



## FINAL MINUTES OF THE FIFTY–NINTH MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD (27–28 JUNE 2019)

27 JUNE

### Introduction by the Chair

The **Chair, Ms Laura d'Arrigo**, welcomed the participants and informed about the new members on the Management Board.

The Chair welcomed the new members present at the meeting. Ms Anna-Liisa Pääsukene, Advisor at the Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health, was nominated as member for Estonia. Mr Christos Kouimtsidis, national drug coordinator, was nominated as member for Greece. Romania nominated Mr Cristian Duță, Deputy Director of the National Anti-Drug Agency, as substitute member. The European Parliament designated Ms Meni Malliori and Mr Tomas Zabransky (for a second mandate) as members on the Management Board. The Chair reminded that Ms Malliori, a Psychiatrist and Professor at Athens University, was member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004 and member on the EMCDDA Management Board for Greece from 1994 to 2006 and from 2010 to 2014.

Mr Vladimir Martens, substitute member for Belgium, accompanied Mr Claude Gillard. Mr Andrea Zapparoli, from the Department for Anti-Drug Policies, accompanied the substitute member from Italy. Ms Ana Sofia Santos, Head of the Department for International Relations of SICAD, accompanied the Portuguese member. In the absence of the member and substitute member from Slovenia, Ms Mateja Jandl represented her country during this meeting. Slovenia gave its proxy vote to Austria. Bulgaria, Ireland, Cyprus, Poland and Hungary could not be represented at the meeting. Bulgaria gave its proxy vote to France, Cyprus to Greece and Hungary gave its proxy vote to Spain.

Turkey was not represented at the meeting.

The European Commission was represented by Mr Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director-General Director at DG HOME, Ms Floriana Sipala (DG HOME) and Mr Wojciech Kałamarz (DG SANTE), as well as Ms Edith Hofer (DG HOME) as observer.

The Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe nominated its Executive Secretary, Mr Denis Huber, as observer. The UNODC and WHO representatives were excused.

The Chair welcomed the interpreters, providing simultaneous interpretation from and into French, English, and German. Members could in addition speak Czech, Italian and Finnish.

The Chair reminded the participants that the Budget and Executive Committee met on 27 June in order to prepare the Management Board meeting.

Finally, Ms d'Arrigo announced some security measures in case of a fire alarm and evacuation of the building.

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

EMCDDA/01/19 rev 2  
EMCDDA/02/19

The **Chair** suggested adding a point for information by the Portuguese delegation on the third European Conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies (Lisbon, 23–25 October 2019) under 'Any other business'. The European Commission proposed adding a point for information on the possible extension of the Director's mandate. Mr Tomas Zabransky, representative of the European Parliament, suggested that Luxembourg provides an update on the developments in its cannabis policy.

**Decision:** The Management Board adopted the revised agenda of the meeting.

## 2. Activity reports:

### 2.1. Report on the activities of the Chair

EMCDDA/03/19

The **Chair** reported notably about the fruitful video conference with the Vice-Chair, the EMCDDA and the internal auditors of the European Commission on 14 June 2019 concerning the topics for Internal Audit Service (IAS) audits of the EMCDDA over the next three years.

### 2.2. Report from the Budget Committee

EMCDDA/04/19

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** informed the Board members about the discussions held at the Budget Committee meeting of 27 June according to the items on the agenda.

### 2.3. Report on the external activities of the Director

EMCDDA/05/19

The **Director** briefly reported about his external activities. He highlighted the excellent collaboration with the European Commission, in particular with DG HOME. The Director had meetings with Commissioner Avramopoulos and expressed his gratitude for his unconditional support to the agency. He further met with members of the Cabinet of Commissioner Andriukaitis, with Commissioner Moedas and the European Commission's Vice President Jyrki Katainen. The Director met with the new Director of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), Ms Maja Markovčić Kostelac, to explore ways for strengthening the synergies between both Agencies.

The EMCDDA continued its very close collaboration with the Portuguese authorities, including with the Municipality of Lisbon. The EMCDDA was awarded a Gold Medal of the Order of Merit of the National Plan on Drugs (Delegación del Gobierno para el Plan Nacional sobre Drogas/DGPNDS) of Spain in recognition of its work over the past 20 years. The Director delivered a keynote speech at the inaugural conference of the XXI Days of the Association 'Proyecto Hombre', and participated in the 50th anniversary of Socidrogalcohol in Madrid. The Director thanked the representative of LV for organising his official visit to this Member State in April.

Ms Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, visited the EMCDDA on 29 April together with Ms Marta Temido, Minister of Health for Portugal. The Director discussed the state of the cooperation between the EMCDDA and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) during the visit of H.E. Ambassador Adam E. Namm, Executive Secretary of CICAD on 12 March 2019. Mr Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, paid an official visit to the EMCDDA on 27 May to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation between both organisations.

## 3. Presentations by EU Presidencies

### 3.1. Presentation on the conclusions of the Romanian Presidency

Mr Cristian Duță summarised the first conclusions of the **RO** Presidency and thanked the Member States for their collaboration.

In terms of drugs policy, the main priorities of the RO Presidency were in line with the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2017–20 and the work of previous Presidencies and included the preparation of the Ministerial Segment of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the CND and of the ordinary segment of the CND session in March 2019.

The Horizontal Working Party on Drugs organised EU dialogues with the US, CELAC and Brazil. The RO Presidency enhanced information-sharing between the HDG and other Council bodies, in particular COSI. Topics for thematic debates were 'Defining the role of the national drug coordinator at EU level', 'The importance of case management in drug addiction care' and 'Ensuring continuity of actions initiated by previous presidencies'. The National Drug Coordinators meeting took place on 9–10 April 2019 in Bucharest. Mr Duță thanked the EMCDDA and in particular Mr Danilo Ballotta for the continuous support provided to the RO Presidency.

