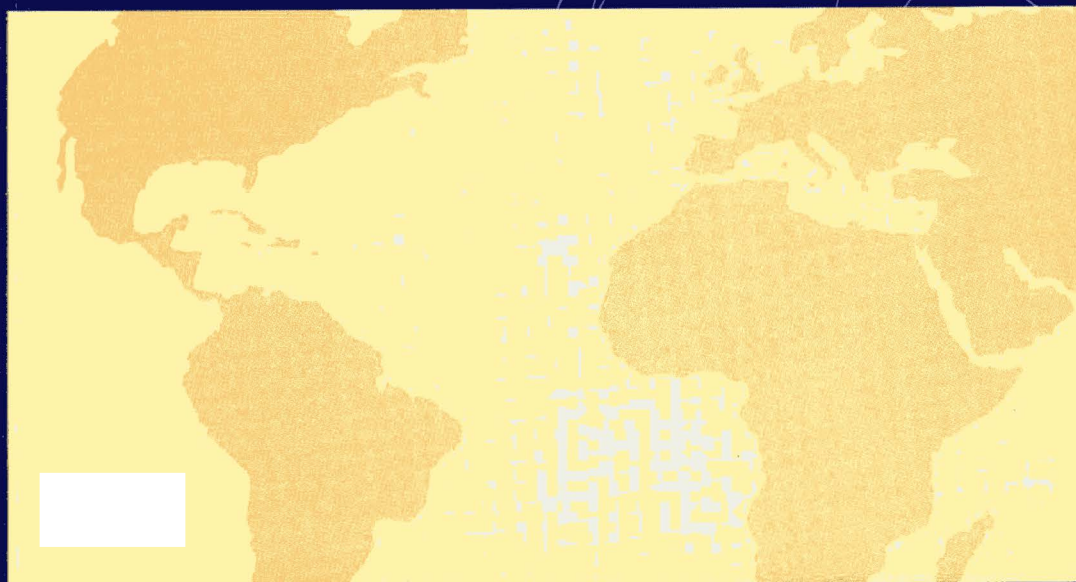


**Euro-Ibero American Seminar:
Cooperation on Drugs and Drug Addiction Policies**



Conference proceedings



**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**



E.M.C.D.D.A.
European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

**Euro-Ibero American Seminar:
Cooperation on Drugs and Drug Addiction Policies**

Conference proceedings

Author: Kathy Robertson, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

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Euro-Ibero American Seminar: Cooperation on Drugs and Drug Addiction Policies

The Euro-Ibero American Seminar: Cooperation on Drugs and Drug Addiction Policies took place in Oporto, Portugal, on 8 and 9 October 1998.

The seminar was held in the perspective of the Ibero-Latin American Summit convened in the same town from 16 to 18 October 1998, and the Summit of the Heads of State or Government of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean to take place in Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999.

The 'Oporto seminar' has its roots in a proposal made by His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic, Jorge Sampaio, in 1997 to the Heads of State or Government attending the seventh Ibero-Latin American Summit in Isla Margarita, Venezuela. The President proposed organising an event aimed at establishing and strengthening instruments of cooperation on drug policies between Latin America and the European Union.

The two-day seminar gathered over 200 participants from both sides of the Atlantic, including representatives of the Heads of State participating in the Ibero-Latin American Summit and renowned international experts selected by the Scientific Committee appointed to advise on the seminar's content.

The meeting identified new and better forms of cooperation between Latin America and the European Union in three areas: information on drugs; drug demand reduction and harm reduction; and cooperation between cities.

The seminar approved a series of recommendations in each of these areas and adopted as its final statement the 'Declaration of Oporto'. This declaration was welcomed by the subsequent Ibero-Latin American Summit and annexed to its conclusions.

It is hoped that the results of the Oporto seminar will inspire innovative and concrete future projects between the two regions.

Introduction

My approach in the field of drugs has always been to promote research, interdisciplinary analysis and dialogue between all those involved in the domain. A better understanding of the complexity and scale of the problem in each of our countries and throughout the world will, I am convinced, lead to the emergence of increasingly appropriate and consistent responses at both technical and policy levels.

However, as I have said on many occasions, there are no magic solutions to the problem of drug dependence which afflicts our societies today.

Much progress has been made in the level of knowledge of the phenomenon, but greater cooperation is still required between experts in the field and politicians the world over. The increasing activities of the European Union and the United Nations in addressing the drugs issue reflects a keen political awareness of the problem and a genuine and strong desire to cooperate at both European and international level.

It was in the light of these developments that I decided to promote this Euro-Ibero American Seminar as a specialised contribution to the Ibero-Latin American Summit which took place from 16 to 18 October in Oporto, Portugal. The seminar was organised in cooperation with the Portuguese Government, and with the support of the European Commission and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

The seminar was attended by representatives of the countries participating in the summit, as well as renowned experts in the drugs field. The event focused on, and I believe made a valuable contribution to, dialogue on the most effective means of cooperation between the European Union and Latin America in the areas of: information; demand reduction and harm reduction; and cooperation between cities.

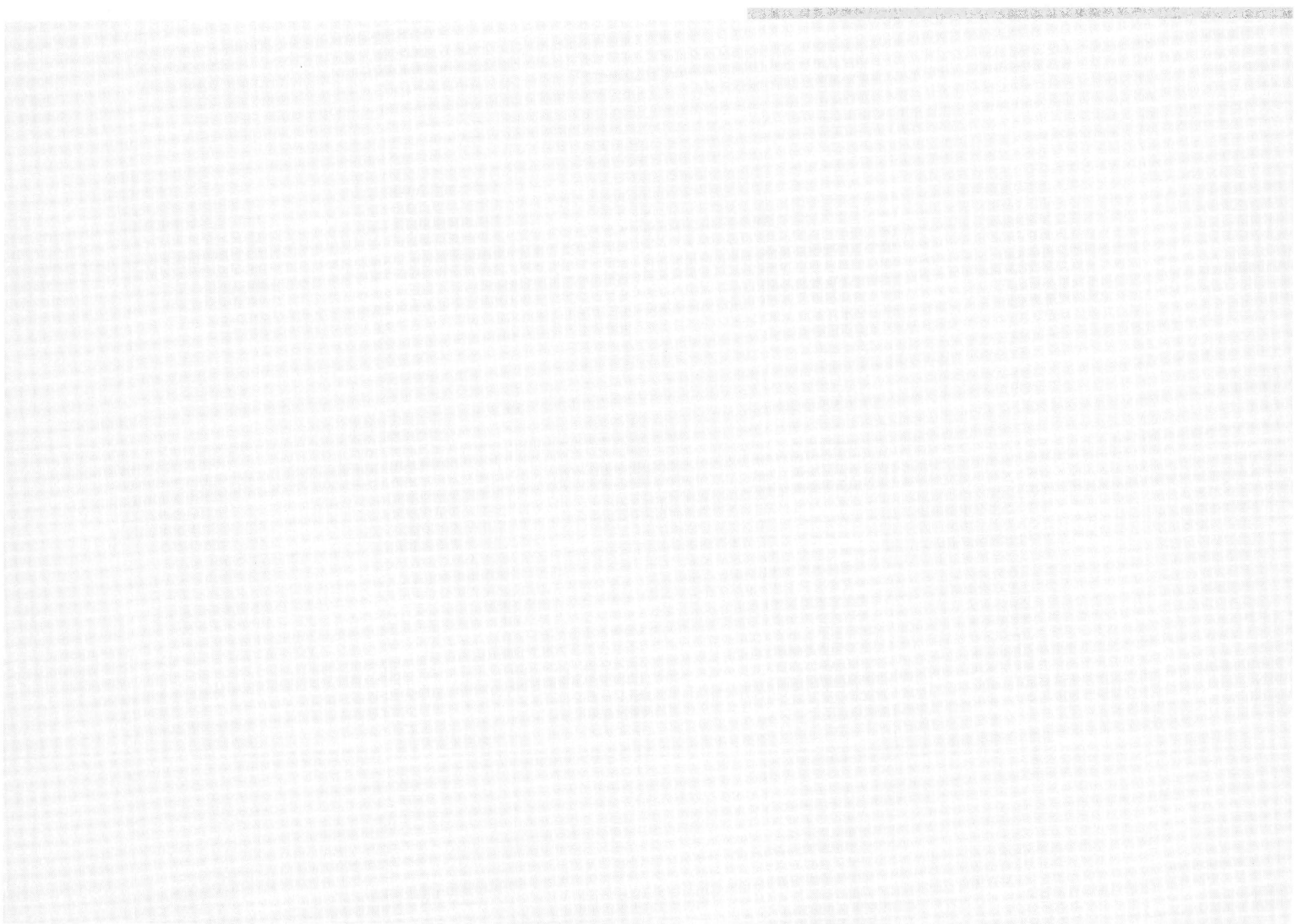
The conclusions of the seminar, which are set out in the 'Declaration of Oporto', paved the way for those responsible, in each of the countries concerned, to create a basis for understanding. It thus laid the foundations for future workable and constructive cooperation.

I trust that this cooperation will continue and will lead to positive results for the well-being of all our citizens.

