



## FINAL MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD (29 JUNE 2023)

### 1. Introduction by the Chair

The **Chair** welcomed the participants at the 67th EMCDDA Management Board meeting. The meeting was held in hybrid format (both physical in Lisbon and virtual through Microsoft Teams). Simultaneous interpretation was provided online from and into English, French, and German. Members could in addition speak Spanish, Croatian and Finnish.

The Chair informed about the new nominations since the last meeting, and welcomed the new members present at the meeting. Lithuania nominated Ms Grazina Belian, Deputy Director of the Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department as member, and Ms Aušra Lazauskienė, Chief Specialist in the Monitoring and Analysis Division of the same organisation, as substitute member (excused). Mr Attila Ayata, 2nd Degree Chief Superintendent and Head of the national focal point, was nominated as substitute member for Türkiye (excused).

Ms Ingrid Mihalová, working in the area of International Cooperation in the Drug Policy Department of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, accompanied Mr Jindřich Vobořil for Czechia. Ms Marina Horn, from Office of the Federal Drug Commissioner of Germany, accompanied Mr Burkhard Blienert as observer. Mr Christoph Wolkerstorfer, from the Department for tobacco and related products, alcohol, behavioural addictions and international affairs of addiction at the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, accompanied the Chair for Austria. Ms Ana Sofia Santos, Head of the Department for International Relations of SICAD, accompanied the Portuguese delegation.

In the absence of the member and substitute member, Mr Murat Sarikamişli, Head of the National Focal Point, represented Türkiye at this meeting.

Ms Monique Pariat, Director General at DG Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME), member for the European Commission, was excused. Mr Laurent Muschel has been nominated as Director of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority – HERA, and the Chair wished him every success for his new function. Mr Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General and acting Director for Security at DG HOME, and Ms Floriana Sipala, Head of the Unit on Organised Crime and Drugs Policy at DG HOME, substitute member, participated in person in the meeting. The European Commission was further represented remotely by Mr Philippe Roux (DG SANTE), substitute member, and Mr Péter Mihók (DG HOME), observer.

Dr Fernando Rodriguez de Fonseca represented the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, in the absence of the Chair Prof. Catherine Comiskey. The UNODC and WHO were not represented at the meeting.

The Chair reminded the participants that the Budget and the Executive Committee met on 28 June in order to prepare the Management Board meeting.

The Chair summarised the main parts of the agenda of the meeting.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda

EMCDDA/01/23 rev 1  
EMCDDA/02/23

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

## **PART I: Exchange of views**

### **3. Exchange of views on the situation concerning cannabis and amphetamines**

#### **3.1. Presentation by the EMCDDA of the modules of the joint EMCDDA-Europol European Drug Markets report on cannabis and amphetamines in Europe**

The Head of the 'Risks to public safety and security' Unit, Dr Roumen Sedefov, gave a preview of the main findings of the modules of the joint EMCDDA-Europol European Drug Markets report (EDMR) on cannabis and amphetamines in Europe, which will be published in digital format in September 2023. The findings are based on the triangulation of multiple data sources: the EMCDDA monitoring system, Europol operational intelligence data, international databases and ad hoc research.

##### *Cannabis*

The largest drug consumer market in Europe concerns cannabis, with 22.6 million users last year, and is estimated at EUR 11.4 billion a year. The market is stable overall, but shows concerning developments. Record quantities of herb and resin have been seized in 2021, plant seizures are also high. Large increases in potency of herb and resin seized are registered since 2011. Criminal networks are diverse, adaptable, flexible, and often involved in multiple types of drugs in the EU. Violence and corruption are key enablers of criminal networks. Most of the herbal cannabis detected in the EU is cultivated in the EU. The range of available cannabis consumer products (including oils, edibles, and vaping products) is increasing, some of which are highly potent. Semi-synthetic cannabinoids (e.g. HHC) have emerged and are sold as a broad range of consumer products. This new development should be highlighted to policy-makers and practitioners working on the health and security aspects of the drug phenomenon. Edible products containing potent synthetic cannabinoids pose a high risk to users and fatal poisonings are recorded in the EU.

Herbal cannabis is produced globally. Some of the herbal cannabis produced in the Americas, South-West Asia and West Africa is trafficked to Europe. However, in recent years there does not appear to have been many seizures of large herbal cannabis shipments from these regions and they are no longer reported as major source countries by EU Member States. Morocco, the major source of cannabis resin available on the European market, has recently been mentioned as a source of herbal cannabis by several EU Member States. In the EU, herbal cannabis appears to be mainly produced for sale on domestic markets rather than for export. Estimating total cannabis production in Europe is difficult due to the currently limited systematic monitoring of illicit cannabis cultivation, including the number and size of the illicit cannabis production sites that are dismantled in Europe each year. In 2021, a total of more than 4.3 million cannabis plants was seized in the EU. Spain accounted for 75 % of this total, or 3.2 million seized plants, representing a two-fold increase from 2020. This confirms that Spain has now emerged as a large producer of cannabis, perhaps the largest in the EU. However, as in previous years, the country seizing the largest number of cannabis plants in Europe in 2021 was Türkiye, which reported confiscating almost 76 million cannabis plants, almost 18 times more than the EU total. The carbon footprint of indoor cannabis cultivation has been estimated to be 16 to 100 times larger than outdoor cultivation.

Most of the cannabis resin available on the European drug market comes from Morocco and enters Spain. There may have been some diversification in trafficking routes and methods in the last few years. For instance, data reported by Frontex indicate that fairly large amounts of resin were seized in Greece, Italy and Hungary in 2022 (Frontex, 2023). Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), also known as drones, have been used by criminal networks to traffic cannabis to and within Europe for some time. However, for the first time several unmanned semi-submersible vessels, intended for the transport of drugs including cannabis resin to the European coast, were seized by Spain in 2022.

Price stability and large potency increases in herb and resin indicate that the availability and affordability of delta-9-THC has increased in the EU during the 2011-2021 period.

The report identifies the following actions to address current threats and increase preparedness, which include but are not limited to:

- Improve the intelligence picture: detection, monitoring and analysis
- Strengthen responses to reduce supply and enhance security
- Strengthen international cooperation
- Invest in capacity-building
- Strengthen policy, public health and safety responses



## Amphetamine

Amphetamine is a stimulant drug with a large stable EU market, typically with a low price and low purity. The production is concentrated in the Netherlands and Belgium, but also in Poland and Germany. Criminal networks adapt and improve methods for producing amphetamine. The main production method uses BMK, which is imported or obtained from designer precursors. The supply of precursors and essential chemicals plays a pivotal role. Trafficked mainly uses land transportation, from the main production hub (the Netherlands/Belgium). A parallel criminal infrastructure delivers essential logistical support to EU-based producers. The production of amphetamines represents environmental, health and safety risks. Outside Europe, the main global amphetamine market is in the Arabian Peninsula, where it is consumed as captagon tablets.

It is estimated that the overall minimum value of the EU amphetamine retail market is EUR 1.1 billion, with a range of EUR 0.9 billion to EUR 1.4 billion. Globally, the amphetamine market is far smaller than methamphetamine market, but important for Europe. UNODC reports that 'Despite its relatively minor global significance, between 2010 and 2020, the quantities seized quadrupled, from 19.4 tonnes to 78.2 tonnes.'

Europe is a key global producer of amphetamine. The production represents health risks, environmental damage and high clean-up costs. The production is concentrated in the Netherlands and Belgium (Germany and Poland to a lesser extent) and based on BMK made in Europe from pre-precursors trafficked from China. European producers have optimised existing production methods.