On behalf of the Management Board, the **Chair** congratulated RO for its efficient and successful first EU Presidency.



## 3.2. Presentation of the programme for the Finnish Presidency

Ms Elina Kotovirta, future Chair of the HDG, thanked the RO Presidency for its excellent work and presented the priorities of the third FI EU Presidency. The FI Presidency takes place at an exceptional timing, with the renewal of the European Parliament and the European Commission, as well as the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

In the context of the preparation for the next CND session, the FI Presidency will follow up on the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances and support forming a common EU position (if needed). A state of play of cannabis and hemp legislation in the EU, including low-THC products and products with CBD, will be prepared by the European Commission and discussed in the HDG. EU dialogues will take place with Eastern partnership countries, US and Russia. Meetings of the EU-CELAC Committee and with the Dublin Group will also be organised. Other discussion items will concern dialogue with research, the EMCDDA evaluation and the launch of EMCDDA and Europol joint publications, in particular the third European Drug Markets Report at the end of the year.

The National Drug Coordinators (NDC) meeting will take place on 25–26 September 2019 in Helsinki about the topic of 'CND cooperation'. An informal technical meeting took place with the Civil Society Forum on Drugs at the end of the RO Presidency, and EU delegations were asked to provide contributions on different ways to exchange information with this forum at the next NDC meeting.

On behalf of the Management Board, the **Chair** wished FI good luck for its Presidency, and assured FI of the support from the EMCDDA and the Member States.

**Mr Olivier Onidi, representative of the European Commission**, thanked the RO presidency for its remarkable achievements, and the incoming FI Presidency for its precise programme. The priorities include reflections on cannabis, and the European Commission welcomed the approach to undertake a mapping of the different dimensions of this complex issue. The European Commission counts on the FI Presidency to make the best use of the EMCDDA's external evaluation, by reflecting about what can be done to turn the drugs issue into a political priority.

## 4. Budget and financial issues:

### 4.1. New Financial Regulation applicable to the EMCDDA

EMCDDA/06/19

On 18 December 2018 the European Commission adopted the new Framework Financial Regulation (FFR) for decentralised Agencies, which entered into force on 11 May 2019. Pursuant to Article 112 of the FFR 2019 each Union body should adopt its new financial rules with a view to entry into force on 1 July 2019. The European Commission has been consulted on 28 May 2019 on the new draft Financial Regulation of the EMCDDA and will give in principle its 'nihil obstat', as the proposed draft does not depart from the new FFR, and its formal opinion will be transmitted soon to the EMCDDA.

**Decision:** The Management Board adopted the new EMCDDA Financial Regulation, subject to the positive opinion of the European Commission.

### 4.2. EMCDDA 2018 accounts: opinion of the Management Board

EMCDDA/07/19

**Mr Claude Gillard, Chair of the Budget Committee**, stressed the excellent budget performance. The execution rate for commitment appropriations was 99.98%, which reflects the EMCDDA's second best performance ever. The rate of execution of payment appropriations was 98.02%, which represents the best performance ever. The Budget Committee analysed the EMCDDA final accounts for 2018 and the positive observations of the Court of Auditors, which included only three technical remarks, and recommended to the Management Board to adopt the opinion on these accounts.

The **Director** presented the main achievements of the EMCDDA in 2018 based on the General Report of Activities, as well as the highlights of the budgetary and financial performance, and thanked all staff for their work. The Director stressed that Member States should support the priority of drugs in the area of Security at the Council and the European Parliament, in order to secure adequate funding for the agency over the next years.



The **Chair** congratulated on behalf of the Management Board the Director and his staff, in particular the Head of Administration, Mr Dante Storti, the accountant, Mr Pascal Jonjic, the deputy accountant, Ms Ljiljana Veljkovic-Dieudonné, and the financial team, for the collective effort and excellent budgetary execution.

**Decision:** The Management Board adopted a favourable opinion on the EMCDDA final accounts for the financial year 2018.

#### 4.3. Amending budget no. 1 to the EMCDDA 2019 budget

EMCDDA/08/19

**Mr Claude Gillard, Chair of the Budget Committee**, stated that the amending budget no. 1 to the 2019 budget addresses mainly the needs for entering, as revenue and expenditure, EUR 1 000 000, to be allocated as assigned appropriations to the execution of a new project for technical assistance to the beneficiary countries of the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance over three years (IPA7 project).

He informed that if and as required, the amendment no. 2 to the 2019 budget will be submitted to the Management Board for adoption by written procedure in November 2019 as soon as the information on the possible forthcoming annual (2019) adjustment of EU staff remuneration will be provided by the relevant EU institutions.

**Decision:** The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA amending budget no. 1 for the financial year 2019.

#### 4.4. Information on procurements for non-administrative activities for a value greater than EUR 60 000 to implement the 2019 work programme

EMCDDA/09/19

The Management Board members took note of the information.

#### 4.5. Measures to rationalise expenditure on budget title 'Statutory meetings'

EMCDDA/10/19

The **Chair** summarised the measures proposed which will allow for further savings of about EUR 11 000 per year, and reflect the participation and contribution of the Management Board to the corporate effort aimed at ensuring the most efficient use of the available resources. The Budget and Executive Committee recommend to the Management Board to adopt these measures as a good compromise.

