



Western European Civil Society Regional Consultation Event: United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drug Policy (2016)

Monday 5th October 2015

Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Rue Froissart 36, 1040,
Brussels



Agenda

This consultation event was undertaken during the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs Meeting which took place between 5-6 October 2015 in Brussels and which was hosted by the European Commission.

The EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs is an expert group of the European Commission, composed of around 40 NGO's from across Europe.

The consultation event was held in an interactive style with NGOs picking one area of specialisation and working with others to identify what could be done better, any models of best practice that could be implemented and what outcomes they would like from the UNGASS process.

The areas of specialiation that the group was consulted on mirrored the priority areas of the UNGASS 2016 process:

- Drugs and Health
- Drugs and Crime
- Drugs and Alternative Development
- Human Rights, Women, Children and Communities
- New Challenges, Threats and Realities

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON DRUGS
PLENARY SESSION, BRUSSELS, 5-6 OCTOBER 2015

CSF member	Representative	Origin
Ana Liffey Drug Project (ALDP)	Marcus Keane	Dublin
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Association Française pour la réduction des Risques (AFR)	Jean-Marc Priez	Paris
Celebrate Recovery	Borislav Goic	Sarajevo
Citywide	Anna Quigley	Dublin
Coalition Internationale Sida (CIS) – Coalition PLUS	Ricardo Fuertes	Lisbon
De Regenboog Groep – Correlation Network	Katrin Prins-Schiffer	Amsterdam
Deutsche Hauptstelle fuer Suchtfrage (DHS)	Christina Rummel	Hamm



Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)	Erika Matuizaite	Vilnius
Europe Against Drugs (EURAD)	Fay Watson	Brussels
European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG)	Raminta Stuikyte	Vilnius
European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC)	David Oliver	Milan
European Association of Professionals working in the Drug Field (Itaca)	Edoardo Polidori	Forlí
European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD)	Erik Leijonmarck	Stockholm
European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS)	Camille Jannel	Paris
European Institute of Studies on Prevention (IREFREA)	María Angeles Duch Moya	Palma de Mallorca
European Treatment Centers for Drug Addiction Euro-TC	Thomas Legl	Vienna
Federación Andaluza ENLACE	Jorge Ollero Perán	Sevilla
Fédération Addiction	Laurene Collard	Paris

Fédération Bruxelloise des Institutions pour Toxicomanes – FEDITO BXL	Sébastien Alexandre	Brussels
Forum Droghe	Susanna Ronconi	Rome
Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe (FDfE)	Christian Mirre	Brussels
Fundación Atenea	Inmaculada Gómez Ortiz	Madrid
Healthy Options Project Skopje (HOPS)	Vlatko Dekov	Skopje
Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU)	Peter Sarosi	Budapest
I Can Live Coalition (ICL)	Laura Bliujiene	Vilnius
Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis (ICSRA)	Fabio Bernabei	Reykjavik
Institute for Research and Development "Utrip"	Matej Košir	Ljubljana
International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)	Marie Nougier	London
International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA)	Maria Phelan	London

Norwegian Policy Network on Alcohol and Drugs	Stig Erik Sørheim	Oslo
Organisation Internationale Dianova	Lucia Goberna Lehmann	Madrid
PARSEC Consortium	Ingo Stöckel	Rome
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Polish Drug Policy Network	Agnieszka Sieniawska-Bogumil	Warsaw
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San Patrignano Community	Monica Barzanti	Bologna
Scottish Drug Forum Ltd	David Liddell	Edinburgh
Stichting AIDS Foundation East West (AFEW)	Corie Leifer	Amsterdam
Stichting European Council of Drug Helplines (FESAT)	Tom Evenepoel	Brussels
Union of Entities, Associations and Institutions related to Drugs Use Care (UNAD)	Pedro Quesada Arroyo	Malaga



Women's Organisations Committee on Alcohol and Drug Issues, WOCAD	Leena Haraké	Stockholm
World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD)	Per Johansson	Stockholm
Youth Organisations for Drug Action (YODA)	Iga Katarzyna Jeziorska	Warsaw

Report From The Event

The participants are randomly divided in 5 different break-out groups. Those groups work in parallel on one of the five topics, focusing on priorities and what can be achieved at the UNGASS. The following results from the groups are presented at the plenary.

