

# European Cities Against Drugs 10th Anniversary Mayors' Conference

May 15-17, 2003  
Stockholm



*Swedish National Drug Co-ordinator Björn Fries at the conference*

## ECAD Conference 2003

*An important drug political event  
of the year*

The ECAD 10th Anniversary Mayors' Conference took place in Stockholm on May 15-17.

With 220 delegates, including twelve Mayors and 13 Deputy Mayors, from 77 cities in 22 countries, the conference was a success.

Bringing together people from all corners of Europe for the conference was indeed a productive and rewarding occasion, with extensive opportunities for delegates to exchange views and experiences.

ECAD would like to thank the City of Stockholm for hosting the conference and for the hospitality shown throughout the conference.

ECAD would also like to thank all speakers, delegates and others who made the conference a worthwhile experience.

Four Lithuanian cities signed the Stockholm Resolution, bringing the number of ECAD Member Cities to a total of 264!

## "Don't legalise cannabis!"

*Said HM Queen of Sweden in her address  
to the delegates*

Her Majesty Queen of Sweden said in particular,

"During many years, strong pressure has been made on developing countries, to reduce the production of illicit drugs, as a way of countering the international drug problem. We must ask ourselves how the opinions in some consumer countries, in favour of legalization - or of liberalisation of drug control - rhymes with this demand of a reduced production. This type of tolerance is a violation of the UN Conventions and shows a lack of respect for the efforts made in developing countries to reduce production.

"A tolerant policy concerning the consumption of drugs, including cannabis, is not only a threat to public health, but also to international solidarity and the idea of shared responsibility.

"The truly global dimension of the present drug situations calls for further action of the international community. We should find

## RESOLUTION

*From the ECAD Advisory Board Meeting  
Cyprus, March 14, 2003*

The ECAD Advisory Board wishes to compliment the City of Stockholm and the Swedish Government for acting as a catalyst for a better quality of life in the whole of Europe through support of the work of ECAD.

Furthermore the Advisory Board expresses gratitude for the generous financial contribution for the past decade.



*From left to right: Margareta Olofsson, Alice Trolle-Wachtmeister, HM Queen Silvia, Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg*

more effective ways of reducing the production and consumption of illicit drugs. We should make strong efforts to develop strategies of alternative production. And we should, as responsible members of wealthy nations, focus even more on the reduction of poverty. If we mutually respect each other and our respective efforts, we will be more successful in our common fight against drugs."



## Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg

*Stockholm Deputy Mayor*

Catharina Tarras-Wahlberg welcomed the conference delegates on behalf of the City of Stockholm. In her address to the international audience she pointed out that

"In an ever-changing, developing European situation, Stockholm is working hard to contain the drug problem and its consequences – a challenging task that demands not only political decisions and financial

means, but

above all

up-to-date

knowledge

about the

local drug

problem,

best prac-

tices, co-

operation

with the relevant authorities, dedicated

agencies and NGOs, and the support of the

people living here."



## Keith Hellowell

*Former National Drug Co-ordinator, UK*



"Question yourself about the level of true co-operation between politicians, civil servants at national level and search in vain for evidence of joint funding, joint performance measures and joint responsibility for achievement."

The full texts of all speeches along with the conference photo gallery are available at [www.ecad.net](http://www.ecad.net) or through the ECAD Stockholm office at [paulina.lonnroth@stadshuset.stockholm.se](mailto:paulina.lonnroth@stadshuset.stockholm.se)



## Jim Corr

*Chairman of the ECAD Advisory Board*

Jim Corr briefly reviewed the 10 years of ECAD history in his speech to the delegates. He emphasised that the organisation is facing new challenges:

"The **challenge** ahead for ECAD lies in:

1. Safeguarding the contents of the UN Conventions on Drugs and Article 33 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
2. Effectively opposing efforts to legalise drugs;
3. Counteracting disinformation on drugs and of the consequences of drug experimentation presented by those people in favour of easier access to drugs;
4. Educating politicians and the general public about devastating harmful social consequences inherent in a *free drug society*."

From this 10<sup>th</sup> Mayors' conference Jim Corr called for a united **European leadership against drugs**.