**NL** welcomed the initiative to streamline the expenditure for Management Board, Executive and Budget Committee meetings. **NL** also proposed discussing the possibility of holding Management Board meetings only in English.

**Ms Meni Malliori, representative of the European Parliament**, noted that the language policy was a sensitive issue, and suggested adopting the measures proposed as a start. **Ms Malliori** wondered if there was a decision in this area for all EU Agencies.

**SE** underlined the sensitivity of the language issue and supported the proposed measures as balanced for a first step.

The **Chair** considered that all representatives at the Management Board may not be at ease in expressing their views orally in English. Reflections on the language policy could be held in the future, together with the European Commission which might provide an overview on best practices in EU Agencies.

**Decision:** The Management Board adopted, with one abstention, the following measures:

- to continue the simultaneous interpretation at the meetings of the Management Board in three active languages (EN-FR-DE) and in three rotating passive languages;
- to reduce to one full day (preferably on Thursday) the duration of the Management Board's mid-year meeting (June), as from 2020;
- to hold all meetings of the Budget and Executive Committees just in English, as from December 2019;



- to hold a meeting of the Budget Committee at the EMCDDA premises in autumn (October) only if urgent issues have to be discussed.

#### 4.6. EMCDDA's budget for 2020: oral report on the state of play of the budget procedure by the European Commission

#### 4.7. Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021–27: oral update by the European Commission

**Mr Olivier Onidi, representative of the European Commission**, stated that the overall budgetary situation is complex within the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Collective efforts have to be made to raise the political priority of drugs to get a commensurate budget for the EMCDDA and for drug-related activities in EU social, health and law enforcement policies. The European Commission adopted a draft EU budget for 2020 on 5 June 2019 proposing an amount of EUR 16 288 600 for the EU 2020 subsidy to the EMCDDA. This includes an additional amount of about EUR 700 000 in comparison with the initial amount foreseen by the EC financial programming for the EU subsidy to the EMCDDA for 2020, to cope with the automatic annual adjustment of salaries. The increase represents a minimum to enable the EMCDDA performing its expected activities. This amount could be slightly increased by the budgetary authority (European Parliament and Council) to allow the EMCDDA to undertake its activities within the current FFR and the existing mandate of the agency.

The main political priorities for the next MFF for 2021–27 have been so far border management, with an increase of EUR 10 Billion increase for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and terrorism. The European Commission and the Member States have the task to make sure that Ministers of Interior of the EU Member States understand the importance of the drugs issue, which represents the number one social problem in Europe and is worsening year after year. Another important variable of financial adjustments is the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, which also originates additional needs in terms of migration, border management and external activities.

The forthcoming discussions on the MFF for 2021–27 will be difficult, as the proposal for Agencies such as the EMCDDA is barely sufficient to survive at cruising speed. The European Parliament and the Council have adopted their positions on individual programs. Overall figures will be discussed in autumn, a preliminary agreement on overall figures should be reached by December 2019 and the MFF adopted in the course of 2020. The RO Presidency managed to put the MFF and 2020 budget issue twice on the agenda of the Council of Ministers, and the FI Presidency will continue this good practice. During the new legislative period, the European Commission will strive to make drugs a high priority for new activities and strengthen the current ones.

**The Chair of the Budget Committee** reminded that the adopted EMCDDA 2020 preliminary draft budget (PDB) was completed by a request for additional resources reflected in the EMCDDA 2020 financial statement (as transmitted to the European Commission for the purpose of the EU 2020 budget procedure). The EMCDDA request for the EU 2020 subsidy amounts to a total of EUR 17 839 040, i.e. EUR 15 588 600 (as foreseen in the EC initial programming for 2020) + EUR 2 250 440 (request for additional resources). The currently proposed amount for the EU 2020 subsidy for the EMCDDA would allow the agency just to cope (with some further reduction of expenditure of about EUR 100 000) with the 2020 additional costs 'automatically' entailed by the expected annual adjustment of the EU staff's remuneration and with the increased amount of the rent to be paid by the EMCDDA for its premises. The Budget Committee therefore suggested that the EMCDDA PDB for 2021 reflects the real needs of the agency, which should be justifiable and realistic.

The **Director** thanked the European Commission for the additional budget allocated to the EMCDDA for 2020. He stressed that the agency had to reduce by about EUR 1 300 000 its 2019 budget allocations for other budget items due to the increase in salary costs and in the rent of the building the EMCDDA. The Director thanked the Head of Administration, Mr Dante Storti, and the Financial Sector for their work.

**DE** agreed that the relevance of the EMCDDA should be strengthened. One way to achieve this is to communicate on the social consequences of drug use, which has an influence on issues such as economic welfare, migration, social life. The importance of the drugs issue will be discussed in relation with the EMCDDA's mandate and with the next EU Strategy on Drugs.

**UK** observed that in the UK it is very difficult to raise the profile of the drugs problem due to other pressing public health issues, such as obesity, and wondered if it was realistic discussing the efforts to be undertaken in this sense at national level.

The **Chair** thanked the European Commission for its continuous support. Taking into account the current EU priorities, it is necessary to reflect on how best to address the issue of drugs, both on health and security issues at



European level. Ms d'Arrigo announced that a thematic discussion on cocaine will be held at the Management Board meeting in December 2019.

## 9. Any other business

### - Extension of the mandate of the Director

The **Director** left the room.

**Mr Olivier Onidi, representative of the European Commission**, reminded that the first mandate of the EMCDDA Director ends on 31 December 2020. He informed the Management Board members about the possibility of extending the mandate of the Director for a second term. The Management Board would take a decision in June 2020.