His Excellency, the President of the Portuguese Republic,
Jorge Sampaio

Part 1

Opening and plenary sessions



Opening session

Highlights from the speeches by:

**His Excellency,
the Vice-President of the European Commission,
Manuel Marín González**

**His Excellency,
the Minister of State for Drugs of Venezuela,
President of the National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs,
Raúl Domínguez,**

**His Excellency,
the President of the Portuguese Republic,
Jorge Sampaio**

Highlights



His Excellency, the Vice-President of the European Commission, Manuel Marín González

Vice-President of the European Commission, Manuel Marín, opened his address in praise of the President of the Portuguese Republic, Jorge Sampaio, who, at the 1997 Ibero-Latin American Summit held in Isla Margarita, Venezuela, had obtained the support of leaders for an initiative to enhance cooperation and understanding on the theme of drugs between the Iberian peninsula and the countries of Latin America ⁽¹⁾. The Commissioner thanked: the President, the ‘initiator and unfailing promoter of the Oporto seminar’; the Portuguese Government, for its cooperation in the event; and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in Lisbon, whose ‘excellent work was already extending beyond European frontiers’.

The principle of ‘co-responsibility’ of producer and consumer nations was highlighted in the speech as the central theme of the European Union’s strategy to combat drugs. ‘The drugs problem is a global one, and solutions to it must also be so’, the Commissioner underlined, stressing that resolving the problem relied on constant dialogue between the two regions and a ‘balanced approach’ addressing both supply and demand. This concept of ‘co-responsibility’ had been coined in the context of the European Union’s dialogue with the Rio Group and had formed the basis of the Declaration of Cochabamba in 1996 ⁽²⁾. It had also achieved international recognition in June 1998 at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass) in New York.

In the context of international dialogue, the Commissioner explained that the European Union had always favoured a regional and multilateral approach, be this at the level of the United Nations, the Organisation of American States (OAS), or the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Turning to sustainable development, he noted that the European Union underlined economic and social integration as the ultimate objectives of development cooperation and drug policies. The problem of consumption and production would only be

⁽¹⁾ On the European side, the event was later extended beyond the Iberian peninsula to include the European Union in general.

⁽²⁾ Signed at the Summit of the Heads of State or Government of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 1996. For the Rio Group, see footnote 4.

resolved, he stressed, if economic and social marginalisation were reduced, especially in drug-producing countries.

In order to achieve these goals and to exchange views on drugs, the EU was making full use of existing forums for political dialogue with its regional partners in Latin America (e.g. the Andean Community, Central America, etc.). Furthermore, a new specialised mechanism for enhanced dialogue on drugs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean had been set up in 1998 and would be holding its first formal meeting in spring 1999 in Panama ⁽³⁾.

'In the international multilateral approach to the drugs problem, the European Union has always adopted the principle of co-responsibility as its starting point. The drugs problem is a global one, and solutions to it must also be so...'

The Commissioner informed that the European Commission was making full use of its instruments in the area of cooperation to support initiatives in the field of demand reduction, institution-building and alternative development. He outlined a number of measures

introduced by the European Union to encourage alternative development in drug-producing nations. These included the 'generalised system of preferences' which allowed 80 % of the agricultural and industrial production of Andean and Central American countries to access the European market duty-free.

Subsequently highlighted were the new initiatives being developed by the European Commission with Latin America including: a project using satellite technology to detect drug production in Colombia; an alternative development programme in Peru; and a social reintegration programme for young drug addicts in Venezuela. In the framework of the latter, the Commissioner indicated the willingness of the European Commission to support the creation of a National Drugs Monitoring Centre in Venezuela, to be extended in time to the Andean region in close cooperation with the EMCDDA in Lisbon. The speaker named regional cooperation as the only way to combat money laundering, to control precursors and to harmonise legislation. He suggested that the European experience could be studied by Latin American countries as a potentially interesting and beneficial model.

Finally, the Commissioner cited the Oporto seminar and the Summit of the Heads of State or Government of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean in Rio in June 1999 as great opportunities to strengthen the common vision of each region in the fight against drugs.

⁽³⁾ Agreement to establish this mechanism was reached during the British presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 1998. The mechanism is designed to deepen political will and technical dialogue between the regions involved, to enhance existing collaboration on drugs and to develop new areas of cooperation in the field. EMCDDA, *DrugNet Europe* No 13, page 4.

The speaker

From 1995 to date, Manuel Marín González (Spain) has been European Commissioner responsible for external relations with Latin America, southern Mediterranean countries, the Middle and Near East and Asia (except Japan, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan). From 1986 to date, he has been Vice-President of the European Commission.

The organisation

European Union initiatives

The European Commission has developed a number of instruments in Latin America to address the drugs issue. These fall into the following categories:

- **Political dialogue**

The EU maintains close dialogue with a number of countries and regions of Latin America, including the Andean Community, Central America and the Rio Group⁽⁴⁾. In the framework of its cooperation with the Andean Community and its 'High-level specialised dialogue on drugs', the Commission has held joint annual conferences since 1995. Political dialogue between the EU and the Rio Group includes a ministerial meeting every year. In particular, negotiations have led to the signing of the Declaration of Cochabamba (1996), in which the two parties agreed that 'co-responsibility' would be a basic principle in their efforts against drugs. Cooperation agreements have also been signed

between the EU and Mercosur, the San José Group, Mexico and Chile, all of which cover the drugs issue. Also under negotiation is a specialised forum for dialogue designed as a mechanism for coordination and cooperation between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean (see footnote 3).

- **Trade policy**

The EU's trade policy pays special attention to drugs under the EU generalised system of preferences (GSP) scheme. Initiated in 1990, this scheme grants the drug-producing Andean and Central American countries preferential commercial conditions for most industrial and agricultural exports, based on the commitment of the beneficiary countries to continue implementing policies conducive to sustainable development and the eradication of drug crops. A decision was taken in 1998 to continue the agriculture preferences until the end of 2001 in both regions and to grant industrial preferences for the first time to Central America. Thanks to the GSP system, up to 80 % of the agricultural and industrial production of these countries has duty-free access to the European Union market.

- **Financial and technical support for selected drug projects**

The EU has adopted an approach which links the issues of social exclusion and unemployment to the issue of drugs. This approach is reflected in its international co-operation policy, which supports prevention and treatment programmes, and in its North-South policy which

⁽⁴⁾ Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela); Rio Group (all countries of Latin America, including Mexico. The six Central American countries are observers); Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay); San José Group (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama).

promotes sustainable development in drug producing countries, based on the principles of co-responsibility and partnership. In recent years, the European Community has granted funds to demand reduction projects in all Latin American countries; financed two alternative development programmes in Bolivia and Peru; and offered technical assistance to the Andean countries to harmonise legislation, combat money laundering and control precursors.

European Union cooperation projects

In his presentation, Commissioner Marín enumerated the following three EU–Latin America cooperation projects which he considered particularly significant:

- ***Colombia: Support for soil mapping through remote sensing (EUR 8 million)***

The aim of this project, approved in October 1998, is to provide selected Colombian staff with specialised training in satellite reception methodologies. The project provides them with the capacity and the modern technology to gauge the evolution of illicit crops in the country. It also allows for the monitoring of environmental factors such as deforestation, water and soil contamination and of human settlements.

- ***Peru: Alternative development (EUR 28 million)***

This project, approved in December 1998, is undertaken in a very remote area of the country. Its aim is to

promote in-depth consultation with the local population to reach a consensus on reducing existing coca-growing areas. The project provides support for building infrastructure, enhancing the production of livestock and tropical products, and offering support for marketing and access to credit for farmers.

- ***Venezuela: Drug information system (EUR 1 960 500)***

This project focuses, on the one hand, on the reintegration of drug addicts (children and adults) and, on the other, the establishment of the first drug information system using uniform methodology, to be coordinated by the country's National Drug Monitoring Centre. The project partners will work in close cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Lisbon.

Other Community initiatives mentioned by Mr Marín were:

- ***Bolivia: Chaparé programme (EUR 30 million)***

Chaparé, a coca-producing region of Bolivia, has given its name to a European Commission-funded programme launched in the region in 1997 to reduce coca growing. The programme employs a philosophical and methodological approach based on open dialogue with the government, local authorities, NGOs, human rights organisations, coca growers, etc. The activities of the programme cover the coca-producing area itself as well as surrounding areas where workers are employed for harvesting the coca crops.

• *URB-AL programme*

URB-AL is a four-year project launched by the European Commission in December 1995 ⁽⁵⁾. Its aim is 'to develop direct and lasting partnerships between local participants in Europe and Latin America'. Under the programme, eight thematic networks ⁽⁶⁾ focus on issues of mutual interest, acting as permanent frameworks for cooperation and for the generation of joint projects co-financed by the European Commission. Programme participants include: towns and urban areas and regions of countries in Latin America and Europe. The programme is open to 33 countries.

A 'Drugs and towns' network was set up in November 1997 as a municipal platform for decentralised cooperation on drugs between Europe and Latin America. Coordinated by the municipality of Santiago, Chile, it aims to promote the transfer of experience, identify common priorities and set up mechanisms for tackling urban drug problems. These mechanisms include joint projects devised by network members to study and apply the pooled experiences exchanged at network meetings.

The European Union and North–South cooperation in the field of drugs

Community Regulation (EC) No 2046/97 of the Council (13 October 1997) defines the main principles, objectives and concrete modalities of North–South cooperation in the field of drugs and drug addiction. The main elements of this North–South programme are to promote or provide:

- priority support, at the request of the partner country, for the preparation of national plans in the campaign against drugs;
- prevention of drug addiction and demand reduction which should be the subject of a coherent policy that would include objective information on the consequences of drug addiction;
- support for specific operations in the areas of the development of adequate institutional capacities, demand reduction, the promotion of pilot alternative development projects and the possibility of financing studies, seminars and meetings that facilitate the exchange of experience in the above fields;
- participation of local people and target groups as well as cooperation in a spirit of dialogue.