362 synthetic drug production sites were detected in the Netherlands (2017–2020), the most large-scale production hub. Of the combination laboratories, in the period 2017–2020 amphetamine and methamphetamine laboratories increased, while amphetamine and MDMA decreased. Criminals reduce the risks of detection, setting up laboratories that can be easily dismantled and using separate locations for different stages of the process. The knowledge of environmental damage linked to synthetic drug production is fragmented and under-researched. Captagon tablets nowadays contain amphetamine, caffeine and (occasionally) theophylline. Large captagon tableting facilities were found in the Netherlands. Large amounts of captagon tablets were seized in the EU 2019 and 2020 (9.6 tonnes in Greece, 2019; 14.2 tonnes in Italy, 2020). In 2017 and 2018, Türkiye seized more amphetamine than the entire EU due to large seizures of captagon tablets (6.6 tonnes and 5.7 tonnes, respectively).

The report identifies actions to address current threats and increase preparedness, which include but are not limited to:

- Improve data collection on amphetamine, including by distinguishing between amphetamine and methamphetamine in reporting
- Enhance monitoring and control of precursors and essential chemicals used in amphetamine production
- Support the forensic analysis and chemical profiling of amphetamine seizures
- Further enhance international cooperation (intensify cooperation with countries linked to captagon production)
- Enhance the understanding and awareness of the environmental impacts of amphetamine production
- Increase capacities to safely dismantle sites related to amphetamine production

### 3.2. Discussion

**Ms Meni Malliori, representative of the European Parliament**, wondered if the EMCDDA collected information on first treatment demands in connection with cannabis use and if there are more cases of psychotic episodes among young people using cannabis. The agency will have to provide more data on health issues and contents of cannabis products. More cases of amphetamine use have been registered in emergency rooms in hospitals. As captagon is prescribed for specific attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, Ms Malliori asked if this particular use of captagon has also increased in this context.

In **IE** there has been an issue with new cannabis edible products contaminated with synthetic cannabinoids. Forensic laboratories detected that about one third of the samples of edibles tested contained synthetic cannabinoids, and no cannabis. IE wondered if this pattern was similar in other EU countries. IE also observes the emergence of the semi-synthetic HHC on the market, which is currently illegal, and asked if the EMCDDA has any indications of the widespread availability of this substance.

**FR** thanked the EMCDDA for the detailed presentation, and stressed the record number of cannabis seizures in 2022, and a substantial increase of THC in cannabis. The increase in HHC use is worrying, and FR recently put HHC and two of its derivatives under control. FR stressed the issue of the environmental impact of drug production during its Presidency, which can be included as an important element in the context of prevention message for

young people. FR wondered about the possible reasons for the decrease of cannabis cultivation in the Western Balkans, and in particular in Albania, and expressed significant concerns about the increase in the production and use of captagon. It is very important to cross-reference data on drug trafficking and drug consumption (treatment demands), and the EMCDDA is uniquely placed for this task. In FR the consumption of NPS among young people (17 years-old) seems to be decreasing.

CY also detected the new semi-synthetic cannabinoid HHC through the Early Warning Centres, though it is not clear yet if the substance is used alone or in combination with other cannabis products. The last years have been marked by an increase availability of methamphetamine, of low price and low purity. The use and related harms are reflected in the seized quantities, the number of people seeking treatment, drug-related deaths and infectious diseases. For the first time ever, a laboratory has been dismantled in 2020 by the police, following the seizure of large amounts of raw materials used in the production of methamphetamine. Waste-water analysis indicated high levels of stimulant loads in most cities with an active night life, in particular during weekends.

TR clarified that the seizures of captagon tablets have increased by 50% in Türkiye in 2022. Record seizures of methamphetamines have been registered in the bordering region with Iran.

ES thanked the EMCDDA for the global overview, which is extremely useful, and expressed its concern about the situation concerning cannabis in Spain. Nevertheless, the consumption of cannabis is declining since 2004 among young adults, while availability is increasing probably due to the fact that Spain has become a major cannabis producer.

**Mr Olivier Onidi, representative of the European Commission**, thanked the Chair for having included this important issue on the agenda of the Management Board meeting. The EC congratulated the EMCDDA for having initiated the modular approach for the EDMR, and for the recent launch of the European Drug Report (EDR). The EC noted with satisfaction the inclusion of a section on the environmental impact of drug production. The situation concerning cannabis and amphetamine is a European problem in terms of consumption and production. Production is massively located in the EU and controlled by large criminal organisations. This led the Commissioner for Home Affairs, when she travelled to Colombia, Ecuador and other Latin America countries with the Belgian Minister for Interior, to make a strong point that the EU and its Member States are determined to act within their own jurisdictions, and underline the importance of the stepping up of the agency to a European Union Agency on Drugs. A number of initiatives will be presented in an EU Action Plan to be formally adopted in October 2023 to look at the European side of the problem, with a strong focus on the logistics hubs, using the Schengen evaluation to review how to better control these hubs, with dedicated actions linked to European issues such as production sites, criminal groups operating in Europe and their financing. It is crucial to have an agency with new functions, such as the establishment of a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories, to extract scientific evidence for a more comprehensive set of conclusions.

A substantial repository of knowledge is available about the different aspects of cannabis use, treatment and prevention. The regulatory framework is progressively more and more blurred in several countries. Some political programmes have been substantially revised because of the evidence brought to the preparation of new legislations. A meeting took place between the EC, the Chair of the Management Board, the Director and some staff members to take stock of the material available. The agency is in a position to give a comprehensive overview of the general picture, with the indication of emerging trends and commonalities, and should come up at some point with useful recommendations in this area. The EC would welcome the publication of some form of guidance based on the evidence collected by the agency.

The **Director** added that the EMCDDA produced now two reports on captagon. The EDR 2023 provides many answers to the questions in relation to health and treatment. The EMCDDA carries out a broad range of ongoing studies and projects on cannabis and cannabis policies, and will consolidate its work in this area under the new mandate. Pressure from the EU towards Albania to eradicate cannabis production but it has partly been substituted by indoor cultivation. The agency will develop a European drug profiling project under the new mandate to provide support to the Member States for strategic and operational analysis. It is also foreseen to provide support to the Member States to establish a baseline on cannabis use, and launch a Eurobarometer survey on this topic.

The **Chair** thanked the EMCDDA for the very interesting overview, and concluded that the analysis of the cannabis and amphetamines situation in all its aspects based on data on production, trafficking, consumption, treatment, environmental impact, is of particular relevance for young people in Europe. The EC underlined that the EU and all its Member States are responsible for finding solutions to the increasing drug production and trafficking problems. The new competences of the European Union Drugs Agency will enable it to provide its stakeholders in a timelier and even more efficient way with evidence-based information on the emerging developments and threats.



## **PART II: Regulation on the European Union Drugs Agency**

### **4. Adoption of the new Regulation on the European Union Drugs Agency**

#### **4.1. Video statement by Ms Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs**

Ms Ylva Johansson congratulated the Management Board members at their first meeting after the adoption of the new Regulation on a European Union Drugs Agency by EP and the Council, one and a half year after she proposed it. The Commissioner thanked the Member States and the EP for the quick, efficient and constructive negotiations. The result could be reached because there is a common understanding of the need to counter the growing drugs threat, and everyone respects the Monitoring Centre as hub of expertise on drugs, health, demand and supply. Under the Director's leadership, the guiding hand of the Management Board, more staff and a double budget, the agency will be in a prime position to help EU tackle drug threats. As presented in the EDR 2023, NPS are on the rise. Europe is an important producer. 450 laboratories have been dismantled in 2022. It is good that the agency will soon be able to address drug precursors. Heroin remains the deadliest drug in Europe, and warns of the increase of mixing with other substances to deadly effects. The agency will soon be able to tackle poly-drug use essential as more and more people are dying because they are mixing drugs. The EDR warns about the threat of synthetic opioids, like fentanyl, and so does the Drug Enforcement Agency of the US. The Commissioner will participate in July in a ministerial kick-off event of the Global coalition to address synthetic drug threats initiated by the US Secretary of State Blinken, and will rely on the data from the EMCDDA. The new mandate will allow the agency to act on its own analysis to issue alerts. If heroin is the most dangerous for our health, cocaine is the most dangerous for our societies. Criminals use the immense profits for corruption, violence is growing in scale and brutality. It is good that the new mandate will allow the agency to do more on the international stage. Commissioner visited Ecuador and Colombia to improve police cooperation and information exchange. We can only tackle drugs by working across borders. As a Commissioner, Ms Johansson stressed that she needs the data from the agency, and expert advice. The Commissioner invited the agency to provide her with advice, as the new mandate allows.