"The essential component in such a united response would be:

1. The establishment of a drug political centre where politicians, officials and non-governmental organisations could co-operate on a range of measures to combat the misuse of drugs. Such a centre could be a joint venture between the European Union and the Council of Europe so that a great cross-section of European countries could participate.
2. One of the most important tasks for such a centre would be to function as a clearing house for knowledge and support for research about the injurious effects of drugs on the individual and society.

*Jim Corr and Paulina Lönnroth at the welcome reception*

3. The centre would encourage and support NGO's that would be required to sign a proclamation against drugs.

*"Stockholm Resolution rejects all demands for legalising illicit drugs and advocates the development of positive strategies to tackle the difficult social problems related to the abuse of drugs. The Stockholm Resolution encourages co-operation between cities in order to share experiences and progress the essential work of protecting people from the infamous trade of the drug barons and drug pushers." Jim Corr*

4. A united European leadership would encourage each European school to design an action plan to achieve a drug free school.
5. Each city and municipality should create a strategy to identify at an early age young people experimenting with drugs and put in place a system of close ongoing co-operation between child care services, schools, youth centres, social services and the police authorities.
6. Each country should take steps to ensure that their prisons are drug free and every imprisoned drug addict should have access to a rehabilitation programme.
7. Customs should be reinforced and given more resources to ensure that border controls are more effective.
8. Each European state should examine it's current legislation to protect people from the effects of drug abuse and if necessary, such legislation should be updated to make it more effective. "

## Peter Stoker

National Drug Prevention Alliance, UK

What makes our societies weak in the face of drug problems? Review of anti drug policies in different countries around the world. Examples of some successful prevention programs. Analysis of common features of these successful programs which are "classic and timeless in their value".

"If I had to choose just one key criterion from what I have seen in all these countries, it would be Culture. Localised programmes will be effective locally, and programmes concentrating on one topic - such as self-esteem or drug awareness - may be effective in those areas, but not much elsewhere. If you are intent on generating a healthier environment in your city then you need to look to generating a health-oriented, prevention-oriented culture right across your community - in the home, in the school, in the workplace, in the youth organization, in the leisure areas, in the shops, in the churches and temples - and certainly in the media.

Culture can be artificially distorted, at least in the short term - which is where the media can be particularly effective, or particularly damaging. But cultural changes generally are slower to happen, and require steady application of energy. If that effort is sustained then change will occur, like the dripping of water that wears away the stone. The drug liberals have learnt this truth - we

must learn it too, along with another truth - that we sometimes forget that today has not always been. We did not always have the drug culture and the society culture we have now. It was changed before, by others. It follows that we can change it again."

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## Margareta Olofsson

Vice Mayor for Social Affairs, Stockholm

In partnership with the other two large Swedish cities, Gothenburg and Malmö, Stockholm has initiated a common "Tri-city Initiative" to develop pilot projects within four prioritised areas: schools - pubs and entertainment venues - treatment programmes for young substance abusers - care and support programmes for adult addicts.



## Mayors' Forum

At the Mayors' Forum mayors recount the projects in the anti-drug fieldwork which were carried out in their respective cities.

*From left to right: Andreas Petrou, Aglantzia, Cyprus; Stefan Jon Hafstein, Reykjavik, Iceland; Victor Balakin, Izhevsk, Russia*

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## Morgan Johansson

Minister for Public Health and Social Welfare, Sweden



"The drug supply could not be limited solely by attacking large-scale trafficking. We also needed to limit small-scale street trading. This change was intended above all as a preventive measure to make drugs harder to come by for youngsters on the point of abusing them.

"The limitation of small-scale trading did not require any changes in the law. Drug trading was already prohibited, but a distinct political message needed to be conveyed to the police, for example, compelling them to alter their working methods. There was also a need for a changed and more articulate drug policy which was intelligible and acceptable to public opinion. None of these things could be accomplished overnight, of course. Instead the process required consistent endeavour over a long period of time, with many debates on drug policy.

We were helped here by Sweden's long tradition of temperance organisations, a

## Christer Brännerud

Swedish Criminal Investigation Department

Project NHERO: an example of international cooperation.