⁽⁵⁾ For further information on the URB-AL programme, please contact: Jerome Poussiélgue, DG 1B, rue de la Science, 14–4/79, B-1049 Brussels. Tel. (32-2) 29-51229. Fax (32-2) 29-93941. To keep up to date with URB-AL developments and to subscribe to its 'Information circular', please contact the URB-AL Technical Secretariat, Avenue de Broqueville 116, Bte 9, B-1200 Brussels. Tel. (32-2) 775 93 00. Fax (32-2) 775 93 09. E-mail: secretariat@urb-al.com
Website: <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b/URB-AL/urb-al.htm> and <http://tips.org.uy/sai>
Information on URB-AL may also be obtained from the EC Delegations in Latin America and from the EC Information Offices in the Member States of the European Union.

⁽⁶⁾ The eight programme networks are: (1) Drugs and towns; (2) Conservation of historic urban contexts; (3) Democracy in towns; (4) The town as a promoter of economic development; (5) Urban social policies; (6) Urban environment; (7) Management and control of urbanisation; (8) Urban mobility.

For further information on the Drugs and towns network, please contact coordinator: Carlos Varas, Director de las Relaciones Internacionales, Alcaldía Santiago de Chile, Plaza de Armas s/n, Casilla 52-D, Santiago Chile. Tel. (56-2) 639 26 91. Fax (56-2) 631 19 62. Website: <http://www.urb-al.cl>

Useful publications

'The European Union and Latin America 1996–2000: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership'

Available at: <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b>

Contacts

For further information please contact:

European Commission

DG 1B, Latin America

Rue de la Loi 200

B-1049 Brussels

Tel: (32-2) 295 11 11.

Website: <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b>

Highlights



His Excellency, the Minister of State for Drugs of Venezuela, President of the National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs, Raúl Domínguez

The President of the Venezuelan National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs (Comisión Nacional contra el Uso Ilícito de las Drogas), Raúl Domínguez⁽⁷⁾, underlined the 'special significance' of the Oporto seminar for his country: first, because the President of Portugal had taken the 'relevant and valuable' initiative to hold such a seminar when visiting Isla Margarita, Venezuela, in 1997; and, second, because the seminar promoted cooperation in the international fight against drugs. On the latter, Minister Domínguez recalled the firm political commitment made by President of Venezuela Rafael Caldera in Isla Margarita that Latin America and Europe should join forces to reduce the drug problem.

As Minister of State for Drugs and President of the National Commission, the speaker outlined the main drug strategies and programmes in his country which, among others, covered the themes of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, research, customs control and monitoring money laundering. The Minister explained that all these areas were covered by the organic law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (*ley orgánica sobre sustancias estupefacientes y psicotrópicas*), a law enforced in 1984 and revised in 1993 to bring it in line with the gravity and sophistication of more recent drug-related offences⁽⁸⁾.

The Minister related that, in 1996, the National Commission had drawn up a strategic national plan against drugs (1997–2001), covering drug production, trafficking, consumption and money laundering, which conveyed the country's political vision on drugs for the next millennium. The most notable achievements of this plan, explained the speaker, fell under its prevention programme which promoted socio-educational processes in the family, school, community and workplace. In particular, the Minister singled out two educational campaigns: 'Shoulder-to-shoulder against drugs' (*La lucha cuerpo a cuerpo contra las drogas*),

(7) The Minister was President of the National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs from 1 July 1998 to 1 February 1999.

(8) This law provides the legal basis of the National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs. The law was amended in 1993 having, as its preparatory framework, the 1988 United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and meetings organised by the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

an initiative launched in 1997 primarily to stimulate family values; and 'Venezuela, nation against drugs: a pledge for life' (*Venezuela, territorio antidrogas: un compromiso por la vida*) designed to strengthen prevention initiatives and establish political policies and action plans. Other prevention initiatives coordinated by the Commission included 'Without drugs' (*Sin drogas*), a multimedia information system against illicit drug use created in 1996. Minister Dominguez added that regional anti-drug alliances had also been set up (composed of state governors, mayors, churches, communities, social groups, teachers and civil and security bodies) to reinforce national prevention efforts and promote a drug-free society.

'We are embarking on the journey towards an alliance which respects the territoriality, nationality and sovereignty of each country... This is an alliance to increase the participation of social organisations. An alliance to ennoble life and freedom. An alliance for peace.'

The Minister pointed out that, although Venezuela was not a drug-producing nation, it was highly sensitive and vulnerable to drug trafficking on account of its geographical position. For this reason, coordination between police organisations had been boosted and a Joint Coordination and Information Centre had been established to facilitate the exchange of intelligence between Latin America and the United States. Projects had also

been devised to deal with money laundering. In 1997, the Commission had launched an Intersectional Committee for the Prevention, Control and Monitoring of Money Laundering, while the Banks Supervisory Authority (BSA) had adopted a resolution on the same theme to prevent organised crime infiltrating the financial system.

Venezuela's commitment to the fight against drugs had been demonstrated over the years, said the Minister, via its support for international initiatives to control and monitor chemicals and precursors⁽⁹⁾. On a national level, Venezuelan ministries had signed a joint resolution in 1998 aimed at regulating imports, exports and internal marketing of chemical substances. Meanwhile, on a regional level, the country participated in the 'Orinoco module', a communications network project devised by the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse (CICAD) to facilitate the exchange of information between authorities controlling chemical precursors in the border areas of Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela. Although tighter mechanisms existed to minimise the diversion of precursors, the speaker underlined that permanent dialogue, improved vigilance and tighter international and regional control measures were still needed.

Minister Dominguez also focused on efforts by Venezuela to strengthen the justice system and to curb corruption. At the Summit of the Americas in Miami in 1994, President Caldera had proposed an Inter-American Convention against Corruption, finally adopted in 1996. The country also supported a proposal from the Latin American Summit of Presidents of Supreme Courts of Justice, held in Caracas in February 1998, for the creation of a Supranational Criminal Court. This

⁽⁹⁾ Minister Dominguez explained that the country had incorporated into its legislation the provisions of the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 UN Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

court would focus on dispensing justice in cases where the economic power and criminal acts of trafficking organisations transcended the jurisdictional ambit of individual nations. Mr Dominguez stated that international meetings such as the Oporto seminar were crucial for exchanging experience in the field of legislation and promoting reforms to facilitate judicial cooperation.

Finally the Minister turned to the subject of international cooperation in the field of drugs. In this context, he referred to an initiative being developed and sponsored by the European Union to establish a National Drugs Monitoring Centre in Caracas. Among the tasks of this body would be to: pool and analyse economic, social and other information related to drug use in Venezuela; carry out research; promote scientific publications on drugs; implement a national epidemiological survey; and set up a pool of European experts to provide technical and research assistance to specialists in Venezuela.

The Minister noted that Venezuela had incorporated into its national legislation the various agreements, resolutions and directives issued by international and regional organisations working on drugs. It had also signed over 30 general bilateral agreements against drug production, trafficking and consumption. He explained that his country pursued a balanced approach to drugs and proposed to develop, implement and evaluate a multilateral and sustainable cooperation strategy.

In the wake of the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs and other declarations issued at international forums, the Minister concluded by saying: 'We are embarking on the journey towards an alliance which respects the territoriality, nationality and sovereignty of each country'. This, he said, prioritised prevention, police capacity and the use of the latest technology to curb production and the financing of criminal organisations. He added: 'This is an alliance to increase the participation of social organisations. An alliance to ennobel life and freedom. An alliance for peace'.

The speaker

Raúl Dominguez was Minister of State and President of the National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs from July 1988 to February 1999. As Minister of State, Mr Dominguez represented Venezuela at several international forums in the field of drugs and coordinated action nationally in the framework of international agreements. In addition, Mr Dominguez coordinated governmental bodies involved in drawing up a joint resolution for the control of imports and exports of chemicals and precursors. He was also active in promoting joint governmental-NGO initiatives on topics such as human rights, security and drugs. Raúl Dominguez has published several works on law and society and has received numerous decorations.

The organisation

National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs, Venezuela

The Commission, based in Caracas, is the national organisation for planning public policies and State strategies against the production, traffic and illicit consumption of narcotics and psychotropic substances. Among its projects in the field of prevention are:

- ***Shoulder-to-shoulder against drugs (Cuerpo a cuerpo contra las drogas)***

This campaign, launched in 1997, aims to launch educational initiatives targeted at the home and schools with the aim of reinforcing family values.

• ***Venezuela, nation against drugs: a pledge for life (Venezuela, territorio antidrogas: un compromiso por la vida)***

Launched in 1997, this campaign is targeted at all sectors of society and aims to: strengthen family values; reinforce prevention initiatives; and draw up public policies to combat drugs.

• ***Without drugs (Sin drogas)***

This multimedia information system against illicit drug use was created in 1996 to provide specialised information

on the drug problem. The service is both national and international in scope and geared to prevention. *Sin drogas* forms part of IADIS, the Commission's Information and Documentation Centre linked to that of CICAD and the OAS. *Sin drogas* also includes a Centre for Digitalised Information which offers access via the Internet to databases in order to assist users wishing to plan prevention activities. Further information is available on the Internet at <http://www.sindrogas.ve.org/>. The service also has a telephone line (800 *Sin drogas*) for use by the public in Venezuela.