#### **4.2. Intervention by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

Ms Borgny reminded that the EC presented the proposal for a new mandate in January 2022. The proposal was negotiated by the Member States in the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) during the French Presidency in the first half of 2022. The negotiations in the HDG were finalised with the adoption in June 2022 of the Council's negotiation mandate for the negotiations with the European Parliament. Since the first political trilogue between the EP, the EC and the Council on 10 January 2023, the Swedish Presidency has been working intensely to finalise the negotiations of a good and strong mandate for the new drug agency as soon as possible. The Presidency concluded the negotiations on 28 March in a final trilogue by reaching a provisional agreement between the EP, the EC and the Council on the mandate for a new EU Drugs Agency.

The good result and speedy process of the negotiation would not have been possible without the support of the EU Member States, and the negotiation partners from the EC and the EP were also crucial. They deserve appreciation for the respect, patience and constructive approach in the negotiations all along.

During the negotiations, the mandate of the agency was strengthened even further, and a suitable role for the NFPs in relation to the agency has been found. The supporting role of the agency was also clarified. Furthermore, the conditions for the agency to react more efficiently on new health and security challenges were improved. An appropriate way to involve civil society in the work of the agency was also found, and the gender equality dimension in the mandate was strengthened.

The outcome of the negotiations was agreed upon by Coreper on 19 April 2023 and the new mandate was formally adopted by the Council in June. The Regulation will enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. It will apply from 12 months after the date of entry into force.

The Swedish Presidency is very pleased with the outcome of the negotiations and believes it will make the agency fully-fledged to meet the challenges we are facing in the drug area. The Presidency is very grateful for the constant support received and for the excellent cooperation with all.

The work with preparing for the implementation of the new mandate is already underway. The Director plays a key role in this, and Sweden expressed its encouragement and support for the implementation process. The role of the Management Board also has a central role to play, and all Management Board members should feel encouraged to contribute to the work of the new agency now and ahead.



### 4.3. Intervention by the representatives of the European Parliament

**Mr Coelho, representative of the European Parliament**, noted that there had been a need for the agency to identify new threats, improve the cooperation with the NFPs, create a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories, develop data collection and analysis on poly-drug use and strengthen international cooperation. Now there is a will, a political sign underlining that everyone recognises this development as a priority. As a former MEP during 20 years, Mr Coelho underlined that the negotiations on the new Regulation between the EP and the Council were fast and conclusive, and supported the final solution concerning the representation of the EP with two members in the EUDA Management Board. Mr Coelho commended the technical suggestions brought forward by the agency, which were always loyal and aimed at providing solutions.

**Ms Malliori, representative of the European Parliament**, declared that it was an honour to have been member of the EMCDDA Management Board since its first meeting nearly 30 years ago, as representative of Greece and then as representative of the EP.

MEP Isabel Santos (Portugal, S&D Group), member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the EP and rapporteur for the new Regulation for an EU Drugs Agency stated after the adoption of the report by the LIBE Committee: 'We welcome the expansion of the EMCDDA into a fully-fledged agency. Equipping the soon-to-be agency with the right resources and tools to be able to, more efficiently and timelier, identify and address current and future challenges related to drugs in Europe is of the outmost importance, in the context of an ever-changing, increasingly diverse and very dynamic drug market. This was the goal we pursued, while shifting the original proposal's excessive focus on law enforcement, supply, security and control-related issues towards a more significant emphasis on harm reduction, health, social and human rights dimensions.

Ms Malliori congratulated the Director and all staff on the new Regulation.

### 4.4. Remarks from the EMCDDA Director

The **Director** reminded that he participated 31 years ago in the feasibility study for a European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, together with Prof Malliori and Mr Gillard, and stressed that the adoption of the new mandate means a second birth of the agency. He thanked the European Commission for its proposal, and in particular Mr Onidi, Ms Sipala and Mr Mihók for their support. He extended his thanks to the FR, CZ and SE Presidencies of the EU, and the representatives of the EP in the Management Board, Prof Malliori and Mr Coelho, as well as MEP Isabel Santos, the Chair of the LIBE Committee and MEP Hohlmeier. Mr Goosdeel expressed his gratitude to all Member States for their unanimous support to the new Regulation, the members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee and the Reitox NFPs. Finally, he thanked all EMCDDA staff.

### 4.5. Remarks from the Chair of the EMCDDA Management Board

The **Chair** expressed his sincere gratitude to Ms Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, for having taken the time to give an address at this special meeting of the Management Board, and for her support to the proposal for new legislative act as proposed by the European Commission in January 2022. The journey towards a new Agency with a key role in the EU response to the new health and security challenges posed by illicit drugs begun then. The Council, under the French, Czech and Swedish Presidencies, and the European Parliament worked in a very rapid and efficient way on the proposal and agreed on a final text. The Chair thanked the Member States, and the members of the European Parliament, for their strong commitment to give this file a high priority.

The first part of the journey has been reached together. It is time to celebrate the adoption of the Regulation as an important milestone for the agency, a moment of creative energy and joy. and proceed all together with its stepwise implementation, which has already been started by the Director and his staff. The Chair expressed his enthusiasm about these developments and his conviction that the European Union Drugs Agency that will provide even better support to European and national policymakers and professionals in the drugs field in addressing the causes and consequences of drug use.

**Mr Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe**, congratulated the EMCDDA on its new mandate. He recalled that the Pompidou Group went through a similar statutory change two years ago, with the adoption of its revised statute by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and expressed his confidence that these changes will provide opportunities for enhanced cooperation between the EMCDDA and the Pompidou Group.



NO congratulated the Management Board members, and in particular the FR, CZ and SE Presidencies, and the Centre for the adoption of the new Regulation. NO is preparing a recommendation to its Parliament for a continued membership in the agency.

### **PART III: *Items for decision and information***

## **5. Preparation of the new Regulation on the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA):**

### **5.1. Update of the EMCDDA implementation plan for the new Regulation on the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) EMCDDA/03/23**

The **Director** presented an oral update on the developments of some of the key priorities identified in the implementation plan endorsed by the Management Board in December 2022, as guided by the Strategy 2025 and the new Regulation, and enabled by the new Business Model.

The Director stressed that the ultimate strategic goal of the new agency is to strengthen the EU preparedness to tackle the drugs problem. This goal is based on four pillars or types of services defined through the following action verbs: 'anticipate', 'alert', 'respond' and 'learn'. The agency starts from the present, analyses the long-term trends from the past and develops foresight in the future. It will play a stronger role in threat and risk assessments and issue health and security risk communication, in close relationship with the Member States and the Reitox NFPs. Concerning responses, the agency will continue providing scientific evidence for control measure on NPS, help assessing available responses and support the implementation of needed responses. Finally, it is necessary to assess and learn how a crisis has been managed, and to disseminate best practice as well as pursue competence development.

