



**Council of Europe presentation
to the High-level Segment of the 52nd CND Session
by Mr. Thomas Kattau**

At the **Council of Europe** it is the Pompidou Group which charged with the activities and action related to drug control policies. It is the Council of Europe's Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs. It is a Partial Agreement that brings together 35 European countries.

The **Polish Pompidou Group Presidency** undertook a major venture in 2008 to assess the Pompidou Group's capacity to meet the needs of political decision makers. This important undertaking, with the important input from **France** and **Germany**, brought about new ideas and strategies that will be likely to form the centre of the future work programme of the Pompidou Group, more effectively serving policy makers and policy managers.

In paying tribute to the fundamental principals of the Council of Europe, Poland also hosted the **3rd European Drug Prevention Prize**. This prize is awarded every 2 years to three projects that involve young people thus rewarding truly participatory and innovative approaches in drug prevention. The winners in 2008 came from **Bulgaria, Greece and the Netherlands**. The support from **Poland** was crucial to this high-profile activity.

Thanks to the support of **Switzerland** and **Malta** the Pompidou Group conducted a major research and published a study entitled "**From a policy on illegal drugs to a policy on psychoactive substances**", investigating the impact of different policy approaches to licit and illicit drugs.

In contributing to increased cooperation in drug research in Europe, the Pompidou Group, in cooperation with the EMCDDA, had set up the **European register on drug research projects**. Now the register includes 450 researchers and over 100 major research projects in Europe and continues to develop.

In further supporting efforts to promote evidence based policies the Pompidou Group, in cooperation with the **European Society on Social Drug Research**, initiated the first **European summer school for post-graduate researchers**, offering an **intensive training course on qualitative drug research**. Thanks to the important contributions from **Norway** this project can be continued in 2009.

The Pompidou Group's **Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions**, called **MedNET**, facilitated the first ever school survey in **Lebanon**. In

Cooperation with the **UNODC Regional Office** for the Middle East and North Africa a new initiative on demand reduction activities, in particular to conduct major school surveys on substance use, was set up in 2008.

In **Drug prevention** the Pompidou Group continues to promote **evidence-based practices in school prevention**. In 2008 a series of training activities in **Ukraine** and **Lithuania**, aiming to adopt **life skills methodology** to local prevention context, were implemented. The success of previous Pompidou Group programmes of this kind in the **Russian Federation** has led to a wide demand by member states for the life-skills training programme.

In continuing to further assess **quasi-coerced treatment** the Pompidou Group compared existing research to national data and evidence. According to the evidence collected, it can be shown that quasi-coerced treatment can be effective in reducing substance use, risk and offending behaviours, and improving social integration if received in the context of overall available treatment services. Future work in the field of criminal justice systems will focus on **tackling recidivism in drug related crime**.

The Pompidou Group's expert committee on **Ethics and Human Rights** finalised its work on **drug testing in schools and at the workplace** with the launch of its survey of the situation in European schools and a comparative study of relevant national legislation.

In 2009 the Pompidou Group continues its cooperation with North Africa on a broad range of demand reduction policies. Major joint activities are planned with authorities from **Algeria** and **Morocco**, as well as **Tunisia** which has recently joined the MedNet. **France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands** have become key supporters of the MedNet with their valuable contributions.

At present the Pompidou Group, following a recommendation of the **Parliamentary Assembly** and a decision of the **Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe**, is investigating the feasibility of preparing a European convention on promoting public health policy in the fight against drugs as a complementary instrument to the system of UN Conventions. It is expected that this feasibility study will be completed in late 2009.

The cooperation between international and European governmental organizations and agencies working on drug control issues, continues to be one of the top priorities of the **Polish Pompidou Group Presidency**. The Pompidou Group feels encouraged to continue pursuing this ambitious work thanks to the support from the EU, WHO and the active involvement of UNODC.

Ladies and gentlemen I thank you for your precious attention.