Useful publications

The following publications of the National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs are available from the address below:

- *Actuemos, Alternativas para la Prevención del Tráfico y Consumo de Drogas*. ISBN 980-614-744-8, 1995.
- *Primer Módulo Autoinstruccional, dirigido al Docente sobre el Problema social de la Producción, Tráfico y Consumo de Drogas*, ISBN 980-6147-43-X, 1992.
- *Compromiso Nacional Contra el Tráfico y Consumo de las Drogas 1992*, Dípticos y trípticos ilustrativos para la prevención del tráfico y consumo de drogas, en el ámbito laboral, estudiantil y familiar.
- 'Plan Estratégico Nacional 1997–2001, Venezuela Territorio Antidrogas Un Compromiso por la Vida'.

Contacts

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Highlights



His Excellency, the President of the Portuguese Republic, Jorge Sampaio

His Excellency, the President of the Portuguese Republic, Jorge Sampaio, thanked Commissioner Manuel Marín for his patronage of the Euro-Ibero American Seminar and welcomed national experts and personal representatives of the Heads of the Ibero-Latin American States. The President also acknowledged the presence of the representatives of international organisations who 'perform a constant and invaluable task' in the drugs field. He hoped that all participants would find the

'We must now make the drug problem a priority in relations between our countries. Political dialogue and cooperation have improved, but these relations must have a new scope because drugs are a real threat to the well-being and democratic stability of a number of Latin American countries. Europe and Latin America can cooperate in establishing new strategies with a broader, more multifaceted understanding of the problem.'

meeting a suitable environment in which to pursue their common goal, namely: better cooperation in drug policies in Europe and Latin America.

President Sampaio took participants back to the Ibero-Latin American Summit in Venezuela in 1997 where he had proposed that Latin American and European countries work together to combat the drug problem. This proposal originated from his firm conviction that such collaboration would contribute to the better understanding of drugs and drug addiction and limit their dramatic consequences. The President acknowledged the decisive role of the Portuguese Government, the European

Commission and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction in the realisation of the seminar and thanked them for their support.

'Drugs are a worldwide problem' stated President Sampaio, recalling the texts approved at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass) in June 1998. In particular, he referred to the 'promising' declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction, which encouraged countries to reduce the incidence of drug addiction. He also underlined the three main

principles upheld in New York — co-responsibility, international cooperation and solidarity — which were clearly present during the Oporto seminar.

The President affirmed: 'We must now make the drug problem a priority in relations between our countries. Political dialogue and cooperation have improved, but these relations must have a new scope because drugs are a real threat to the well-being and democratic stability of a number of Latin American countries. Europe and Latin America can cooperate in establishing new strategies with a broader, more multifaceted understanding of the problem'.

The President then called for a new social policy that would: prioritise prevention activities targeted at young people; encourage debate in society on goals to be met; make optimal use of objective information and multidisciplinary research; foster prevention programmes at local level; and encourage partnerships with NGOs. The President expressed his concern at the marginalisation of drug users and the growing public expenditure on drug-related problems.

Finally, President Sampaio referred to an increasingly blurred dividing line between producer countries (traditionally responsible for all evils) and consumer countries (historically the victims), a fact compelling nations to design a new common strategy. On this note, he expressed his faith in the work of the technical experts and participants at the seminar to build the foundations for wide-ranging collaboration that would increase the political and technical response to this dramatic problem.

The speaker

Throughout his term of office since 1996, President Sampaio has shown keen commitment to the drugs issue. In June 1997 in Lisbon, the Presidency organised its first meeting on the topic 'Drugs: Current Situation and New Strategies' with the participation of Portuguese and foreign experts. In 1998 at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs, the Portuguese Head of State reaffirmed his commitment to tackling the problem: 'There can be no fight against drugs without a firm, determined political will. This will require that we seriously and

courageously identify drugs as one of the major evils of our times, an evil we must all confront by calling on what is today an unequivocal and accepted notion of shared responsibility'.

From 1990–95, Jorge Sampaio was Vice-President of the Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities and President of the Union of Portuguese-speaking Capital Cities (*União das Cidades Capitais de Língua Portuguesa/UCCLA*). He was also President of the United Towns Organisation from 1992–95. From 1989–96, Jorge Sampaio was Mayor of Lisbon.

The organisation

Initiatives of the President of the Portuguese Republic in the field of drugs:

- Seminar on 'Drugs: Current Situation and New Strategies'
19 June 1997, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Euro-Ibero American Seminar: Cooperation on Drugs and Drug Addiction Policies
8 and 9 October 1998, Oporto, Portugal.

Useful publications

Drugs:

- *Droga: Situação e Novas Estratégias* (Drugs: Current Situation and New Strategies), Presidency of the Portuguese Republic, *Debates* series, 1997. Published in Portuguese. ISBN 97-27-0898-8.
- 'Euro-Ibero American Seminar: Cooperation on Drugs and Drug Addiction Policies', Presidency of the Portuguese Republic, *Debates* series, 1999. Multilingual volume.

(The above publications may be ordered from the Presidency of the Portuguese Republic — see contact details below.)

General:

In addition to a large number of articles on political issues for the Portuguese press, President Sampaio has published three books: the first two, *Portugueses I* and *II*, are collections of his political speeches (*Portugueses III* is in production); the third is *A look on Portugal*, containing his reflections on a number of contemporary issues.

Contacts

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Plenary session

Chaired by Professor Alexandre Quintanilha

Highlights from the speeches by:

**Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug
Addiction, Lisbon,
Georges Estievenart**

**Director of the José Félix Ribas Foundation, Venezuela,
Rosa del Olmo**

Highlights



**Director of the European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Lisbon,
Georges Estievenart**

Georges Estievenart, Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), thanked the President of the Portuguese Republic for the invitation to participate in the Scientific Committee of the seminar as well as Commissioner Manuel Marín for his patronage of the event and the support of the European Commission.

As Director of the European Union's agency responsible for monitoring the drug problem in the 15 Member States, Mr Estievenart provided a detailed overview of the epidemiological and demand-reduction aspects of the phenomenon in Europe as presented in its *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union — 1997* ⁽¹⁰⁾. The Director noted that cannabis continued to be the most commonly used drug in the EU (between 5 % and 30 % of the population had tried it at least once) yet heroin (although tried by only 1 %) continued to be the most significant of all illegal drugs in terms of: treatment demand; drug-related deaths; HIV infection; and social exclusion. He also pointed to a rise in the use of new synthetic drugs (e.g. ecstasy) in Europe since the advent of the 'rave' culture in the late 1980s, as well as an increase in the use of more traditional drugs, such as LSD and amphetamines.

In the field of demand reduction, the Director reported: an increase in funding in most EU countries (largely earmarked for prevention); growing professionalism among prevention workers; and increased evaluation of prevention activities. Also highlighted in the presentation were: the principle of harm reduction (which had contributed to the decrease in the spread of HIV since the mid-1990s in the most affected countries in the EU); and Europe's growing experience in the area of substitution treatments. Between 1993 and 1996, the total number of treatment services using methadone had almost doubled, while alternatives were being explored involving LAAM ⁽¹¹⁾, buprenorphine and prescription heroin. The development of socio-medical care in prisons and of alternatives to prison for drug

⁽¹⁰⁾ The 1998 *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union* was launched in December 1998 in Vienna, Austria.

⁽¹¹⁾ Levo-alpha-acetylmethadol.

offenders were also underlined. European nations generally recognise addiction as an illness, but the extent to which this perception pervades penal policy and practice varies from country to country.

Mr Estievenart outlined the history of the European Community in the international fight against drugs. The major milestones outlined were: the first European action

'The European Union, now followed by the international community, recognised in the final years of the last decade the importance of objective, reliable and comparable information on the drug phenomenon as a prerequisite for efficient strategies and plans against drugs. It was precisely this awareness that led the EU to set up the EMCDDA as a specialised agency in the field.'

plans to combat drugs (Rome 1990, Edinburgh 1992), which focused on global information, demand reduction and cooperation in the field of law enforcement; the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union in 1993, which for the first time gave the EU competence in the field of drugs (on three levels: public health; common foreign and security policy; and cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs); and the 1995–99 European action plan to combat drugs, which introduced a comprehensive and global EU approach to the phenomenon. Mr Estievenart explained that

the EU tackled drugs on two levels: at Community level (information, public health, prevention of money laundering and the diversion of chemical precursors, North–South cooperation); and at intergovernmental level (through Member State cooperation). Community drug-related initiatives were complemented by the EMCDDA, in the area of information, and by the intergovernmental organ Europol, in the area of law enforcement. The 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam, to be ratified in 1999 in the various Member States, would strengthen the provisions of the Maastricht Treaty further. Its entry into force would represent a step forward in the fight against drugs in the field of public health, via the introduction of prevention measures in the domain of law enforcement, and in the field of international cooperation, via reinforced collaboration in the fight against illicit drug trafficking.

The speaker then examined possibilities for cooperation in the three areas of the seminar: information on drugs; drug demand reduction and harm reduction; and cooperation between cities. Regarding the areas of potential interest to Latin America, he pinpointed the Centre's work on: harmonised epidemiological indicators; data-collection and risk assessment of new synthetic drugs; an electronic information system on drug demand reduction activities (EDDRA); evaluation of prevention; experience in the field of substitution treatments; alternatives to prison; assistance and treatment for drug-addicted prisoners; support for social and professional reinsertion; and studies on drugs and urban petty crime.