For each of the new or reinforced competences stipulated in 11 articles of the EUDE Regulation, and as foreseen in the implementation plan, reflections have been undertaken on their definition, how they will work and which first actions, contracts or feasibility studies have to be implemented. The first technical profiles for these 11 Articles have been discussed at a Strategic Committee meeting on 8 June 2023. The Director presented some milestones for several areas of work, such as the European Drug Alert System and Threat Assessment System. A Pilot Rapid Threat assessment team will be ready as of 2 July 2024. The future network of forensic and toxicological laboratories will act as a forum for generating data and information exchange on new developments and trends, organising training to enhance the competence of forensic drug and toxicology experts, supporting the implementation of quality assurance schemes and supporting the further harmonisation of data collection and analytical methods. In the drug markets and supply area, drug market data dashboards will be produced and a European conference on 'Drug markets and security' will be organised in September 2024. The agency will strengthen the work on precursors, extend its monitoring and reporting capacity and enhance the drug knowledge system enhanced. The new Business Model has to be translated into the Data Foundation Architecture, which is a complex and challenging task.

The Director also informed about the developments and plans for preparing the team, the infrastructure and the new organisation. The new Head of the Human Resources Sector started in March 2023. A contract with the firm Deloitte aims at providing methodological support for the upcoming recruitment procedures, mapping competences and defining the profiles for the 13 additional posts in 2024, so that the recruitments can be finalised by 2 July 2024. A new Head of the Reitox and external partners unit has been appointed. The Director set up a Gender Innovation, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Forum, and holds bi-monthly Staff Assemblies to inform all staff about the developments in this transition period. An agreement has been reached with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) to allow the EMCDDA to fully use the 'Palacete' building.

Since November 2023, a technical meeting and three workshops were organised with Reitox NFPs on the three main chapters of the new Regulation (monitoring, preparedness, capacity development). Four working groups between EMCDDA and NFPs will meet after the summer until the next Heads of NFPs meeting in October 2023. A new 'Reitox Alliance' will be elaborated between July 2024 and December 2025: It will aim at defining the joint commitment of Reitox and the EMCDDA/EUDA to become more customer-centric. It is expected to have only a few mandatory new data collection tools, to be developed and agreed upon with EU experts, the Reitox NFPs and to be adopted by the Management Board. The Director reminded that the Management Board decided to restore the original amount of the Reitox co-financing appropriations when the budget conditions would allow to do so, because the budgetary cuts had a negative impact on the capacity of NFPs to fulfil their obligations. The EMCDDA draft budget for 2024, to be adopted by the Management Board at its meeting in December 2023, could propose this increase. At this meeting the Management Board should also deliberate on the key for distribution of the Reitox co-financing.



The EMCDDA Strategy 2025 identifies the primary customers (EU and national decision makers, practitioners). The agency will also provide outputs and services for citizens (civil society), researchers and (data) journalists. The branding project is ongoing, and a first draft of a new Communication Strategy should be ready by July 2024. The preparation for the transition to a new website, digital identity and work on Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) has started.

The Director presented an overview of the budget for 2024 by budget titles and of an outline for an investments plan in 2024. The agency will recruit 13 new positions in 2024 linked to the new competences. They will include 3 administrative assistant (AST) posts and 10 administrator (AD) posts (2 more senior posts and 8 with the entry grade). The Chair and the Executive Committee suggested that the new vacancy posts will have to be broadly disseminated, involving actively the Member States in this exercise, to reach a maximum number of interested candidates. The new posts will be published widely, including in 3–4 newspapers in all Member States. Recruitments will respect the principles of gender equality, diversity and balanced representation of nationalities.

The Director explained that his presentation to the Management Board is not an action plan. Since the last Management Board meeting, it was necessary to develop concepts for each area of work according to the main Articles of the new Regulation. 11 internal working groups have been created to prioritise the activities and set up a budgetary planning for the areas of new competences. The full list of activities, outputs and budget estimation will be described in the draft SPD 2024–26, which will be submitted to the Management Board members two weeks ahead of their meeting of 7–8 December 2023.

The **Chair** thanked the Director for the comprehensive overview, and invited the Member States, the EC and the EP to support a successful implementation of the new Regulation.

**Mr Onidi, representative of the European Commission**, thanked the Director for his presentation and suggested that the agency becomes more explicit in providing expert advice, as mentioned by the Commissioner. The EC recognised that the agency has to implement a great number of new processes and put new mechanisms in place, but suggested not to wait for implementing activities in some areas. There is a high demand for advice on developments in cannabis policies, for which the agency has the competence. Mr Onidi declared that the EMCDDA is the most positive and versatile agency among the JHA agencies, and suggested to keep the spirit of flexibility and the agility which has been the key to success until now.

**Ms Ioanna Yiasemi, Spokesperson of the Reitox national focal points**, informed the Management Board about the work done by the working groups formed by the Reitox network, preceding the formation of the joint working groups. She also thanked the Director for his help and commitment to work together with the network.

The **Director** informed that the agency works in parallel on about 20 different projects about cannabis, and a Cannabis Hub will be set up. It is important to move from sequential work to even more agility.

## **5.2. Procedure for the nomination of the members to the EUDA Management Board** **EMCDDA/04/23 rev1**


The **Chair** informed that the Executive Committee suggested clarifying the deadline for the nomination of the members, alternates and observers to the EUDA Management Board the start of the new mandates in the document. The Member States shall send the nominations by 9 months after the entry into force of the Regulation (31 March 2024), and it was proposed that the correspondence will also specify that the appointments of the members, alternates and observers in line with the above procedure, will be effective as from the first meeting of the EUDA Management Board to take place between 1 and 31 July 2024. In addition, the current members, alternates and observers should be addressed the correspondence in copy for their full information. The document was revised according to these comments and distributed as room document.

**Decision:** The Management Board endorsed the proposed procedure and timeline for the nomination of the members, alternates and observers of the EUDA Management Board.

## **5.3. Procedure for the adoption of the rules of procedure of the EUDA Management Board** **EMCDDA/05/23 rev1**

No comments were made.

**Decision:** The Management Board approved the proposed procedure and timeline, and decided to set up the working group proposed to draft the rules of procedure of the EUDA Management Board.





#### 5.4. Procedure to establish the EUDA Scientific Committee

EMCDDA/06/23 rev1

The **Chair** informed that the Executive Committee suggested including a bullet point in Article 4 (Selection criteria), paragraph 2, concerning a geographical balanced composition of the Scientific Committee, as far as possible, in the final *Procedures and arrangements for the selection and appointment of the members of the Scientific Committee of the European Union Drugs Agency*.

**Decision:** The Management Board adopted the *Procedures and arrangements for the selection and appointment of the members of the Scientific Committee of the European Union Drugs Agency*, as revised in the light of the comment made by the Executive Committee, the announcement of the call for expression of interest in membership of the Scientific Committee of the European Union Drugs Agency and the proposed timeline.

#### 5.5. Procedure to establish a new list of experts to extend the EUDA Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances

EMCDDA/07/23

No comments were made.

**Decision:** The Management Board adopted the *Procedures and arrangements for the approval of the list of experts to be used by the Executive Director of the European Union Drug Agency (EUDA) to extend the EUDA Scientific Committee for the purposes of the assessment of the risks posed by new psychoactive substances*, the announcement of the call for expressions of interest for inclusion on the list of experts, and the proposed timeline.

#### 5.6. Procedure for the nomination of the EUDA Reitox national focal points

EMCDDA/08/23 rev1

The **Chair** informed that the document had been revised according to the comments made by the Executive Committee on the procedure for the nomination of the members of the EUDA Management Board, and had been distributed as room document.

**Ms Ioanna Yiasemi, Spokesperson of the Reitox national focal points**, informed the Management Board that during the NHFP meeting of May 2023, when the issue was raised, some concerns were expressed about the need to ensure the continuity of the focal points, when the new Regulation comes into force, was underlined.