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## 5. International cooperation:

### - Candidate and potential candidate countries

#### 5.1. Working arrangements between the EMCDDA and Western Balkan countries EMCDDA/11/19 (Kosovo\*(1), Serbia)

The **Chair** reminded that the Management Board mandated the Director in June 2018 to negotiate a working arrangement with the Republic of Albania, which was initialled in the margins of the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs held in Tirana on 4–5 October, and formally signed in March 2019 in the presence of Commissioner Avramopoulos in Vienna.

The **Director** reminded that the EMCDDA started its cooperation with Western Balkan countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia – in 2007 in the framework of EU-funded technical assistance projects. These are designed to prepare candidate and potential candidate countries for accession to the EU and for participation in the work of the EMCDDA and its Reitox network. The IPA6 (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) project finishes on 28 June 2019 and the Director signed the contract for the IPA7 project with the European Commission. This comes at a time of a political momentum which gives a strong priority at EU level to strengthen cooperation with the Western Balkan countries.

The EMCDDA needs to inform the EU institutions and Member States about emerging cross-border threats, through better data and analysis from the Western Balkan countries. They are currently working together to consolidate their capacity to monitor the drug phenomenon through the use of evidence-based tools and knowledge built and promoted within the EU. They also exchange data on new psychoactive substances as well as expertise on establishing a national early-warning system.

The EMCDDA has received a formal request both from Kosovo and from Serbia for signing a working arrangement with the EMCDDA. The Director further informed that he will receive a request from Montenegro for a working arrangement with the agency and was therefore invited to pay a visit to Montenegro on 17–18 July 2019. North Macedonia is also expected to send a request soon. The Management Board is requested to take a two-fold decision to speed up the process: (1) to mandate the Director to negotiate a working arrangement with Kosovo and with Serbia, and (2) with the remaining Western Balkan countries, should those countries request it. The Management Board will then be requested to adopt the draft working arrangements once they have been negotiated and after having received the positive opinion of the European Commission.

**EL** observed that Cyprus and Greece do not recognize Kosovo as an independent State, but that they support the joint efforts to tackle the global drug problem and will vote in favour of the decision proposed.

The **Chair** added that the Working Arrangements between the EMCDDA and Western Balkan countries concern technical cooperation and should represent a commitment for both the Ministries of Health and Interior of these countries, in line with the EU balanced approach.

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(1)\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



**Decision:** The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate Working Arrangements with Kosovo and Serbia, as well as with any of the remaining three Western Balkan countries covered by the EMCDDA-IPA project (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia), should the latter put forward a request.

## 5.2. The IPA7 project (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance)

EMCDDA/12/19

No comments were made to the document.

### - European Neighbourhood countries

The Director clarified that the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) expressly provides for cooperation between neighbouring countries and EU Agencies. The EMCDDA started a first cooperation project with these countries some years ago, which was supported among others by the publication of the Manual for building national observatories. In January 2019 the EMCDDA started the 'EU for Monitoring Drugs' (EU4MD) project with these countries. The first objective is to improve the capacity of the ENP countries to detect emerging threats and share the information with the EU and the Member States.

The EMCDDA already signed Memoranda of Understanding in the past with Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia and Israel (the ones with Ukraine and Israel being under revision). These working arrangements represent a formal commitment by the respective national authorities to implement activities ensuring a technical cooperation with the EMCDDA, and as such an important step towards a closer collaboration. The EMCDDA has received a request for a working arrangement from Algeria, and it is expected that a request from Morocco will follow soon.

## 5.3. Working arrangement between the EMCDDA and Ukraine

EMCDDA/13/19

The Director informed that in January 2010, the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the EMCDDA and the Ukrainian Ministry of Health provided a framework for cooperation between the EMCDDA and the Ukrainian Monitoring and Medical Centre on Drugs and Alcohol. Following important institutional changes in the Ukraine, the Legal Service of the European Commission advised to follow the procedure foreseen by the EMCDDA Regulation and negotiate a new working arrangement with Ukraine. The European Commission has provided a positive opinion on the draft working arrangement.

ES commented that it is necessary to coordinate the information of the different cooperation projects with Ukraine at national level. ES leads the EU-Act (EU Action against Drugs and Organised Crime) project, funded with EUR 12 Million by the EU, and collaborates with Ukraine in the context of the EU4MD project. ES offered its support to the EMCDDA for coordinating the activities and sharing contacts (e.g. a member of the Spanish Ministry of Internal Affairs works in the Ukraine in the context of the EU-ACT project).

**Decision:** The Management Board agreed with the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, and mandated the Director to sign the Working Arrangement on a date and place to be jointly decided between the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the EMCDDA Director.

## 5.4. Working arrangement between the EMCDDA and Algeria

EMCDDA/14/19

The Director informed that cooperation with Algeria is taking a new path in the framework of the 'EU for Monitoring Drugs' (EU4MD) project. Building on that multilateral framework cooperation, the Algerian authorities expressed an interest in also developing a bilateral cooperation with the EMCDDA. On 27 May 2019, the Director of the 'Office national de lutte contre la drogue et la toxicomanie' requested to the EMCDDA Director the possibility of negotiating a Working Arrangement.

The Chair stressed that EMCDDA Reitox Academies provide a useful opportunity for information exchange, and that Algeria participated in such activities. The Director added that the exchange of information with Algeria also takes place within the Pompidou Group and its MedNET (Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions) programme.

PT supported the Director's comment concerning the collaboration with possibly the same interlocutors within the groups which have closer relations with these countries.

IT, which currently chairs the MedNET programme, supported strengthening the collaboration with Algeria.