Mr Estievenart concluded that the Oporto seminar offered Latin Americans and Europeans alike the chance to build a solid framework of cooperation on the drug problem. This cooperation would be centred on scientific information; demand reduction; and integrated action at the scene where drug addiction is most evident, the city. He encouraged the participants to take this opportunity to fertilise possible areas of cooperation in the three areas of the seminar and emphasised that such an

opportunity was also a challenge, giving full strength to the political initiative taken by President Jorge Sampaio in Isla Margarita in 1997. Mr Estievenart hoped that the recommendations drawn up at the seminar 'on a technical level' would find a political channel at the Summit of the Heads of State or Government of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean in Rio de Janeiro in 1999, as well as an operational channel through the new cooperation mechanism between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The speaker

Georges Estievenart has been Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction since July 1994. From 1993–94 he was Head of the Drugs and Drug Monitoring Centre Unit at the Secretariat-General of the European Commission. From 1990–91 he was Head of the Drugs Unit of the European Communities, responsible for general coordination on drugs. From 1989–90 he was Head of the Environment Unit at the Commission's Directorate for External Relations and was responsible for the environment, drugs and international cooperation. Georges Estievenart has written a number of books including: *Towards a new model for North–South cooperation I — Elements of a plan for cooperation EEC–Central America*, Brussels, 1987; *Towards a new model for North–South cooperation IV — Europe and North–South cooperation in the field of drugs*, Brussels, 1987 and *The role of the European Community in the fight against drugs*, European Commission, Brussels, 1990–91.

The organisation

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is the heart of drug-related information

in the European Union. Set up by the European Council in 1993, the Centre is one of 11 independent European Community agencies developing scientific or technical know-how in particular fields. The Centre's mandate is to provide the European Community and its Member States with 'objective, reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences'. The EMCDDA provides Europe's policy-makers and practitioners working on drugs with the information they need to take appropriate action and decisions on drugs and related problems. The EMCDDA's work focuses uniquely on the field of information.

The Centre's main tasks are: collecting and analysing existing information on drugs; improving data-comparison methods; disseminating this information; and cooperating with European and international bodies and organisations and with non-EU countries. The Centre's work focuses on several aspects of the drug problem: demand and reduction of the demand for drugs; national and Community strategies and policies; international cooperation and the geopolitics of supply; control of the trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors; and implications of the drugs phenomenon for producer, consumer and transit countries.

Useful publications

The publications produced by the EMCDDA are presented annually in its publications catalogue. These publications include:

- *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union*, a unique and invaluable overview of all drug-related issues in Europe.
- *General Report of Activities*, a detailed annual account of the work of the EMCDDA as set out in its annual work programme.
- *DrugNet Europe*, a bimonthly newsletter providing regular reports on the Centre's activities.
- Scientific monographs, collections of papers targeted at the scientific and academic community, European and international organisations and the specialised scientific press.
- *Insights*, a series of pocket-book publications conveying the findings of EMCDDA research or covering 'hot topics' in response to public or institutional demands.
- *Manuals*, a series of practical guides on drug-related topics.

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Highlights



**Director of the José Félix Ribas Foundation,
Venezuela, Rosa del Olmo**

Rosa del Olmo expressed her appreciation at having been invited to participate in the Scientific Committee of the seminar and to present an overview of 'Drugs and information in Latin America' ⁽¹²⁾. She began by stating that: 'Information must be the basic reference point for formulating policies and taking decisions'. She added, however, that in Latin America the reality over the years had rather been a 'lack of information' and even 'disinformation', largely because the history of drugs in the region had never been formally recorded.

The speaker recalled how the so-called 'drugs problem' had first come to the fore in Latin America in the 1970s. Accounts in the media had focused on young people and drugs (especially marijuana), yet these reports essentially reflected problems in the United States and created stereotyped images based on perceived threats rather than on actual reality. These media reports did lead, however, to the first drug laws and national drug commissions being set up in Latin America, as well as the region's first epidemiological studies and research.

Rosa del Olmo pointed to a marked change in information on drugs in the 1980s with the focus shifting from youth and marijuana to drug trafficking and cocaine. This again reflected concerns in the US, where cocaine had become a problem both in terms of its consumption and its financial and political effects. As the producer region, Latin America was saddled with the blame for these problems. In response to political pressure from the US, and concerned by threats to the democracy and national security of their own nations (along with the possibility of an upsurge in demand), Latin American leaders joined forces to tackle the problem. Their priorities included demand reduction, crop eradication, destruction of laboratories and prevention of trafficking. Meanwhile, a number of newly created NGOs were concentrating on prevention efforts, although their activities at the time had no scientific basis, illustrating a gap between research and practice. From the late 1980s to the mid-1990s, reliable information on the prevalence of drug use in Latin America became a priority for international organisations where hitherto

⁽¹²⁾ The full written presentation is available in English ('Drugs and information in Latin America') and Spanish ('Drogas y información en América Latina') by e-mail from the EMCDDA at: info@emcdda.org

information had focused on production. This illustrated a new perception of the problem in the region and reflected the concepts of 'co-responsibility' and 'globalisation'.

The presentation then examined the specific contexts in which information on drugs had been generated in Latin America, as well as the attempts over the last 25

'Information must be the basic reference point for formulating policies and taking decisions.'

years at international and inter-American cooperation in the field. In an historical overview, the speaker pinpointed organisations which had marked the beginning of inter-American cooperation in the drugs field. These included the Mexican Drug Addiction

Studies Centre (Centro Mexicano de Estudios en Farmacodependencia/CEMEF), set up in 1972 to provide scientific training to researchers and promote epidemiological studies on drug addiction, and the Network for Information on Drug Addiction in Latin America (*Red de Información sobre Farmacodependencia en America Latina/RIFAL*), a web of regional offices created in 1975 to document and facilitate access to reliable information on drugs⁽¹³⁾. Also noteworthy was the regional treaty, the South American Agreement on Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (*Acuerdo Sudamericano sobre Estupefacientes y Psicotrópicos/ASEP* 1977–86)⁽¹⁴⁾. ASEP's work on legislation, monitoring drug trafficking, and prevention, treatment and rehabilitation constituted the first efforts at inter-American cooperation on drugs from the medical and legal viewpoint.

Rosa del Olmo focused next on the Organisation of American States (OAS) which, in 1984, at the height of the US Government's 'war on drugs', became the main organisation promoting anti-drug policies in the inter-American system. At a Special Inter-American Conference on Drug Trafficking, convened by the organisation in Rio de Janeiro early in 1986, OAS Member States approved the inter-American programme of action of Rio de Janeiro against the illicit use and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and traffic therein. Among others, this programme recommended the creation of an Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (*Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas/CICAD*)⁽¹⁵⁾. The programme was formally adopted later that year at the OAS General Assembly in Guatemala City, where the 'Alliance of the Americas against drug trafficking' was signed and formally called for the launch of CICAD. This organisation was finally established in 1986 to develop, coordinate, evaluate and monitor the measures set out in the Rio inter-American programme of action. CICAD soon became the competent authority for the analysis of drug addiction in the region. Today it works in the five fields of demand reduction, institutional strengthening of national drug-control commissions, legal development, inter-American drug-information systems, and supply reduction, although a plethora of other activities are undertaken within each category.

⁽¹³⁾ CEMEF and RIFAL ceased to exist in 1976 following a change of government.

⁽¹⁴⁾ The 10 participating countries of ASEP were: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Information on CICAD (Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission) and its activities are available at <http://www.oas.org/en/prog/cicad.html>. Projects in the area of information and demand reduction include: the inter-American drugs information system (IADIS); the inter-American telecommunications system for drug control (Sitcod) and the Quito inter-American programme: Comprehensive education to prevent drug abuse.

The role of the Pan-American Health Organisation (*Organización Panamericana de la Salud/OPS*)⁽¹⁶⁾ in implementing the Rio inter-American programme of action was also underlined in the presentation. The speaker described in particular the OPS' regional programme for monitoring the abuse of drugs, designed to evaluate local and regional data systems on drugs, as well as its close links with CICAD in promoting research, estimating prevalence of drug use and devising subregional actions in the area of epidemiology. The speaker also emphasised the number of subregional projects designed to increase epidemiological monitoring⁽¹⁷⁾.

Rosa del Olmo went on to report the interest in recent years in forming groups of regional experts on demand reduction. At the initiative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the OPS and CICAD, a governmental Experts' Forum on the Reduction of Drug Abuse in Latin America was formed in 1994 in São Paulo to improve data collection. In December 1994, the Drug Prevention Network of the Americas (DPNA) was set up at the World Forum of Non-Governmental Organisations on Demand Reduction in Bangkok. Its purpose was to promote healthy drug-free lifestyles and non-abuse of legal drugs, and to support UN conventions on the use of psychotropic substances. An Experts' Group on Demand Reduction at governmental level was also set up by CICAD in 1997 which promoted the need for epidemiological research and evaluation.

Finally, the speaker presented an epidemiological information map of a number of countries in Latin America. Although the map was still incomplete (either due to a lack of studies or no tradition in publishing results), the speaker reported a growing interest since the early 1990s of carrying out epidemiological research on drug use in the region. Thanks to the cooperation of a growing number of highly qualified specialists and the CICAD's *First Report of the Inter-American System of Uniform Data on the Consumption of Drugs*, some clear trends could be discerned.

To close, Rosa del Olmo highlighted a number of obstacles and questions to be addressed if information on drugs in Latin America were to be improved. These included: the difficulty of organising samples in countries which do not have regular population censuses; and the scarcity of staff trained to carry out surveys. Meanwhile, the questions to be addressed included: What type of information is available on drug use in Latin America? Up to what point can this type of source be relied upon to offer complete information? Does the method used to compile and analyse this information make sense in the Latin American context? The speaker concluded with a quote from the EMCDDA's *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union* (1995): 'it is not so much *what* we know but *how* we know it, breaking this down into three major components: availability, quality and compatibility'.

