, and securing that rehabilitation is a certain part of it. We are also working to approve cooperation between specialised treatment in institutions and the municipal services, and we participate in a Drug Court project."



Photo Marcus Haggström

From left to right:

Mikhail Korzhik, Aud Kvalbein, Maj Steen, Desmond McKenzie, Trude Drevland, Marcel Neven

Maj Steen, Mayor of Borås, Sweden

"It is a must to work together and declare the full support to maintaining restrictive drug policies locally, nationally and internationally. We can't do too much. It is an everyday work."

Aud Kvalbein, Deputy Mayor, Oslo, Norway

"For the City Council the main goal must be to prevent young people from embarking upon a drug career in the first place. In a long-term perspective it does little good to spend our resources on those at the end of their career as drug abusers. Social circumstances and individual tragedies will continuously produce and reproduce people who engage in self-destructive and anti-social activities. If we fail to prioritise the youngest individuals, the vicious circle will never be broken."

Marcel Neven, Mayor and the member of the Parliament for the Walloon Region

"The town of Visé's membership of ECAD is a call for the solidarity of all the European cities, managers and leaders of which are aware of the dangers of drugs. We want to tell them that in the heart of Europe there is a country, and in that country there is a Mayor who despises the youth of the towns and villages adjoining his own town. We want to inform you against his attempt (to relocate coffee-shops towards the Belgian border) and see to it that our presence here can contribute to the protection of the young people of our town and the neighbouring towns and villages. We hope that one day, Mr. Leers, the Mayor of Maastricht, will become aware of the lives of the thousands of teenagers he endangers.

I put my hopes in the town of Visé's membership of ECAD."

Desmond A.A. McKenzie, Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica

"The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) declared Jamaica a major transshipment point for illegal narcotics. We have suffered badly from the targeting of us as a narcotics transshipment port, which has affected our economy and investments. As a city, we recognize the threat of the illegal drug trade as a major deterrent to our survival as we continue to put the necessary programme and legislations in place to fight these growing monsters. It is imperative that collectively, the fight should not be a Kingston or a Caribbean fight, but should be a universal fight."

” ECAD puts at the top of its agenda the welfare of people — young to old — irrespective of their standing in society.

We firmly and unequivocally proclaim that the welfare of people will never be advanced by legalising illicit drugs.

We believe that the addict will never progressed back to normality by attendance of injection clinics or the so called coffee shops. So we will assist any city and community that asks for our involvement.

ECAD is passion and compassion.



Jim Corr, Chairman, ECAD

Mikhail Korzhik, State Anti-Drug Commission, St. Petersburg, Russia

"Younger generation is being regularly attacked by drug producing dealers. Drug propaganda comes in a smart package and is active in its ways. Lots of published materials as well as Internet books and articles are advertising accepting attitude towards drug use and people are being brainwashed about harmlessness and availability of the so called soft drugs."

* Photographs, if not indicated otherwise, are a courtesy of Göteborg, photographer Björn Olsson

Nondumiso Maphazi:

Honourable executive mayor of the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality, South Africa

“This conference is indeed a confirmation of the inveterate commitment and dedication that the Mayors of the democratic and free word are wholly united in combating and preventing the proliferation of illegal drugs and substance abuse.

“Although accurate and current statistical data on the use and abuse of illicit drugs in South Africa are difficult to obtain, the statistics of WHO, the Medical Research Council of South Africa and local research findings are highly disturbing. Dagga (cannabis) and alcohol are still most abused substances in South Africa. Estimates are that 2.2 million people use dagga. In the second category are cocaine, heroine, speed, LSD, hashish, ecstasy and methamphetamine (“tik”).

“In South Africa, we adopted the National Drug Master Plan (NDMP). This policy document acts as the barometer of time commitment and performance of the South African government and its partners in the field

of substance abuse. The main objective of the NDMP is to form a united front of all stake holders in the country for joint action towards a society free of drugs and its related problems.

“I challenge the ECAD to invite more African cities to attend conferences like this in order to learn on your experi-

ences and to plan how do we work together in preventing drug trafficking across our countries. Together we can make a difference for the better world.”

” *One fifth of all primary school children reported to have tried drugs. The average age of first starting to use drugs is 12 years.*”

Nondumiso Maphazi

James F. Mack: Some questions to answer

Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

My third principle is: continuity of drug policies and plans is essential: In the Western hemisphere, and probably in your countries and cities also, it is often the case that when the government changes, policies and plans change too.

However, the principles and good practices of substance abuse prevention and treatment do not change. Substance abuse prevention programs, as we all know, must be long term and sustained over time if they are to have a chance of success. The same continuity of policy is also needed in drug

treatment and rehabilitation. For a mayor and a city council, therefore, the questions are:

- How do we ensure that our drug treatment services will remain in place over time?
- Do I have a task force in my city to coordinate action on drugs and alcohol? Are there the right people on this task force?
- Do I have an agreed-on plan of action in my city? How does my plan of action fit in with the central government’s plans and policies?
- Does the plan enjoy the support of the opposition? If not, how do we win that support?

Göteborg — Malta:

New ECAD Year

After the encouraging and stimulating the 16th ECAD Mayors’ Conference, with inspirational lecturers and fruitful discussions, I feel new energy and reinforced ambitions! I would like to thank all conference participants for making it such a successful event.

The discussions we have within ECAD are both productive and necessary. It is important to position ourselves as a strong voice in Europe against legalisation and liberalisation, but it is not enough. As I see it, membership in ECAD should not only be a statement, you should also gain from it. Several speakers, if not everyone who took the floor in Göteborg, talked about the necessity of knowledge-based policies, methods and programmes. ECAD strives to strengthen this part of our activities. This, with continuous support to the UN Conventions and restrictive drug policy. A great responsibility for developing of ECAD lies on me as an executive and on my office, but also on the member cities. ECAD requires active contributions from its members in regard to delivering constructive experiences and best practice, which can and should in a more systematic way be spread through ECAD’s information channels and meetings. We have high ambitions but in order to reach them ECAD as organisation needs engaged, active members burning for the sake of drug-free Europe. It should not, for instance, be too high of a demand for each member city to recruit at least one neighbour city to ECAD. By doing this, we will double the number of members to over 500 cities!

Jörgen Svidén
Director, ECAD

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 the next generations’ 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?

ECAD Head Office
European Cities Against Drugs
ECAD, Stadshuset
105 35 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel. +46 850829363 Fax +46 850829466
E-mail: ecad@ecad.net www.ecad.net

ECAD Regional Office in Russia
www.ecad.ru
zazulin@ecad.ru
+7 812 328 96 65

ECAD Regional Office in Latvia
Tel. +371 6510591
www.ecad.riga.lv andrejs.vilks@rcc.lv

ECAD Regional Office in Bulgaria
www.ecad.hit.bg/home.html
doctor_ivo@abv.bg
+359 5 684 1391

ECAD Regional Office in Turkey
www.ibb.gov.tr/ecad ecad@ibb.gov.tr