**Decision:** The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate a Working Arrangement with Algeria.

#### 5.5. 'EU4 Monitoring Drugs' project

EMCDDA/15/19

No comments were made to the document.

### 6. Drug situation in Europe:

#### 6.1. Main trends of the drug situation in Europe as presented in the 2019 *European Drug Report*

EMCDDA/16/19

Ms Jane Mounteney, Head of the Public Health unit, presented the main trends and developments of the drug situation in Europe, based on the 2019 *European Drug Report* (EDR).

ES thanked the EMCDDA for the presentation and the report, as well as for the support from the Agency for dissemination of EDR at national level. The Member States have now to work on how to make this information more visible. Sometimes it is important to put the data on drugs in the wider context of public health to reach the policy makers. ES also observed that 'Take Home Naloxone' and the treatment for Hepatitis C are still very expensive, as the EMCDDA Director mentioned at the conference for the 50th anniversary of Socidrogalcohol on 25 June in Madrid, and suggested that Member States could propose an initiative to try to reduce the price of these medicines.

**Tomas Zabransky, representative of the European Parliament**, took note that cocaine will be a topic for the Management Board meeting in December. Developments in this area in Europe are logical, as cocaine consumption is going down in the Americas and traffickers look for new markets. The trafficking routes go now through West and North Africa. This could be explored more by the EMCDDA together with Europol.

DK thanked the Director, the Scientific Director, Ms Mounteney and the EMCDDA staff for the excellent report. The EMCDDA is the prime provider of sound evidence on the drug situation in Europe, in close collaboration with the NFPs. DK expressed a matter of concern about how the information on drug-related deaths are presented (pages 81 and 92), since a note on caution on how to compare these statistics, due to issues of coding and underreporting in some countries, is missing. Such a note was included in the 2018 EDR. The DK member asked the NFP to discuss this point with the EMCDDA and to come up with a solution for the next EDR.

DE also thanked the EMCDDA for the excellent report, and in particular for the outstanding quality of the graphic lay out, which clearly improves its reading. DE suggested focusing more in the future on the impacts of drug consumption on the society, where data are available. It would be important to describe the social, economic and health consequences of drugs use, going beyond the research on drugs and data collection.

**Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission** congratulated the EMCDDA and the Reitox network on the report and the data analysis which supports this excellent flagship publication of the agency. The Commission expressed the view that there is scope, despite the efforts already undertaken by the EMCDDA, for increasing the number of national launches and enhancing their level of representation, and called on the Member States to flag the drugs issue on these occasions at a strategic level. The European Commission appreciates the links made in the report between drug problems and countries of production or transit, which could be highlighted even further in the next EDR. New market trends are developing, and their understanding is important to underpin the future action of the EU and its Member States with third countries. Finally, the Commission supported the suggestion made to describe more in detail the link between the drug situation and its societal effects.

The EDR shows a picture which raises concerns at many levels, whether concerning the increased availability of cocaine, heroin and synthetic opioids, the proliferation of NPS on the Internet, cannabis and increasing cannabis products or the number of overdose deaths. Stronger action has to be taken to bring up the drugs issue as a priority at a high political level, not only at the level of the Management Board or the Council. Ms Sipala reminded that the EU Drugs Strategy comes to an end in 2020, and that the European Commission will soon launch its evaluation process.





**Meni Malliori, representative of the European Parliament,** congratulated the EMCDDA Director and staff for the excellent work. The question is how to translate evidence based data for policy makers. It might be useful to add a page to the report with some kind recommendations on how these data could be translated for future policies and actions.

**EL** suggested that a report on polydrug use, including alcohol, would be helpful to translate the data into clinical actions. The trends observed in drug use could be linked with data on investments or disinvestments in public health in a given country, as it has been the case in the UK. Initiatives like m-health can provide solutions but also cause problems.

**Tomas Zabransky, representative of the European Parliament,** proposed to create a glossary to explain the meanings of the different cannabis products for a common understanding.

The **Director** replied to the comment from DK that two specific paragraphs on drug-related deaths are included in the text of the report, but could also be inserted in the graphics, which are made available separately on the EDR website. It is important to clarify what can be compared and what not. The Director seized the opportunity to thank the Nordic countries for their investment in improving the data collection on drug-related deaths in particular over the last years.

The impact of drug use, markets and trafficking on the society is very relevant, and EU funds should be available for research on these topics. The last edition of the European Drug Markets Report highlighted precisely the possible impact of the drug markets on society, and the EMCDDA will continue working in this perspective. The availability of research data is however limited, and so are the means and data at the level of the Member States, but the EMCDDA will continue working on this.

The Director agreed that the EMCDDA needs to continue investing in the dissemination of the data of the EDR by putting the information into context and in the wider picture. He shared the concerns expressed by the European Commission on the long-term evolution of drug trends in Europe, but advised to be cautious and avoid alarmism. The use of complementary methods and tools, such as the wastewater study, Euro-DEN or trendspotting in addition to the routine indicators is fundamental for describing the drug situation, and should be included in the EMCDDA's mandate in the future.

Concerning the question on how to translate evidence into policy, the EMCDDA has no mandate to make political recommendations. However, upon request of a Member State, the EMCDDA can undertake a scientific or technical assessment such as the joint EMCDDA-ECDC on the HIV outbreak in Greece.

**BE** stated that the quality of the EDR is constantly improving. Indeed the current drug trends, and in particular the number of drug-related deaths, causes worries. The development of mobile health applications is interesting, but these have to respond to quality standards, and should be communicated to the citizens.

The **Chair** invited two delegations to briefly present recent developments in the innovative area of mobile health applications, NL and UK.