⁽¹⁶⁾ Further information is available at <http://www.paho.org/>. Tel. (1-202) 974 30 00.

⁽¹⁷⁾ These included: the sub-regional action plan for regional comprehensive education to prevent drug abuse for Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (1990); and the prevention of drug abuse: Initiative for the Atlantic coast of Central America (1997).

The speaker

Rosa del Olmo was President of the José Félix Ribas Foundation (Fundación José Félix Ribas) from 1994 to January 1999, while her earlier career spanned university teaching and crime prevention. With a degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin, a Masters in criminology from the University of Cambridge and a PhD in social sciences from the Universidad Central de Venezuela, she lectured in Mexico, Spain and the US and worked at the Crime Prevention Directorate of Venezuela's Ministry of Justice.

Rosa del Olmo has published 17 books including: *La Sociopolitica de las drogas* (1975–85), Caracas: Ediciones FACES/UCV; *América Latina y su criminología* (1981/84/87), Mexico D.F.: Siglo XXI Editores and *¿Prohibir o domesticar: Las políticas de drogas en América Latina?* (1992), Caracas: Editorial Nueva Sociedad (in Spanish).

The organisation

José Félix Ribas Foundation

The José Félix Ribas Foundation is a non-profit-making organisation established by the Venezuelan Government in 1986 and operating within the Ministry for the Family. Based in Caracas, the organisation operates in the areas of research, prevention and treatment for drug users. Among the Foundation's objectives are: conceptualising and executing research on drug use in Venezuela; providing users with access to systematic, up-to-date information on the subject; devising strategies to improve the quality of life of communities; and providing special care to individuals or families experiencing problems related to drug use.

Useful publications

Regular information on the activities of the Foundation may be obtained via its monthly newsletter, *Boletín informativo*, available at:
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Part 2

Statements by the representatives of the States participating in the Ibero-Latin American Summit

**Chaired by Alexandre Rosa,
National Coordinator of the programme for the prevention of
drug addiction — Projecto VIDA, Portugal**

Introduction

This session was opened by Alexandre Rosa, National Coordinator of the programme for the prevention of drug addiction — Projecto VIDA, Portugal, who welcomed the representatives of the participating States of the Ibero-Latin American Summit. Mr Rosa invited the speakers to make brief interventions on the state of the drug problem in their country in the context of the global drug phenomenon.

The 14 countries present were: Argentina; Bolivia; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; El Salvador; Mexico; Panama; Peru; Portugal; Spain; Uruguay; and Venezuela ⁽¹⁸⁾. The representatives spoke in alphabetical order.

All representatives thanked the Portuguese President for his initiative to convene the Oporto seminar which had given countries the opportunity to collaborate on a topic of concern to citizens the world over.

The speakers agreed that the drugs issue was a global one — concerning all five continents to a greater or lesser degree — and, as such, it required a global response. There could no longer be talk of individual nations, they agreed, and henceforth countries, large and small, had to work together towards a common goal in mutual respect for domestic sovereignty.

The majority of speakers looked back to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass) in June 1998 and to the concepts of cooperation, co-responsibility and solidarity it had promoted. Referring to the language coined at the Ungass and other international forums in recent years, the representatives affirmed that a ‘common language’ had developed which constituted a major step forward in the global campaign against drugs. It was now time to move from words to action, however, in the perspective of the new millennium.

⁽¹⁸⁾ The following States did not send representatives to the seminar: Belize; Brazil; Ecuador; French Guyana; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras; Nicaragua; Paraguay; and Suriname.

Argentina

Eduardo Amadeo

Secretary of State for the Programming and Prevention of Drug Addiction and the Fight Against Drugs

The representative of Argentina, Eduardo Amadeo, began by describing drugs as ‘a global problem which required a global response’. He noted that a ‘common language’ on the issue had developed in Latin America over the years, both in the framework of regional agreements and the work of the Organisation of American States (OAS). It was this ‘common language’ to which the President of Argentina had referred at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass) in June 1998 and which represented for the nation a firm basis on which to build.

‘We come from a region with differences: economic differences but also differences regarding the consumption and production of drugs. It is precisely these differences that unite us...’

However, the speaker underlined that despite a common language and political will to address the drugs issue, Latin American countries were still experiencing difficulties in achieving consensus and a ‘balanced approach’ to drugs. This was due to the many differences between nations both in terms of economics and levels of drug consumption and production, he explained.

Nevertheless, Eduardo Amadeo stressed

that it was these very differences that united the region and motivated it to consolidate a system for tackling drugs based on joint activities. He cited as a starting point the creation of a multilateral assessment mechanism for Latin America being developed by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Organisation of American States (OAS).

In the area of prevention, Eduardo Amadeo outlined Argentina’s three-pronged strategy against drugs which comprised: increasing social awareness (raising public awareness); consolidating social capacity (strengthening prevention networks); and reinforcing the country’s administrative capacity (training civil servants). In the field of treatment, he encouraged quality programmes, including those targeted at prison populations. Furthermore, on supply reduction, money laundering and legislation, respectively, the speaker called for: an integrated control system in Latin America linked to other world regions; increased financial information units to counter money laundering and tax havens; and harmonised legislation and intelligence to eradicate judicial havens. For the Argentinian Government, the political will to tackle drugs was well established, affirmed the speaker, but an agenda for cooperation was still required. Eduardo Amadeo concluded with an appeal to richer countries, both inside and outside the region, to invest in qualifications, human capital and social networks in countries which had less resources.

Bolivia

Sergio Medinaceli

*Vice-Minister for Prevention and Rehabilitation of the
Ministry of the Government*

'The Bolivian strategy for the fight against drug trafficking aims to break the coca-cocaine circuit by wiping out illegal coca leaf production by the year 2002 and by reducing drug consumption... Bolivia proposes a world alliance to combat drugs and the creation of a Consultative Group for the Evaluation, Coordination and Multilateral Control of Drugs.'

The representative of Bolivia, Sergio Medinaceli, presented a broad report of the results achieved by his government in 1998 in the framework of the Bolivian strategy for the fight against drug trafficking (*estrategia boliviana de lucha contra el narcotráfico*). In particular, he highlighted important developments introduced for the improved functioning of judicial bodies, including the creation of:

a public ombudsman, designed to defend citizens and their rights; a Council of the Judiciary, to improve the administration of justice by evaluating the proficiency of judges and magistrates and assessing their political neutrality; and finally a Constitutional Court, set up to safeguard the political constitution of the State.

With regard to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass), the speaker recalled the proposals made on that occasion by the President of Bolivia, General Hugo Banzer Suarez, which were oriented towards: the pursuit of a world alliance to combat drugs, as a concrete

expression of the shared responsibility of all nations; and the creation of a Consultative Group for the Evaluation, Coordination and Multilateral Control of Drugs, intended to secure the required resources and means to support countries resolved to fighting drug trafficking (outside unilateral agreements).

Furthermore, Sergio Medinaceli summarised the activities carried out in Bolivia under the four pillars constituting the national drugs strategy: alternative development; eradication of coca crops; prevention; and the prohibition of the production and exportation of cocaine and the importation of chemicals. Under the first pillar, activities were designed to achieve sustainable development in areas affected by the coca-cocaine circuit and to reduce the negative economic effects on those involved in coca-leaf production. Under the second pillar, efforts focused on eliminating the supply of raw materials used in the production of cocaine and its derivatives by 2002. Meanwhile, on the theme of prevention, educational programmes were being developed to mobilise the community, raise awareness and rehabilitate addicts in response to a worrying rise in drug consumption and the result of recent research work which had demonstrated that cocaine paste and cocaine hydrochloride were spreading to rural areas and were taking firm root in the cities. The fourth and final pillar, under which excellent results had been

achieved in 1998, included measures to counter drug production, trafficking and imports of chemical substances. It also aimed to dismantle organisations involved in the production, harvesting and transport of the coca leaf, the refining and exportation of cocaine, and money laundering.

Finally, the speaker called for greater international cooperation with regard to financial resources, to enable his country to implement programmes and projects established by the Bolivian strategy for the fight against drug trafficking, for which USD 700 million was needed for the next four years.

Chile

Belisario Velasco

Under-Secretary of State for Interior Affairs

The representative of Chile, Belisario Velasco ⁽¹⁹⁾, declared that the growing demand for illegal drugs in some parts of the world had led to increased production and trafficking in others, creating a greater need for international cooperation. In response, governments had pooled efforts to identify the root of the problem, nations had diverted resources earmarked for their development to fighting drugs, and the United Nations had held a General Assembly Special Session devoted to the topic.

‘With loyalty and solidarity in the fight against drugs, countries will be in a better position to eradicate the problem and to build a better world to the benefit of all.’