**Decision:** The Management Board endorsed the proposed procedure and timeline for the nomination of the EUDA Reitox network of national focal points.

#### 5.7. Establishment of a working group to discuss the Reitox co-financing

EMCDDA/09/23

The **Chair** informed that the results of the discussions of the proposed working group will support the decision to be taken by the Management in December 2023 on the Reitox co-financing in the context of the agency's draft budget for 2024.

**Decision:** The Management Board decided to set up the working group proposed to discuss the Reitox co-financing system.

#### 5.8. Procedure to establish a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories

EMCDDA/10/23

The **Chair** stressed that the establishment of a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories will aim at contributing to the health and security of the Union, by strengthening monitoring, preparedness and competence development in the fields of forensic science, toxicology, and pharmacology. The first meeting of the network will take place in December 2024.

**Decision:** The Management Board endorsed the proposed implementation plan and timeline for the establishment of the network of forensic and toxicological laboratories of the European Union Drugs Agency.

#### 5.9. Outlines of the European Union Drugs Agency branding project

EMCDDA/11/23

The **Director** informed that the EMCDDA has started work on the branding and image for the new agency. It is important to define the 'EUDA experience', and the services that the agency will provide to its customers. The experience to be shared with stakeholders has also to be applied internally, through an 'EUDA attitude'.



The branding project sets out to clarify who we are, the breadth of the field we are working in, what we are trying to do, why we are doing it and for whom. The project will deliver a Brand Guide, which will be the tool to guide the agency's communication in its transition to EUDA. This project is joined up with ongoing work on the agency's corporate identity (new logo and visual identity), which will ensure overall consistency in the communication activities.

## **PART IV: Items for decision and information**

### **6. International cooperation:**

#### **6.1. Overview on the drugs situation and cooperation with third countries**

The **Director** highlighted some activities, outcomes and developments for cooperation projects and cooperation with regions or groups of third countries.

The EMCDDA-IPA8 project, which at integrating the Western Balkan partners into the activities of the EMCDDA, under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, started on 1 January 2023 for a total duration of 4 years (ending December 2026), with an overall budget envelope of EUR 1.5 million. It is very important to associate as far as possible the candidate countries to the EU. The EMCDDA organised a successful starting meeting in Brussels, which included a high-level session together with the EC. Cooperation has been difficult as South-East European countries do not see a political momentum for the time being, and the EU has to remind them that drugs are a problem. The EMCDDA decided in 2022, together with the EC, to suspend its technical cooperation with Montenegro as they did not meet the requirements. On the contrary, the EMCDDA led for the first time a technical cooperation project with Georgia (EMCDDA4GE), which had as overall objective to enhance national responses on drug-related health and security threats in Georgia and was extremely successful. The Director informed that the Government of Georgia and the EU Delegation in Georgia made a request for a second phase of the EMCDDA4GE project, to start at the beginning of 2024. The EMCDDA will consult DG HOME, and possibly include the budget for the second phase of the EMCDDA4GE project in the DB for 2024 for adoption by the Management Board in December 2023. Good progress can be reported concerning the cooperation with Serbia. The change of mandate for the agency will probably have an impact on the cooperation with Western Balkans countries. Changing the approach in the future might be envisaged, in consultation with the EC, turning more towards bilateral cooperation between the agency and the countries which show a readiness. The Director further stressed that it would be important to include the drugs issue more regularly in the agendas of the meetings of the Ministerial Forum of Justice and Home Affairs.

Following the successful implementation of the EU funded technical cooperation project 'EU4Monitoring Drugs' (EU4MD), with the participation of 13 countries from the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) area, a second phase of the project – entitled EU4Monitoring Drugs II (EU4MD II) – started in January 2023 for a period of 60 months (2023–2027), with a total budget of EUR 4 million based on a grant agreement with DG NEAR. The project has a very good evolution, and the component of competence development has been fundamental.

The EMCDDA cooperates in the third edition of the COPOLAD project (Cooperation programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU on Drugs Policies), after having provided some ad-hoc support to the first two phases of the project. The programme is being led by the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies, Spanish Cooperation (FIIAPP), with a consortium of different Member States and the EC. The EMCDDA signed on 15 July 2022 a Grant agreement with IILA with a duration of 28 months (15 July 2022 to 31 October 2024) and a total budget of EUR 800 000. The Director noted that the EMCDDA is an EU agency, and should sign such contracts in the future directly with the EC.

The Director raised a question of more general interest for reflection together with the EC. It is not very clear from the feedback of DG BUDG, and a matter of interpretation in the new Regulation, if more competences and responsibilities in the area of international cooperation stemming from the new mandate will mean that the agency cannot have additional contracts with the EC as we have for the moment. The way technical cooperation projects are organised might have to be reconsidered. Finally, the Management Board could consider inviting a representative of candidate countries to a Management Board meeting. The EMCDDA would prepare a briefing note to support the discussion and decision by the Management Board.

Further to a proposal from Commissioner Johansson to conclude Working Arrangements between the EMCDDA and Ecuador and Colombia after her visit to the Port of Antwerp with the Belgian Minister of Interior, the EC and the EMCDDA in February 2023 and her subsequent visits to Ecuador and Colombia, the EMCDDA has received the official requests from these countries before the Management Board. SENDA from Chile has made a similar request. After a first consultation with the EC, the Management Board is requested to mandate the Director to negotiate a Working Arrangement with Ecuador, Colombia and SENDA (Chile). Such working arrangements will not have and legal or financial implications, and no negative financial impact on the agency.

They are very useful to provide contacts with the countries to get direct access to information which is lacking. On the basis of a positive formal opinion of the EC, the Management Board might be requested to agree on these three Working Arrangements at its meeting in December 2023.

**Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission**, supported and welcomed the opening of negotiations with Southern and Central America countries. 2023 is a very special year for the cooperation between the EU and CELAC countries, for which the incoming ES Presidency is strongly committed. The requests for the working arrangements with the EMCDDA, which are part of the follow up to the visits of Commissioner Johansson, are the sign of with a mutual interest to exchange information on drug production and trafficking, but also increasingly on drug consumption, and contribute to the general efforts of EU Member States and EU institutions to further strengthen cooperation with these countries. The EC informed that an EU-CELAC summit is planned for mid-July 2023 under the ES Presidency, and a second EU dialogue with Colombia will take place at ministerial level in September 2023. Furthermore, the EC has received the mandate from the Council to negotiating agreements for the exchange of personal data between five Latin American countries (Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Chile and Ecuador) and Europol.

The EC fully supports the work of the agency in promoting a better awareness and preparedness to drugs issues in the Western Balkans, through the formal establishment of national drug observatories, and looks forward to the future dialogues with the Western Balkans. The EC also took initiatives vis-à-vis of Moldova following the war of aggression from Russia to Ukraine. In the framework of the EU Security Hub with Moldova a dedicated discussion on drugs will be organised by the end of the year by the Moldovan authorities with EU Agencies, including the EMCDDA.

FR stressed that the reinforcement of international cooperation is a priority in the new Regulation on the European Union Agency on Drugs. The signature of a Working Arrangement raises expectations from both partner organisations, which have to be met. The agency is a useful instrument to vehiculate the EU's values and principles. FR supported the initiatives with Moldova, which becomes crucial for the EU and welcomed the efforts of the ES Presidency to develop cooperation in Latin American countries. It is necessary to address the drugs situation in the Western Balkans, but also in North and West Africa.

