

64th CND Statement of Greece, General Debate

Madame Chair, Excellencies, dear Colleagues,

Allow me first to congratulate you Ambassador Krois on your election as Chair of the 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. I am certain that under your leadership and guidance we can all advance the work of the Commission in an inclusive and constructive spirit.

I also take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Khan for the exemplary manner in which he conducted the work of the 63rd session and especially the discussions on the adoption of the scheduling recommendations of the World Health Organization.

Ladies and gentlemen, Greece aligns itself fully with the statement of the EU that was presented by Her Excellency the Minister of Health of Portugal Ms Marta Temido.

We have recently developed our National Drug Strategy and relevant action plan which are based on the cornerstones shared by the international community such as the respect of human rights, the promotion of evidence-based practices and the necessity for a balanced approach between supply and demand reduction policies.

The “war against drugs” should no be a war against the people who are using drugs.

We reaffirm the EU’s strong and unequivocal opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related offences and promote the principle of an adequate, proportionate and effective response to drug related offences.

We must stay focused on our efforts to reduce the social stigma, discrimination and marginalisation of our citizens who, for whatever reason, are using drugs.

We must support them and provide them with the opportunities to minimise risks and harms associated with their habit and empower them for a full social integration.

Furthermore, we must allow new scientific knowledge to inform our policies at national and international level.

Each country at a national level and all the countries in a coordinated way should work together to address global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and of course the use of drugs for a better and sustainable future for ALL.