The speaker stated that to solve the drugs problem — which affected all five continents to a greater or lesser degree — countries had to work together in a relationship of mutual trust, solidarity and reciprocal assistance, with full respect for domestic rights and sovereignty. It was applying these principles that Chile had been implementing multilateral, bilateral and unilateral agreements on drugs since

democracy had been restored in the country in 1990. Since 1993, the Chilean Government had also been instituting its own policy and national plan for drug prevention and control and had adopted a balanced approach to the drug phenomenon. The speaker explained that Chile was committed to strengthening links with Europe and to ensuring that Latin America did not ‘enter the 21st century with 19th century attitudes’. In April 1998, the second Summit of the Americas had been held in Chile where the Heads of State or Government of 34 Latin American nations had approved, among others, an action plan on the prevention and control of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

Belisario Velasco underlined the need for a multisectoral approach to drugs involving civil society and the business world, particularly in the area of prevention and the development of the American hemisphere’s anti-drug strategy, adopted by the Organisation of American States (OAS) in 1996 in Montevideo, Uruguay. He declared that Chile welcomed an exchange of experience on the education of vulnerable groups and the rehabilitation of drug users, and embraced cooperation in the area of legislation and drug-related crime. The speaker concluded by stating that Chile would continue to work with the international community to improve the quality of life at the level of the family and society. With loyalty and solidarity in the fight against drugs, he said, countries would be in a better position to eradicate the problem and to build a better world to the benefit of all.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Belisario Velasco is currently Ambassador of Chile to Portugal.

Colombia

Rubén Olarte Reyes

National Drugs Director

The representative of Colombia, Rubén Olarte Reyes, stated that one of the major challenges for the international community in the 21st century would be facing the worldwide drug problem with greater efficiency. Efforts to date had been oriented towards: law enforcement; strengthening justice; reducing supply; eliminating drug trafficking; and reducing the impact of drugs on the environment, the economy and citizens. What needed to be addressed now, he said, were the social repercussions of the problem, such as how it affected the lives of individuals both in the cities and the countryside.

'This effort to substitute illicit crops in the small-scale peasant lands must be inserted in the mainstream development of the country. We must take advantage of our human capital, improve basic services and encourage production of competitive agricultural products. We must work together to develop the nation... But all this effort will only have an impact if international markets open up.'

The speaker stated that the increase in demand for drugs in recent years had brought with it an increase in supply, a fact which had made Colombia one of the world's largest drug-producing nations. As such, the country had had to assume the institutional, economic, social and political consequences of drugs on its domestic development. In rural areas, environmental destruction, terrorism and violence were also well-known features of illicit drug production. The speaker added that, over the last decade, illicit crops had

become more important in indigenous areas due to the progressive closure of international markets to traditional products, a process having devastating effects on Colombian farmers.

Mr Reyes informed that the Colombian Government had launched crop eradication and substitution activities as well as initiatives to reintegrate peasant farmers into normal rural life. He underlined that alternative development had to become part of mainstream development if Colombia were to prosper. Under the national alternative development programme (1995–98) some 18 000 families had been assisted with an investment of USD 98 million while, in the period to 2002, a further 35 000 families would be assisted with an investment of USD 214 million. The speaker stressed that the country also had to make the most of its human capital, improve services and market competitive agricultural products in order to grow. This would only impact on the problem, however, if global markets opened up to the country's products. Finally the speaker affirmed that, in order to leave a 'drug-free legacy to our children', countries had to share responsibility for reducing both supply and demand. In particular, sufficient attention had to be devoted to social reintegration and assistance in rural areas and to sustainable development. The speaker concluded with the words of Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez, hoping that the country would not live another 'hundred years of solitude'.

Costa Rica

Jorge Revollo Franco

Minister, Embassy of Costa Rica, Portugal

The representative of Costa Rica, Jorge Revollo Franco ⁽²⁰⁾, affirmed that at the end of the 20th century, mankind had to forsake individualism and counteract modern-day problems in association with others, building mechanisms not only to protect himself but also his neighbours. The drug phenomenon was one problem in particular which called for urgent cooperation.

'Today mankind is obliged to forsake individualism and opt for team decisions as the only option to counteract the danger of drugs.'

The speaker explained that, because of its geographical position, Costa Rica, had become a transit point for drugs bound for other parts of the world. As part of its overall drugs strategy, the country had thus boosted efforts to halt drug trafficking and tackle money laundering. As a result of these efforts, eight tonnes of drugs had been seized in Costa Rica in 1997 and, in the same

year, a Costa Rican law on psychotropic substances, had been adopted involving financial institutions in the control of suspicious bank transactions. The above law also provided for the proper administration of confiscated goods (property, etc.) including the investment of the accumulated revenue seized in anti-drug activities, particularly those related to education and law enforcement.

Finally, the speaker presented the remaining elements of Costa Rica's drug strategy: prevention (including demand and harm reduction) and rehabilitation. Citing prevention as the starting point, he highlighted 'Walking along the way', an educational project targeting secondary school students aimed at promoting decision-making and self esteem. Regarding rehabilitation, the speaker reported on the government's plans to strengthen organisations providing assistance to drug users, although the level of consumption in the country remained relatively low. Mr Revollo Franco ended with an appeal for continued international strategies against drugs, a phenomenon which was robbing mankind of its dignity.

⁽²⁰⁾ Jorge Revollo Franco is currently Consul of Costa Rica in Los Angeles.

Cuba

Renen Quirós Pérez

Assistant to the Minister for Justice

The representative of Cuba, Renen Quirós Pérez, stressed that drugs were one of the most serious problems facing mankind on the eve of the 21st century. Drug trafficking and consumption had increased enormously in recent decades, he said, and over the last 10 years, the world production of opium and cocaine had doubled and tripled respectively. Also on the rise was drug-related crime and the dimensions of the traffic in illicit drugs which now represented approximately 8 % of world trade.

'So if the rich and poor countries are interested in fighting against drugs, it is neither fair nor possible that solutions be put in the hands of each country in isolation.'

The speaker stated that the process of neo-liberal globalisation had allowed drug producers and traffickers to become organised at world level, invest their income and launder money. Countering this force thus required strong financial clout which developing countries did not have (over and above debt repayments, these countries are

obliged to devote between 10 and 15 % of their national budgets to crime prevention and control). Consequently countries could not work in isolation, and, without the assistance of developed countries, the drug trade would continue to grow. The key to fighting the drug trade, the speaker proposed, was international cooperation based on respect for the sovereignty and internal affairs of States. He also called for cooperation policies covering areas as diverse as: technology; legal matters; prevention; rehabilitation; social reintegration of drug users; exchange of scientific information; and the supply of human and material resources.

The speaker reported that Cuba had demonstrated its will to join the international effort to combat drugs by signing the three major international UN Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988, although drug crimes and consumption were not serious social problems in Cuba. It had also signed cooperation agreements with 18 countries and was negotiating with a further 23. Other developments included the creation of a Cuban national drug committee in 1989 and the development of active surveillance technology to prevent drug trafficking through the country. The speaker noted, however, that Cuba was fighting drugs under difficult financial and economic conditions brought about by the 40-year blockade on the country. Nevertheless, it was committed and open to countering drugs in cooperation with other countries, in order to achieve success for humankind in the third millennium.

El Salvador

Jorge Alberto Carranza Alvarez

Vice-Minister for Public Security

The representative of El Salvador, Jorge Alberto Carranza Alvarez, stated that although his country was the smallest in Central America, and did not share the features of the large producer countries, it was nevertheless a consumer country and thus shared responsibility with other nations for the drug problem. Although drugs remained a threat, the very recognition of 'co-responsibility' and the presence of drugs on the political agendas of Europe and Latin America represented considerable progress, he said.

'I believe that links between Latin America and Europe are both necessary and indispensable. Experience may be brought to us (especially to Central America) by European countries. It is an important exercise. But likewise, there are many agents and many experts from our own countries, however small they may be, who can offer support to the larger countries on the basis of their particular experience... The only way we can undertake this battle against drugs is through cooperation between all of us, countries small and large.'

the seminar and stressed the contribution that experts from smaller countries of Latin America could make based on their own concrete experiences. He concluded by saying that cooperation between all countries, small and large, was the key to solving the drugs problem. On that note, he encouraged countries to work towards a multilateral assessment programme for Latin America undertaken globally.

For its part, El Salvador had established a national drug committee and was participating, within the framework of the Organisation of American States (OAS), in the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), specifically the implementation of its 'strategy for the hemisphere' project. The speaker also informed that El Salvador had signed a memorandum of understanding in Central America, under the auspices of the UN, and was developing its own national drugs plan. Furthermore, it was drafting a law against money laundering based on the experience of Panama and Costa Rica, which shared similar problems.

Finally, the speaker underlined that drugs were an issue that had to be fought globally. He welcomed the presence of European experts at the

Mexico

Haydée Rosovsky

Technical Secretary, National Council against Addictions

The representative of Mexico, Haydée Rosovsky, stated that the advent of the third millennium provided countries with a propitious opportunity to evaluate successes and failures in relation to the fight against drugs and to consider future tasks. The speaker noted that although drugs were a global problem and old distinctions between producer and consumer countries were no longer valid, different countries faced very different challenges. For some, she explained, the weight of the problem

'We have to expand our understanding of the problem, we cannot ignore those who are on the other side of the spectrum. The problem is not drugs, but the addicts who are suffering. So our main concern must be to tackle the disease.'

was the extent of drug abuse and serious drug-related public health problems. For other countries, the main negative impact was on political and economic development, public safety and, at times, the very stability of institutions and governments. Hence, besides the international collaborative actions needed, societies had to face the specific challenges posed by drugs with specific measures.

In order to broaden individuals' understanding of the problem, societies had to look at drugs beyond the mere perspective of illicit substances and their control (whether in terms of supply or demand), the speaker said. Drug users suffering from the serious illness of addiction had to receive assistance and the necessary means for recovery. People, especially the young, families and communities, all had to be involved in achieving better protection from drugs, she said.