#### - Candidate and potential candidate countries

#### 6.2. The EMCDDA/IPA 8 project (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance)

EMCDDA/12/23

No comments were made. A video on the project is available at [https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/drug-related-health-and-security-threats-western-balkans\\_en](https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/drug-related-health-and-security-threats-western-balkans_en)

#### - European Neighbourhood Countries

#### 6.3. 'EU4 Monitoring Drugs' II project

EMCDDA/13/23

No comments were made. Videos can be found at the following links:

EU4MD with ENP-East countries – [https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/eu4md-cooperation-european-neighbourhood-policy-enp-east-countries\\_en](https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/eu4md-cooperation-european-neighbourhood-policy-enp-east-countries_en)

EU4MD with ENP-South countries – [https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/eu4md-cooperation-european-neighbourhood-policy-enp-south-countries\\_en](https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/eu4md-cooperation-european-neighbourhood-policy-enp-south-countries_en)

#### 6.4. EMCDDA technical cooperation project with Georgia

EMCDDA/14/23

No comments were made. A video on the project is available at [https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/emcdda4georgia-results-two-year-bilateral-project\\_en](https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/emcdda4georgia-results-two-year-bilateral-project_en)

#### - Other non-EU countries

#### 6.5. Mandate for negotiating a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Ecuador

EMCDDA/15/23

No comments were made.

**Decision:** The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Ecuador.



**6.6. Mandate for negotiating a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Colombia**

**EMCDDA/16/23**

No comments were made.

**Decision:** The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Colombia.

**6.7. Mandate for negotiating a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and SENDA (Chile)**

**EMCDDA/17/23**

No comments were made.

**Decision:** The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and SENDA (Chile).

**5.7. COPOLAD III Project (Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU on Drugs Policies)**

**EMCDDA/18/23**

No comments were made.

**7. Activity reports**

**7.1. Report on the activities of the Chair**

**EMCDDA/19/23**

No comments were made.

**7.2. Report from the Budget Committee**

**EMCDDA/20/23**

No comments were made.

**7.3. Report on the external activities of the Director**

**EMCDDA/21/23**

No comments were made.

**PART V: Items for decision and information**

**8. Presentations by EU Presidencies**

**8.1. Presentation on the conclusions of the Swedish Presidency**

Ms Erika Borgny presented the first conclusions of the SE Presidency of the Council of the EU in the area of drug policy.

The biggest priority was the finalisation of the trilogue negotiations on a mandate for the European Union Drugs Agency with the European Parliament and the Commission. The SE Presidency was very pleased that the negotiations could be concluded with a political agreement on 28 March 2023.

It has been a priority for the Presidency to contribute to the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan 2021–25 through discussions on some of the main topics.

Gender and drugs were another priority. Four different very interesting thematic discussions took place, focusing on treatment gaps, women in organised crime, gender-based differences in drug-related deaths and the presence of drugs in gender-based violence. Three general conclusions came out from the various discussions. The analysis of the drug phenomenon through 'gender lenses' shows differences and similarities that are important to consider when designing measures and responses. This can improve the situation for both men and women. In all parts of drug policy, there is a need for more gender-oriented research and to collect more sex disaggregated data. The EU Drugs Agency has a special role with its strengthened mandate in this field.

Another thematic priority was the issue of 'Children, young people and drugs: emerging challenges and effective responses.' This was the theme for the EU National Drug Coordinators meeting organised in Malmö, Sweden,



on 2–4 May 2023. The last thematic priority concerned the production, trafficking and non-medical use of medicines containing opioids.

During the SE Presidency in the HDG it has been important to further strengthen the international cooperation in the drug field. Therefore expert-level meetings with the US, Brazil, the Western Balkans and the CELAC-countries have been organised. The SE Presidency also participated actively in the 66th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The SE Presidency of the HDG, in light of the general Swedish priority on support for Ukraine, deemed it important to address the impact of Russia's invasion in Ukraine on the drug situation in the country and in the EU. Ukraine representatives participated twice in HDG meetings. Meetings with the Civil Society Forum on Drugs took place to further strengthen the relation to the civil society.

Ms Borgny thanked all participants in the meeting for their crucial support during our Presidency, and wished the incoming Spanish Presidency the best of luck for the term ahead.

On behalf of the Management Board, the **Chair** congratulated the SE Presidency on its excellent and successful work, and in particular for its achievement concerning the adoption of the EUDA Regulation.

## 8.2. Presentation of the programme for the Spanish Presidency

Mr Joan Villabí Hereter presented the priorities of the **ES** Presidency in the second half of 2023 in the area of Home Affairs.

In the context of the adaptation of the common European policy on migration, borders and asylum, it will be a priority to reach a final political agreement on the Pact on Migration and Asylum. The aim is also to complete the final and full accession of Romania and Bulgaria into the Schengen Area. Preventing and combating terrorism and violent radicalization, in particular in Sahel and North Africa are essential. The fight against organised crime and serious crime, especially online child sexual abuse and drug trafficking, will be a priority, above all in Latin America. Police cooperation, information exchange, police training and interoperability will be focused on, and the War in Ukraine and the future will be discussed. Prevention and anticipation in the face of common challenges, in various areas such as gender violence, civil protection and road safety, is another priority.

At the HDG, the priority in the area of drug demand will focus on people who use drugs and mental health. Harm and risk reduction will be the topic for the EU National Drug Coordinators meeting in Barcelona. In the drug supply area, priority will be given to special regional plans to tackle drug trafficking in highly affected areas. The destruction of drugs and effects seized represents another topic of interest.

The ES Presidency will aim at reinforcing the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, prepare the UNODC/CND meetings and follow up on their conclusions. EU Dialogues with third countries will be organised with CELAC, Colombia, Central Asia, US and possible China (to be confirmed). The HDG will also cooperate with the US Global Coalition against Synthetic Drugs.

The HDG team will be led by Ms Elena Alvarez, from the Ministry of Health. The team will also include Delegates from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior, as well as from the Permanent Representation in Brussels.

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

## 9. Budget and financial issues:

### 9.1. EMCDDA 2022 final accounts: opinion of the Management Board

EMCDDA/22/23

The **Director** presented the highlights of the budgetary and financial execution by the EMCDDA in 2022.

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** informed that the Budget Committee examined the EMCDDA's provisional accounts for 2022 at its meeting of 26 April 2023, and the final accounts at its meeting of 28 June 2023. The Budget Committee congratulated the EMCDDA for the high budget execution in 2022 and the very good observations from the ECA on the final EMCDDA 2022 accounts. The Management Board is requested to adopt its opinion on the EMCDDA 2022 final accounts by 1 July as stipulated in the EMCDDA Financial Regulation. The Budget Committee recommended to the Management Board to adopt a favourable opinion on these accounts.

**Decision:** The Management Board adopted a favourable opinion on the EMCDDA's final accounts for the financial year 2022.



## **9.2. Information on procurements for non-administrative activities of a value Greater than EUR 60 000 to implement the 2023 work programme**

**EMCDDA/23/23**

The **Director** informed about two contracts which were concluded for more than EUR 60 000 to implement the 2023 work programme (four-year contract for the provision of travel agency's services and contract for the preparation of the Lisbon Addictions Conference 2024).

## **9.3. EMCDDA's budget for 2024: oral update on the state of play by the European Commission**

**Mr Onidi, representative of the European Commission**, informed that the Commission adopted its proposal for the EU draft budget for 2024 on 7 June 2023. It includes the full budget for the agency, with EUR 17.6 million already programmed for EMCDDA under the current Multiannual Financial Framework, as well as the EUR 14.1 million stemming from the Legislative Financial Statement (LFS), accompanying the EC proposal for EUDA. No amount is put under reserve. The EP and the Council are currently discussing the EC's proposal. If the Budget Authority confirms the Draft Budget 2024 proposed by EC for the EMCDDA/EUDA, the whole amount of the proposed 2024 budget (about EUR 32 million) will be available on the relevant EU 2024 budget line as from 1 January 2024. Mr Onidi confirmed that the EMCDDA/EUDA will be able to commit these resources from this date on. This means that the agency can launch recruitment procedures, but that the effective contracts can only be signed as of 1 July 2024.

