

Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

Vienna, 2-5 July 2013

Informal discussion note for the working groups

For the consideration of agenda item 6 on 3 and 4 July, ad hoc working groups will be established for the purpose of reviewing issues of regional importance and facilitating informal discussions and frank exchanges of views on those issues. For each of the working group topics, the Meeting is expected to submit regional recommendations aimed at positively moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, as requested by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10. Working groups will be invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the plenary for endorsement and inclusion in the report of the Tenth Meeting.

(a) Demand reduction and related measures

The working group on Demand reduction and related measures will take place on 3 July 2013. Participants in the working group are encouraged to share information on their agency's contribution to their respective national drug demand reduction strategies, with concrete examples of what has worked and what has proven to be challenging. Participants are invited to share lessons learned on their role in the development of demand reduction strategies and their contributions to the development of recommendations that support a comprehensive approach to reducing the demand and use of illicit drugs. The discussion is expected to cover various models aimed at reducing illicit drug demand that reflect the diversity of approaches to demand reduction, in which prevention is a common goal. Participants might, among other things, wish to discuss how law enforcement measures, resulting in reduced availability of drugs can be most effectively and efficiently combined with treatment and rehabilitation measures, thus resulting in healthier communities.

Participants might wish focus on the following aspects of the topic:

- (a) law enforcement's involvement in prevention, support to problematic families, management of adolescents with behavioral problems;
- (b) law enforcement's approach to minor cases of drug dealers (small dealers selling drugs to earn money to maintain their habits);
- (c) law enforcement's training on drugs, drug users, patterns of use, setting and psycho-social aspects, with a view to be more effective in intelligence work;
- (d) law enforcement's collaboration with treatment service, with a view to have their action well-coordinated with harm reduction activities;
- (e) law enforcement's humane and compassionate approach to drug dependent individuals;
- (f) law enforcement's role in prison in managing drug users and related problems;
- (g) treatment of drug use in prison and impact on rate of re-arrest / relapse.

In addition, participants might wish to address the following issues:

- (a) Which demand reduction initiatives have you recently been involved in?
- (b) What action did they entail?
- (c) Have there been initiatives targeting particularly children and young people, or other vulnerable groups?
- (d) Can you share experiences and good practices in strengthening cooperation and coordination with other relevant services, including health services?