Drugs and Alternative Development:

- Importance of working with affected communities including farmers and indigenous groups
- Importance of adequate sequencing in alternative development programmes, and in framing these approaches as part of a development oriented approach also focusing on access to markets, the protection of the environment, the development of infrastructure, etc.
- Issue of development area often viewed as an area which is restricted to the global south. But even here in Europe, some communities have been taken over by the drug trade in the poorest areas we should be *“looking at poverty in the broader sense is a key way of seeing how things can be done better”*
- Promote alternative legal markets for internationally controlled substances, for example for pharmaceutical uses of these substances
- Focus on promoting the resilience and solidarity of communities
- Develop new indicators around human development, and evaluate alternative development programmes based on a long-term approach
- Link the drug policy debates with the sustainable development goals including better engagement with UNDP
- End of aerial of fumigation
- Address the drugs markets in economic terms and look at alternatives
- Make EU funding conditional to a human rights approach – refuse to fund any programmes focused on aerial fumigation and other harmful approaches

Drugs and Health

- Greater need for funding across all the range of interventions including prevention, harm reduction, treatment and care, recovery and rehabilitation. Especially for community groups.
- Greater involvement of affected populations including people who use drugs, families, and recovered users
- Ensure increased focus on co-morbidities
- Need to link human rights and health



- Improved access to harm reduction and low-threshold services
- Focus on reducing inequalities in regard to access to treatment particularly for HIV and hepatitis
- Tailored, interventions with access for those who wish to access them
- Ensure access to internationally controlled drugs for medical purposes
- At UNGASS, we particularly want to see "something about funding for services which actually work" and "development of human rights indicators linked to health outcomes"

Drugs and Crime

- The need for alternatives to sanctions and the decriminalisation of users and protection as much as possible harm to others
- Stop considering drug policies as extremes between tough prohibition and complete legalisation - there are policy options in between these two extremes

What would we like to see from UNGASS

- A focus on evidence-based crime strategies
- A focus to reduce harm to others, such as children
- Improving indicators of success, seizures of drugs is not a good indicator. Improved indicators are required to measure success in drug reduction in the world
- WHO estimates that only 3% of funding goes towards prevention. It is recommended an indicator should be established to increase this number in the future, as well as for other demand reduction measures such as treatment and harm reduction

Human rights, women, children and communities

- Drug laws should be implemented in conjunction with human rights law
- Human rights should be a strong part of the drugs discourse
- The EU should continue to stand against the death penalty in all circumstances
- The EU should consider that access to treatment may be denying the right to life
- Drug control policies should be sensitive to the needs of women and girls, ethnic minorities, indigenous groups and children
- Promote the rights of indigenous communities and this means that governments should have access to
- The EU should promote the inclusion of those affected by drugs in designing and providing services and making policies that affect them
- From UNGASS, we would like to see within the UN system an assessment of the human rights of those affected by drugs and included in the UNODC world drug report.



New challenges, threats and realities

- Changed markets including new psychoactive substances and drug supply require different approaches in services, monitoring etc.
- Need for a person centred approach to ensure services are meeting the needs of the people they are targeted at, including social issues such as homelessness, new psychoactive substances and mental health.
- The Convention goals and realities on the ground no longer match, with countries interpreting the conventions in a more flexible way.

What would we like to see from UNGASS?

- An open debate to assess whether the current system is effective and able to achieve its stated objectives. Need to consider a more nuanced approach and indicators that would address among other issues impact and unintended consequences.
- There is a value for a united EU position where it exists. In the open debate on flexibilities, individual member state voices should get heard, as with consensus comes dilution.
- For open debate, the involvement of civil society is critical. There is a clear need for a strong civil society presence!



A network for prevention, treatment and recovery

Photographs From The Event





Contact Details of Host and Organiser

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