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** added that the EMCDDA budget for 2024 would also include the financial contribution from Türkiye for an amount of about EUR 600 000, and from Norway for almost EUR 1 000 000.

## **10. Functioning of the Management Board**

### **10.1. Nomination of an alternate observer for the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe**

**EMCDDA/24/23**

On 25 January 2023, Mr Denis Huber informed the Chair of the EMCDDA Management Board that he wishes to nominate Ms Florence Mabileau, Deputy to the Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, as alternate observer of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe to the EMCDDA Management Board. In accordance with the Rules of procedure of the EMCDDA Management Board (namely Article 9 para. 3), 'Decisions to invite observers shall be taken by the Management Board following a proposal from the Chairperson'.

**Decision:** The Management Board approved the proposal from the Chairperson of the EMCDDA Management Board that the latter accepts that Ms Florence Mabileau may attend the meetings of the EMCDDA Management Board as alternate observer of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, in case of non-attendance of the designated observer of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

### **10.2. Planning of meetings for 2024**

**EMCDDA/25/23 rev1**

The **Chair** explained that the constituent meeting of the EUDA Management Board could take place on 4–5 July 2024 (one and a half day). The Regulation (Article 58 – Transitional arrangements concerning the Management Board) stipulates that the EUDA Management Board established in accordance with Article 23 shall hold its first meeting by 3 August 2024. The revised calendar of meetings for 2024 was distributed as room document to the Management Board members.

**Decision:** The Management Board endorsed the revised planning of meetings for 2024.

## **11. Performance**

### **11.1. Presentation by the Director on the performance of the EMCDDA in 2022**

The **Director** gave an overview of the highlights for the performance reached by agency in 2022.

The 2022 WP counted 188 results, of which 12 were cancelled in the first quarter of the year or not implemented during the year (5 L2 and 7 L3 activities). The Management Plan (MP) included 353 activities, of which 13% were linked to technical assistance projects with third countries. 4 new projects were added to the MP 2022, significantly less than the previous year, 3 of which were related to the war in Ukraine. In terms of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), 90% of L1 activities were fully achieved (target: 100%), and 80% of L2 activities were fully achieved (target: 80%). Finally, 61% of L3 outputs were fully achieved (target: 50%).

In total, 81% of the 2022 WP results were fully implemented, which shows a very good performance, and remains consistently high overall. It also shows that 20% of the time should be set aside for unexpected activities.

Some external, internal or mixed factors influenced the performance. The agency needs to increase its scientific capacity writing. A persistent overload of work has to be rebalanced with new recruitments. A significant amount of work was dedicated to the Lisbon Addictions Conference, which involved many staff members, and to the 25 Years anniversary of the EU Early Warning System.

The EMCDDA reached a very high budget execution of 98,78% of commitment appropriations (it would have been 100% if there had not been the late grant of the 'top up' to the EMCDDA 2022 budget). In terms of HR, the Agency had a very high total occupation rate of 95,7% (111 positions filled out of 117 authorised) on 31 December 2022. 74 posts of the establishment plan were filled, out of 76 authorised posts.

The EMCDDA released 66 publications and adopted a new modular approach for some of them. 16 scientific articles were issued and 7 EMCDDA webinars were attended by about 1200 participants. The website reach increased significantly, with a record number of 2.6 Mio. unique visitors (1.8 Mio in 2021). An increase above 5% was noted also for all social media channels. The EMCDDA received 413 media requests, thus 50% more than in 2021. The requests were mostly related to the topic of cocaine markets. The EMCDDA continued stepping up its post-pandemic interactive eco-system. Innovative projects have been put in place for data collection and visualization (e.g. ESCAPE interactive platform and EWS pilot projects), many e-learning initiatives such as the new PLATO platform have been launched and machine translation has been used. The EMCDDA focused on customer-centricity and digital-first communication with digital flagship reports, and produced increasingly innovative videos.

The publication of the EC proposal for a Regulation on a European Union Drugs Agency in January 2022 brought renewed organisational energy, while the transformative effort continued, within the post-pandemic, geo-politically unstable world. 2022 can be described as a year of expectation. 2023 will be written under the sign of participation and co-production.

The **Chair** congratulated the Director and his staff for these excellent results, both in terms of quantity and quality, and stressed the importance of the data digitalisation.

#### **11.2. State of implementation of the recommendations issued by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) EMCDDA/26/23**

The **Chair** explained that the Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the European Commission performs internal audits per topics or areas of work to identify potential risks and measures taken by the Agency to mitigate these risks. The Director informs the Management Board regularly on the implementation of the recommendations from the IAS. The EMCDDA is progressing in the implementation of the outstanding recommendations from the 2021 IAS audit on 'Human Resources Management and Ethics in the EMCDDA', and will provide an update at the next Management Board meeting.

#### **11.3. EMCDDA Action Plan further to the 2023 IAS Audit on coordination between DG HOME and the EU decentralised agencies EMCDDA, EUAA, Europol, CEPOL and eu-LISA EMCDDA/27/23**

The **Director** reminded that the IAS performed a multi-entity audit on coordination and working arrangements between DG HOME and its EU decentralised Agencies, such as the EMCDDA. The objective of the audit was to assess the adequacy of the design and the effective and efficient implementation of the coordination arrangements between DG HOME and some of its EU decentralised Agencies. This exercise was very challenging for all agencies and actors involved. In line with the IAS request and the established practices for this kind of assignment, the EMCDDA set up an Action Plan aimed at dealing with the two 'important' recommendations received on: 1) multiannual planning and 2) coordination with DG HOME.

**Decision:** The Management Board endorsed the EMCDDA Action Plan further to the 2023 IAS Audit on 'Coordination between DG HOME and the EU decentralised agencies EMCDDA, EUAA, EUROPOL, CEPOL and eu-LISA'.



## 12. Prevention and management of conflicts of interest

### 12.1. 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/28/23

The Chair informed that the assessment by the Director of the declarations submitted by the new members of the Management Board until 22 June 2023 showed no existing conflicts of interest.

**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. On this basis the Management Board considered that there is no need for further measures at this stage.

## 13. Any other business

The Chair thanked Mr Péter Mihók on behalf of the Management Board for his valuable support and cooperation, in particular for the topics related to the EMCDDA and in the field of international cooperation, and wished him all the best for his new position at the EU Delegation in Washington.

The Chair thanked the Director and the EMCDDA staff, for the preparation of the meeting, and the Board members for their contributions. Mr Pietsch also expressed his thanks to the SE Presidency for its excellent achievements, and wished the ES Presidency every success. The Chair also thanked the interpreters for their work.

The next meeting will take place on 7–8 December 2023.