"Nhero stands for the "Northern Heroin Route" and was born after a joint Finnish and Swedish initiative.

"The participating countries were the Baltic States, Tajikistan, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the United Nation drug control offices in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and in Russia.

"Today we can see that the white heroin situation in the Baltic Sea Region has changed. The purity of the heroin at street level has drastically decreased while the prices increased. Ukraine and Belarus are now targets since the heroin export is destined to these countries for further transports into Europe."

tradition which spurred the development of a number of NGOs demanding a more restrictive policy in drugs. For all these various reasons, public opinion swung round to accept and support the new policy.

*"It is encouraging that ECAD has been able to engage so many European cities in the fight against drugs, and that so many have come here today to discuss drug policy at the local and regional levels. I wish you every success in your future work during the next coming ten years."*

*Morgan Johansson*

"The number of young persons using drugs declined, according to the school surveys, and in the mid-1980s was lower than ever previously recorded. Unfortunately we can now see that developments in the 1990s took a different turn, and young persons' drug use has increased again, though it still falls short of the levels of the 1970s."

## Andrea Muccioli

*San Patrignano, Italy*

Andrea Muccioli recounted the residential drug rehabilitation centre San Patrignano. The centre begun as a vision of one man, Vincenzo Muccioli, and now has become a home for 1,800 people.

"Hundreds of our guests come from jail and more than 3,000 "prison years" have been avoided and turned into recovery programs as an alternative to prison, giving them a possibility of social reintegration. We don't have any selection procedure with the admission requests we receive. The only condition we lay down to whoever asks us for help is a real desire to face and overcome drug addiction. We don't have a preset

therapeutic scheme that people have to adapt to. We believe that in the DNA of life, each and every life, even the most desperate and difficult, there's a code of singularity or diversity. Taking in a new guest means establishing a relationship considering the singularity of the person's lifestyle. Drug addiction is the result of a gap in the growth of someone's character and behaviour, something which can be different for every single individual and which needs a specific care case to case. This is why our programme, which is ranged between three and four years, doesn't foresee rigid therapeutic steps or those with precise deadlines."

## Giorgio Salvadé, Luca Cao,

*ECAD Advisory Board Members, Lugano*

"We are leaving the Advisory Board because, after ten years, it is right to do so in order to encourage a succession of other cities to become a part of our decision-making board. Let it be well understood that we are not leaving The Conference of European Cities. We are leaving you as an inheritance our firm determination, which we recognize as coming from our association with you, to continue fighting, even in our particularly difficult situation."

Giorgio Salvadé described the drug situation in Switzerland and the efforts made in the City of Lugano to counteract consequences of the Swiss liberal drug policy.

## Alexander Strebkov

*Chair of Conflict Studies, St. Petersburg*

"ECAD has an active collaboration with the Saint Petersburg State University in Russia. Together, the organisation and the university develop programs on training students (Master level) in drug conflict studies. Some students are already working for municipalities and other local authorities as assistants/consultants on drug issues. These programs help the students to comprehend the complexity of the drug related issues.

"These programs are based on an understanding that a main concept of the social problem caused by drug use is a gap between a drug user and the society. The "gap" is widening when drug abusers are not "accepted" in main stream society. Our challenge is to bring these people back into society as responsible citizen.

"We need to develop a humane anti-drug policy that would be able to combat individual drug abuse so that the potential of our fellow men is realised."



*C.R.I.S. (Criminals' Return Into Society) treated the conference delegates with an informal dinner. Thank you!*



*Here he is – the cook!*

## Programme Drug-Free Iceland

In 1997 ECAD together with the City of Reykjavik and the government of Iceland initiated a five-year programme *Drug-Free Iceland*.

According to the final report, presented by Stefan Jon Hafstein, teenage alcohol consumption along with usage of drugs have

decreased drastically. Percentage of youth aged 15-16 who has been drunk in the past 30 days dropped from 43% in 1998 to 32% in 2000. Percentage of those who tried hash decreased from 17% to 12% respectively.

The report will soon be available at the [www.ecad.net](http://www.ecad.net).

*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 our **societies'** well being.*