**NL** informed about two examples, the Red Alert app and ICAN app, and reflections on the challenges for drug demand reduction posed by these new developments. Important questions are 'How to reach the various target groups of our drug policy?' and 'How to get the proper message to the right target group?'. It is necessary to know more about effectiveness of innovative instruments and approaches.

**IT** thanked the EMCDDA for having highlighted this issue in the EDR. No mobile applications have been developed in IT, but physicians enter in contact via Whatsapp with patients in treatment programmes. IT wondered if NL has carried out any analysis on the effectiveness of these applications. IT also warned about the danger that these apps could encourage users by transmitting easily information on drug use.

**NL** replied that no data on the impact of prevention of health problems have been gathered yet. The NFP has been asked to start a study on the link between prevention and user advice.

**Tomas Zabransky, representative of the European Parliament,** stated that it is nearly impossible to achieve a good quality prevention effectiveness study.

**UK** provided an overview on m-Health apps and evidence base in the country. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) have commissioned a systematic review of research and map of current service provision covering digital interventions in drug and alcohol prevention, treatment and recovery. The outputs of the review are due to be delivered by March next year. There is concern about the

proliferation of the use of these apps which are not evidence-based. The issue is far from being a top priority in the UK. The use of NPS by homeless people and in prisons, and the emergence of cocaine and crack cocaine linked to serious violence problems are more prevalent in the more deprived areas in England.

In reply to a question from the **Chair** on the acceptance of such apps promoted by national authorities by young people, NL and UK agreed that it was too early for final conclusions.

In **DE** there is also a broad experience with mobile health applications, which aimed first at harm reduction activities and early prevention services for tobacco, alcohol and other addictive behaviours. There is a broad spectrum of applications of different quality, some have been well evaluated. In the last years some services via applications were developed also for the use of illicit drugs, focusing on methamphetamines and NPS. Recently digital instruments have been put on place for adolescents from parents with addiction problems, which seem to have a high rate of response. In general issues around the quality of these applications their costs and data protection and security issues are challenging.

**Ms Anne Line Bretteville-Jensen, Chair of the Scientific Committee**, noted that many young people seek user forums created by drug users. Some information provided by these means could be used by authorities for prevention and treatment aims. In Norway a recent study followed one of these user forums over the last years, in the area of the use of synthetic cannabinoids. A marked change of attitude towards NPS was observed; the users increasingly warned each other on the use of these substances. Collaboration with such user forums could be an idea, as they have the trust of young people.

The **Chair** concluded by congratulating the EMCDDA on the quality of the EDR 2019, and thanking all delegations for their interventions in this interesting discussion. The report should be used for trying to bring up the drugs issue as a higher priority at political level and to identify best practices at national level.

## **6.2. Launch and uptake of the 2019 *European Drug Report***

**EMCDDA/17/19**

The 2019 *European Drug Report* was launched to the European press on 6 June 2019 at the European Commission in Brussels with Commissioner Avramopoulos.

The **Chair** informed that the EMCDDA launched a survey to explore the needs of its customer groups, and invited the Management Board members to send back any suggestions on how to improve the launch and visibility of the *European Drug Report* by 31 July 2019.

## **7. Performance and internal controls:**

### **7.1. Report and Staff Working Document from the Commission on the Evaluation of the EMCDDA: oral presentation by the European Commission**

**EMCDDA/18/19**

**Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission**, reminded that the European Commission adopted the report and Staff Working Document on the EMCDDA's external evaluation on 14 May 2019. The report takes into account to a large extent the considerations made during the interesting exchange of views held at the Management Board meeting of December on the report of the external contractor of the external evaluation carried out in 2018. The outcome of the external evaluation of the Agency is very positive, and shows that the EMCDDA is recognised as a hub of excellence, helping policy makers at European and national level to conduct more informed and effective policies on drugs. The Agency is performing very well under each of the criteria used for the evaluation by the external consultant (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and added value). The European Commission will present the report also to the Horizontal Drugs Group of the Council at its first meeting under FI Presidency.

Concerning the follow-up to the report, the next College of Commissioners will take a decision on whether or not to launch a revision of the EMCDDA's legal basis. The new European Parliament and the Council will also examine the report and express a position in this debate. Modifications to the EMCDDA's mandate might be appropriate, given that the report highlights a very good performance of the agency even if it also notes further areas for improvements. The external evaluation stresses that the Agency shall remain balanced on the two pillars of health and security in the future, as reflected in the Programming Documents. More work on the supply side might be useful, such as intensifying the monitoring of dangerous substances on the web. The Agency could further enhance its work to support the Member States in the elaboration and implementation of drug policies, an area for further reflection, e.g. through peer reviews or advised recommendations. The report also examines the area of international collaboration, which is important for third countries and is also a core issue for the EU.

Considerations need to be given to the expansion of the EMCDDA's mandate to other substances or addictive behaviours, but the external evaluation is not conclusive on this point. The area of polydrug use, which is included in the current EMCDDA mandate, could be better described.

The European Commission expressed its warm thanks to the Management Board members, and in particular the Chair and Vice-Chair for their contribution to the exercise, as well as to the Agency, and in particular the Director, the Scientific Director and the Head of the Executive Office.

The **Chair** stressed that the report marks the beginning of a reflection on the possible revision of the mandate of the EMCDDA, and invited the Management Board members to express their views on this matter. The Chair congratulated the European Commission services and the external evaluators for the excellent work undertaken in a limited timeframe. The results clearly show the good performance of the Agency and identify some possible way forward, and the Chair encouraged all the Management Board members to make the best use of this evaluation report.