Franz Pietsch  
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

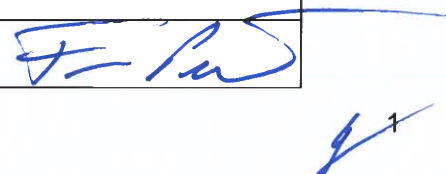


67<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EMCDDA Management Board

Lisbon, 29 June 2023

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>Belgium</b>	Mr Claude GILLARD
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Mr Zahari ZARKOV
<b>Czechia</b>	Mr Jindřich VOBOŘIL
	Ms Ingrid MIHALOVÁ
<b>Denmark</b>	Mr Lars PETERSEN
<b>Germany</b>	Mr Burkhard BLIENERT
	Ms Marina HORN
<b>Estonia</b>	Ms Kristiin MIKKO
<b>Ireland</b>	Mr Jim WALSH
	Mr Eamon KEENAN
<b>Greece</b>	Mr Christos KOUIMTSIDIS
<b>Spain</b>	Mr Joan R. VILLALBÌ HERETER
	Ms Elena ALVAREZ MARTÍN
<b>France</b>	Ms Laura d'ARRIGO
<b>Croatia</b>	Mr Željko PETKOVIĆ
	Ms Sanja MIKULIĆ
<b>Italy</b>	Ms Elisabetta SIMEONI
<b>Cyprus</b>	Mr Christos MINA
	Mr Stelios SERGIDES
<b>Latvia</b>	Mr Dzintars MOZGIS
<b>Lithuania</b>	Ms Gražina BELIAN
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Mr Xavier POOS
<b>Malta</b>	Mr Richard MUSCAT
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Ms L.A. (Liefke) HUIZINGA
<b>Austria</b>	Mr Franz PIETSCH



	Mr Christoph WOLKERSTORFER
<b>Poland</b>	Ms Bogusława BUKOWSKA
<b>Portugal</b>	Mr João GOULÃO
	Ms Sofia SANTOS
<b>Romania</b>	Mr Catalin NEGOI-NITĂ
<b>Slovenia</b>	Mr Jože HREN
<b>Slovakia</b>	Ms Eva DEBNÁROVÁ
<b>Finland</b>	Ms Elina KOTOVIRTA
<b>Sweden</b>	Ms Erika BORGNY
<b>Norway</b>	Ms Hege Christina BREDESEN
	Mr Torbjørn BREKKE
<b>Türkiye</b>	Mr Murat SARIKAMIŞLI
<b>EUROPEAN COMMISSION</b>	Mr Olivier ONIDI (DG HOME)
	Ms Floriana SIPALA (DG HOME)
	Mr Philippe ROUX (DG SANTE)
	Mr Péter MIHOK (DG HOME)
<b>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</b>	Ms Meni MALLIORI
	Mr Carlos COELHO
<b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE</b>	Mr Fernando RODRIGUEZ DE FONSECA
<b>REITOX</b>	Ms Ioanna YIASEMI
<b>POMPIDOU GROUP OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b>	Mr Denis HUBER
<b>EMCDDA</b>	Mr Alexis GOOSDEEL
	Mr Fabian PEREYRA
	Ms Monika BLUM

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## LIST OF DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

EMCDDA/01/23 rev 1

The Management Board adopted the agenda of the meeting.

### 5. Preparation for the new Regulation on the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA)

#### 5.2. Procedure for the nomination of the members of the EUDA Management Board

EMCDDA/04/23 rev1

The Management Board endorsed the proposed procedure and timeline for the nomination of the members, alternates and observers of the EUDA Management Board.

#### 5.3. Procedure for the adoption of the rules of procedure of the EUDA Management Board

EMCDDA/05/23 rev1

The Management Board approved the proposed procedure and timeline, and decided to set up the working group proposed to draft the rules of procedure of the EUDA Management Board.

#### 5.4. Procedure to establish the EUDA Scientific Committee

EMCDDA/06/23 rev1

The Management Board adopted the *Procedures and arrangements for the selection and appointment of the members of the Scientific Committee of the European Union Drugs Agency*, as revised in the light of the comment made by the Executive Committee, the announcement of the call for expression of interest in membership of the Scientific Committee of the European Union Drugs Agency and the proposed timeline.

#### 5.5. Procedure to establish a new list of experts to extend the EUDA Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances

EMCDDA/07/23

The Management Board adopted the *Procedures and arrangements for the approval of the list of experts to be used by the Executive Director of the European Union Drug Agency (EUDA) to extend the EUDA Scientific Committee for the purposes of the assessment of the risks posed by new psychoactive substances*, the announcement of the call for expressions of interest for inclusion on the list of experts, and the proposed timeline.

#### 5.6. Procedure for the nomination of the EUDA Reitox national focal points

EMCDDA/08/23 rev1

The Management Board endorsed the proposed procedure and timeline for the nomination of the EUDA Reitox network of national focal points.

#### 5.7. Establishment of a working group to discuss the Reitox co-financing

EMCDDA/09/23

The Management Board decided to set up the working group proposed to discuss the Reitox co-financing system.

#### 5.9. Procedure to establish a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories

EMCDDA/10/23

The Management Board endorsed the proposed implementation plan and timeline for the establishment of the network of forensic and toxicological laboratories of the European Union Drugs Agency.

### 6. International cooperation

#### 5.6. Mandate for negotiating a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Ecuador

EMCDDA/15/23

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



**5.7. Mandate for negotiating a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Colombia** EMCDDA/16/23

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

**5.8. Mandate for negotiating a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and SENDA (Chile)** EMCDDA/17/23

The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate a Working Arrangement with SENDA (Chile).

**9. Budget and financial issues**

**9.1. EMCDDA 2021 final accounts: opinion of the Management Board** EMCDDA/22/23

The Management Board adopted a favourable opinion on the EMCDDA final accounts for the financial year 2022.

**10. Functioning of the Management Board**

**10.1. Nomination of an alternate observer for the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in Management Board meetings** EMCDDA/24/23

The Management Board approved the proposal from the Chairperson of the EMCDDA Management Board that the latter accepts that Ms Florence Mabileau may attend the meetings of the EMCDDA Management Board as alternate observer of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, in case of non-attendance of the designated observer of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

**10.2. Planning of meetings for 2024** EMCDDA/25/23 rev1

The Management Board endorsed the planning of meetings for 2024.

**11. Performance**

**11.3. EMCDDA Action Plan further to the 2023 IAS Audit on coordination between DG HOME and the EU decentralised agencies EMCDDA, EUAA, Europol, CEPOL and eu-LISA** EMCDDA/27/23

The Management Board endorsed the EMCDDA Action Plan further to the 2023 IAS Audit on 'Coordination between DG HOME and the EU decentralised agencies EMCDDA, EUAA, EUROPOL, CEPOL and eu-LISA'.

**12. Prevention and management of conflicts of interest**

**12.1. 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/28/23

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. On this basis the Management Board considered that there is no need for further measures at this stage.



**LIST OF ACTION POINTS**

<b>Agenda point</b>	<b>Action to take</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Date</b>
5.2.	Send letters from the Chair to the REPER of the Member States, Norway and Türkiye, to the EC, EP and international organisations (UNODC, WHO, Pompidou Group of Council of Europe) to ask for nomination of members, alternates and observers to EUDA Management Board	EMCDDA Chair	July 2023
5.3.	Organise meeting(s) of working group on rules of procedure EUDA Management Board	EMCDDA	Autumn 2023
5.4.	Publication of call for expressions of interest in membership of the Scientific Committee of EUDA in the Official Journal of the European Union	EMCDDA	July to October 2023
5.5.	Publication of call for expressions of interest for inclusion on the list of experts to extend the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) Scientific Committee for the purposes of the assessment of the risks posed by new psychoactive substances	EMCDDA	July to October 2023
5.6.	Include in letters from the Chair (see above 5.2.) the request for nomination of Reitox national focal points and Heads of national focal points	EMCDDA Chair	July 2023
5.7.	Organise meeting(s) of working group on the Reitox co-financing	EMCDDA	Autumn 2023
5.8.	Prepare the rules and procedures for appointment and replacement of laboratories by the Member States and EUDA	EMCDDA	Autumn 2023
6.5.	Negotiate the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Ecuador	EMCDDA	Autumn 2023
6.6.	Negotiate the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Colombia	EMCDDA	Autumn 2023
6.7.	Negotiate the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and SENDA (Chile)	EMCDDA	Autumn 2023
8.4.	Forward the opinion of the Management Board on the EMCDDA final accounts 2022 to the European Court of Auditors	EMCDDA	By 1 July 2023