## **7.2. End-term monitoring report of the EMCDDA 2016–18 Strategy and Work Programme** **EMCDDA/19/19**

The **Director** thanked Ms Narcisa Murgea, Strategic planning and corporate performance manager, and Ms Renate Hochwieser, Planning development officer, for the report and their professional commitment. It appears evident from this report that the EMCDDA performed well during the 2016–18 period, and even has produced more in 2016–18 than in the previous reporting period, for 2013–15. The achievements were also covered by the external evaluation of the EMCDDA.

The Management Board welcomed the report and the good results achieved by the Centre.

## **7.3. State of implementation of the recommendations issued by the Internal Audit Service (IAS)** **EMCDDA/20/19**

The **Director** stressed that the recommendations of the IAS of the European Commission are part of the scrutiny by the European Parliament in the context of the annual discharge procedure. The EMCDDA will submit two documents to the IAS on 30 June to allow closing the last two outstanding recommendations further to the 2015 audit on 'IT Project Management in the EMCDDA'.

## **7.4. EMCDDA Action Plan further to the 2018 IAS Audit on 'Publications Management'** **EMCDDA/21/19**

The **Director** highlighted the fruitful collaboration between the EMCDDA and the IAS over the last years. The work of the IAS helps identifying and mitigating possible risks.

**Decision:** The Management Board endorsed the EMCDDA Action Plan further to the 2018 IAS Audit on 'Publications Management'.

## **8. Data protection and prevention and management of conflicts of interest:**

### **8.1. EMCDDA Implementing Rules for new Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on Data Protection** **EMCDDA/22/19**

No comments were made to the document.

**Decision:** The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA Implementing Rules for new Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on Data Protection and asked the EMCDDA Director to ensure the required publication in the EU Official Journal.

### **8.2. Assessment of the implementation of the EMCDDA Policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest for Management Board members, substitutes and observers** **EMCDDA/23/19**



The **Chair** announced that all declarations of conflicts of interest have been submitted by the members, substitutes and observers of the Management Board until 21 June 2019 and thanked all for their efforts.

The **Director** stressed that up to that date there are no existing conflicts of interest. Potential risks will be addressed by the Management Board through the mitigating measures as described in the EMCDDA relevant Policy.

**Decision:** The Management Board took note of the outcome of the screening conducted by the EMCDDA Director that has revealed that for the moment there is no conflict of interest. However, in the future one cannot exclude that a risk of conflict of interest may emerge. Such cases will be addressed by the Management Board through the existing mitigating measures.

## 9. Any other business

- **Second European Conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies (Lisbon, 23–25 October 2019): presentation by the Portuguese delegation** EMCDDA/25/19

PT provided information about the third European Addiction Conference, which will be organised on 23–25 October 2019 by the Portuguese SICAD (Serviço de Intervenção em Comportamentos Aditivos e Dependências – General Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies), the journal Addiction (of the Society for the Study of Addiction), the EMCDDA and ISAJE (International Society of Addiction Journal Editors). Mr João Goulão thanked the EMCDDA for its excellent cooperation.

The **Chair** thanked Portugal for its commitment and the EMCDDA for its contribution to this important event.

- **Update on the developments in the cannabis policy in Luxembourg**

LU informed that an inter-ministerial working group of experts from the Ministries of Health and Justice was mandated by the Government to elaborate the LU concept regarding legal access to cannabis for non-medical purposes. It is planned that the concept is endorsed by the Government in November 2019. A Task Force visited the NL and Canada to get detailed information about the experience in these countries. The first draft legislation will be presented to the Council of the LU government end of October. The adoption of the legislation will be complex and will take some time. LU regularly exchanges with the European Commission, the UN and the INCB on this issue. Mr Xavier Poos suggested presenting the LU concept to the Management Board in December 2019.

- **Planning of meetings for 2020** EMCDDA/24/19

The **Chair** confirmed that in line with the decision taken by the Management Board concerning the measures to rationalise expenditure, the Management Board will meet on 25 June and on 10–11 December 2020.

**Decision:** The Management Board endorsed the planning of meetings for 2020. The final version will be circulated to the Management Board members.

The **Chair** thanked the Director and all the EMCDDA staff for the preparation of the meeting, and the Board members for their contributions. The Chair also expressed her special thanks to the interpreters for their work.

The next meeting will take place on 12–13 December 2019.



Laura d'Arrigo  
Chair of the Management Board

Annexes: I List of participants  
II List of decisions and conclusions  
III List of action points

Copy: Members, substitutes and observers of the Management Board

59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EMCDDA Management Board

Lisbon, 27–28 June 2019

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>Belgium</b>	Mr Claude GILLARD
	Mr Vladimir MARTENS
<b>Czechia</b>	Ms Jarmila VEDRALOVÁ
<b>Denmark</b>	Mr Lars PETERSEN
<b>Germany</b>	Mr Jörg PIETSCH
<b>Estonia</b>	Ms Anna-Liisa PÄÄSUKENE
<b>Greece</b>	Mr Christos KOUIMTSIDIS
<b>Spain</b>	Ms María Azucena MARTÍ PALACIOS
	Ms Elena ÁLVAREZ MARTIN
<b>France</b>	Ms Laura d'ARRIGO
	Mr Nicolas PRISSE
<b>Croatia</b>	Mr Željko PETKOVIĆ
	Ms Sanja MIKULIĆ
<b>Italy</b>	Ms Elisabetta SIMEONI
	Mr Andrea ZAPPAROLI
<b>Latvia</b>	Mr Dzintars MOZGIS
<b>Lithuania</b>	Ms Gražina BELIAN
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Mr Xavier POOS
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Mr Victor SANNES
<b>Austria</b>	Mr Franz PIETSCH
<b>Portugal</b>	Mr João GOULÃO
	Ms Ana Sofia SANTOS
<b>Romania</b>	Mr Cristian DUȚĂ



<b>Slovenia</b>	Ms Mateja JANDL
<b>Slovakia</b>	Ms Eva DEBNÁROVÁ
<b>Finland</b>	Ms Elina KOTOVIRTA
<b>Sweden</b>	Mr Johan CARLSON
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Ms Rosanna O'CONNOR
<b>Norway</b>	Ms Lilly Sofie OTTESEN
<b>EUROPEAN COMMISSION</b>	Mr Olivier ONIDI (DG HOME)
	Ms Floriana SIPALA (DG HOME)
	Mr Wojciech KAŁAMARZ (DG SANTE)
	Ms Edith HOFER (DG HOME)
<b>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</b>	Ms Meni MALLIORI
	Mr Tomas ZABRANSKY
<b>POMPIDOU GROUP</b>	Mr Denis HUBER
<b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE</b>	Ms Anne Line BRETTEVILLE-JENSEN
<b>REITOX</b>	Ms Lies GREMEAUX
<b>EMCDDA</b>	Mr Alexis GOOSDEEL
	Mr Fabian PEREYRA
	Ms Monika BLUM



## LIST OF DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

EMCDDA/01/19 rev 2

The Management Board adopted the revised agenda of the meeting.

### 4. Budget and financial issues:

#### 4.1. New Financial Regulation applicable to the EMCDDA

EMCDDA/06/19

The Management Board adopted the new EMCDDA Financial Regulation, subject to the positive opinion of the European Commission.

#### 4.2. EMCDDA 2018 accounts: opinion of the Management Board

EMCDDA/07/19

The Management Board adopted a favourable opinion on the EMCDDA final accounts for the financial year 2018.

#### 4.3. Amending budget no. 1 to the EMCDDA 2019 budget

EMCDDA/08/19

The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA amending budget no. 1 for the financial year 2019.

#### 4.5. Measures to rationalise expenditure on budget title 'Statutory meetings'

EMCDDA/10/19

The Management Board adopted, with one abstention, the following measures:

- to continue the simultaneous interpretation at the meetings of the Management Board in three active languages (EN-FR-DE) and in three rotating passive languages;
- to reduce to one full day (preferably on Thursday) the duration of the Management Board's mid-year meeting (June), as from 2020;
- to hold all meetings of the Budget and Executive Committees just in English, as from December 2019;
- to hold a meeting of the Budget Committee at the EMCDDA premises in autumn (October) only if urgent issues have to be discussed.

### 5. International cooperation:

#### - Candidate and potential candidate countries

#### 5.1. Working arrangements between the EMCDDA and Western Balkan countries (Kosovo\*, Serbia)

EMCDDA/11/19

The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate Working Arrangements with Kosovo\* and Serbia, as well as with any of the remaining three Western Balkan countries covered by the EMCDDA-IPA project (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia), should the latter put forward a request.

#### - European Neighbourhood countries

#### 5.3. Working arrangement between the EMCDDA and Ukraine

EMCDDA/13/19

The Management Board agreed with the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, and mandated the Director to sign the Working Arrangement on a date and place to be jointly decided between the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the EMCDDA Director.



#### **5.4. Working arrangement between the EMCDDA and Algeria**

**EMCDDA/14/19**

The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate a Working Arrangement with Algeria.

#### **7. Performance and internal controls:**

##### **7.4. EMCDDA Action Plan further to the 2018 IAS Audit on 'Publications Management' EMCDDA/21/19**

The Management Board endorsed the EMCDDA Action Plan further to the 2018 IAS Audit on 'Publications Management'.

#### **8. Data protection and prevention and management of conflicts of interest:**

##### **8.1. EMCDDA Implementing Rules for new Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on Data Protection**

**EMCDDA/22/19**

The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA Implementing Rules for new Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on Data Protection and asked the EMCDDA Director to ensure the required publication in the EU Official Journal.

##### **8.2. Assessment of the implementation of the EMCDDA Policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest for Management Board members, substitutes and observers**

**EMCDDA/22/19**

The Management Board took note of the outcome of the screening conducted by the EMCDDA Director that has revealed that for the moment there is no conflict of interest. However, in the future one cannot exclude that a risk of conflict of interest may emerge. Such cases will be addressed by the Management Board through the existing mitigating measures.

#### **9. Any other business**

##### **- Planning of meetings for 2020**

**EMCDDA/24/19**

The Management Board endorsed the planning of meetings for 2020. The final version will be circulated to the Management Board members.



2



**LIST OF ACTION POINTS**

<b>Agenda point</b>	<b>Action to take</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Date</b>
4.1.	Circulate the opinion of the European Commission on the new EMCDDA Financial Regulation to the Management Board members	EMCDDA	July 2019
5.1.	Negotiate the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Kosovo*	EMCDDA	2019
5.1.	Negotiate the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Serbia	EMCDDA	2019
5.3.	Signature of the Working Arrangement between the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the EMCDDA Director	EMCDDA Director	2019
5.4.	Negotiate the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Algeria	EMCDDA	2019
7.3.	Implement all outstanding recommendations from the IAS	EMCDDA	2019
8.1.	Publish the EMCDDA rules aimed at implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on data protection in the EU Official Journal	EMCDDA	September 2019
9.	Circulate the final calendar of meetings in 2020 to the Management Board members	EMCDDA	July 2019