Haydée Rosovsky explained that Mexico's approach to drugs was based on scientific knowledge and a humanist spirit. Although Mexico did not register high levels of drug consumption compared with other countries, some worrying trends had been noted in recent years, including increased use of cocaine, synthetic drugs (amphetamines) and heroin. She explained that drug control was implemented within the framework of the 1995–2000 Mexican national drug control programme through several strategies aimed at eliminating the production, trafficking and distribution of drugs and controlling other drug-related illegal activities such as money laundering.

Under its demand reduction strategy, Mexico was pursuing a comprehensive approach to drugs embracing all psychoactive substances, licit or illicit. The main goal, the speaker explained, was to control and decrease the incidence of drug use and to reduce the health and social problems associated with substance abuse, by providing early detection and treatment and rehabilitation services to addicts. Ms Rosovsky informed that Mexico possessed an updated assessment system, including surveys and epidemiological surveillance which allowed the timely

detection of emerging drug use trends in the country. Public awareness was achieved through campaigns and information services at national level.

The representative spoke of a joint declaration which Mexico had signed with the Governments of Portugal and Sweden on the occasion of the International Symposium on the World Drug Problem (Stockholm, 1998), that preceded the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in June 1998. The Stockholm declaration strengthened the need for an 'integrated and balanced approach' between supply control and demand reduction, the importance of working together with different sectors of society, and underlined the value of scientific knowledge as the basis of policy-making. The declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction later adopted at the Ungass contributed to this balanced approach and was drafted at the initiative of Mexico supported by many countries.

The challenge to all countries, said the speaker, was to face the drug problem more successfully, making the necessary changes in policy that would be based on reality and facts rather than on ideology or fear. In sum, Haydée Rosovksy stressed that policy should be based on social development, respect for human rights, and common sense, as the Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister of Portugal, José Sócrates, had wisely expressed in Stockholm.

Panama

Samantha Teresa Smith

*Executive Secretary of the
Public Security and National Defence Council*

The representative of Panama, Samantha Teresa Smith, declared that the drugs problem posed a threat, not only to citizens and economies, but also to the stability of democratically elected governments. The Panamanian Government had thus committed to fighting drugs via a national strategy in line with the policies of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States. In addition, Panama was

'In today's world, information is power. It is the power to transform situations, in this case, in a positive sense... We have agreed at this forum to establish a network for the constant flow of information between Latin America and Europe. This will reinforce our efforts on a daily basis and will allow the exchange of data and experience between different actors.'

a member of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and had drawn up several bilateral agreements on drugs.

The speaker reported that changes had been made to the national drug law in 1994 which, among others, had strengthened the country's commitment to prevention and rehabilitation. In 1995, a Financial Analysis Unit (FAU) had also been created under the Public Security and National Defence Council, with the objective of preventing money laundering. In 1998, the government had created a new banking

law to the same end. Regarding supply, Samantha Smith informed that the Panamanian authorities were seizing large quantities of drugs every year, for example 25.6 tonnes (largely of cocaine) in 1997. However, this seizure represented one third of the quantity transiting the country annually, a fact which urged the government to continue its fight to reduce supply and consumption.

The speaker explained that a national committee against drugs (Conapred) had been established in Panama, in 1986, comprising: high-ranking governmental experts (from executive, legislative and judicial branches); Ministers of the Interior, Health and Finance; the Attorney-General; judges; the Dean of the University of Panama; the Catholic Church; and NGOs such as the Red Cross. This unit aimed to develop and implement plans for reducing supply and demand for drugs through education, prevention and information activities as part of the government's integral approach to drugs. A clearing-house for information on drug-related activities had also been set up in 1996 and was providing scientific information to decision-makers. In this context, the speaker stressed the power of information to transform situations positively and underlined the importance of data collection. Finally, Samantha Smith welcomed the decision taken at the Oporto seminar to establish a network to boost the flow of information between Latin America and Europe and called for unified policies in each country to enhance efficiency and cooperation.

Peru

Walter Negreiros

Ambassador of Peru, Portugal

The representative of Peru, Ambassador Walter Negreiros, hoped that the ideas expressed at the seminar would shed light on the issues to be discussed at the Ibero-Latin American Summit from 16 to 18 October 1998 in Oporto. The Ambassador expressed his optimism at the launch of European Union projects to fight drugs in

Peru, but also expressed his pessimism that while progress was being made in some areas, in others the situation was deteriorating. In particular, he cited the rise in drug consumption, despite improved strategies for prevention and control.

'Coca leaves grow in Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela for geographical reasons and not because of a conscious will to grow coca for cocaine in these countries. We were thus labelled "producer countries". People never talked about the actual producers of the chemical precursors for the drug trade. Transparency is needed here too.'

The Ambassador stated that it was thus necessary to temper one's optimism and to continue the battle against the drug traffickers. He referred to efforts made by countries in the Andean region, in general, to eradicate coca and highlighted, in particular, a Peruvian Governmental strategy launched in 1992 to address drug trafficking. This strategy

had obtained positive results, including: a significant reduction in coca-growing areas; the demise of a number of organisations fostering coca plantations; and a 50 % reduction in the price of coca leaves since 1995.

Unfortunately, halving the price of coca had brought with it the new domestic problem of drug consumption, as well as extreme levels of poverty in coca-growing areas. The Ambassador informed that the Peruvian Government was investing USD 16 million per annum in programmes to alleviate the poverty of farmers in these areas and had committed a further USD 400 million for the next five years to develop infrastructure. In addition, Peru's 11 coca-growing areas had been selected for alternative development programmes, five of which had already received funding from the United States and Germany.

Finally, the Ambassador asked the seminar to reflect carefully on the nature of the drug problem. He declared that all countries should now be considered producers, since while natural drugs were produced in the South (for geographical reasons), chemical precursors and synthetic drugs originated in the North. He asked what efforts were being made in the industrialised countries against the production of these man-made substances which were contributing to the rise in global consumption figures. The Ambassador concluded that the drug problem had to be given international treatment and that transparent cooperation had to be fostered. 'We have to try to redirect our path' he said 'because we are much bureaucratised in the treatment of this issue.'

Portugal

Alexandre Rosa

*National Coordinator of the programme for the prevention of drug addiction —
Projecto VIDA, Portugal*

The representative of Portugal, Alexandre Rosa, thanked the national delegates and scientific experts present for having enriched the seminar with their experience. He explained that the fight against drugs and drug addiction was one of the priorities of the Portuguese Government and that the complexity of the phenomenon in the country was comparable to that in other parts of the European Union. The speaker explained that the Portuguese Government had adopted a global approach to drugs and had developed, under the auspices of the Prime Minister, a national programme for the prevention of drug addiction (Projecto VIDA) embracing the activity of eight ministries, NGOs and local authorities.

‘Our approach is based on a combination of pragmatism and respect for theories rooted in accepted social values. As a result, it is important to draft policies that, above all, discourage drug use and enable us to tackle with pragmatism the concrete problems facing us. We need to prevent drug use, treat and rehabilitate drug users and reduce the risks posed by drug use.’

Alexandre Rosa declared that the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass) had contributed to ‘a new era in the fight against drugs’, by highlighting the notions of cooperation, solidarity and shared responsibility. On this note, the speaker offered to present the ‘Portuguese experience’, since only by working together and sharing experience could countries hope to overcome the problem.

Prevention was pinpointed as the government’s main weapon against drugs. In this area the speaker explained that Portugal was developing prevention initiatives in schools and the community as well as in the framework of its military service programme. In the area of treatment, psychotherapy remained the basic method, he explained, yet this was often accompanied by medication under drug substitution programmes involving methadone or LAAM (around 3 000 drug addicts were involved in substitution programmes in Portugal). The speaker presented further activities such as treatment programmes in prisons and initiatives designed to promote harm reduction (e.g. needle exchange and low-threshold substitution programmes including sleeping facilities, social support and psychological and medical care) and to reintegrate drug addicts into society (professional reinsertion programmes offering vocational training). Alexandre Rosa concluded by expressing the hope that the Portuguese experience would be of interest and value to other countries, as their experience had been of interest and value to Portugal.

Spain

Gonzalo Robles

Government delegate for the national plan on drugs

The representative of Spain, Gonzalo Robles, declared that in order to address a problem as complex as drugs, countries had to devise equally complex strategies. For its part, Spain had implemented a national plan on drugs in 1985 (*plan nacional sobre drogas*) to provide a global response to the problem. The changing face of drugs, however, obliged countries to be constantly reflective and vigilant in order to develop rapid reflexes and evaluate and adapt programmes accordingly.

'We have the instruments, we have the discourse, we have the doctrine, but we must be able to give these the content they require. Different responses are needed from all points of the globe.'

Gonzalo Robles stressed that drugs represented a health problem in the broadest sense of the term, affecting the well-being of individuals, families and democratic systems. As such, he underlined the importance of adopting a broad response to drugs and fostering international cooperation. In this context, the speaker referred to two initiatives in which Spain had played a key role in tackling drugs: the recently launched mechanism for political

collaboration between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean ⁽²¹⁾; and secondly the Ibero-Latin American network of NGOs ⁽²²⁾. The first of these instruments was developing an action plan to be presented at the Summit of the Heads of State or Government of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean in Rio in June 1999, aimed at stimulating a high-level political debate among the participating regions and achieving joint responses and a shared vision. On the latter, Mr Robles underlined the importance of involving civil society in the fight against drugs.

The speaker declared that 1998 had been a crucial year for those working against drugs. The United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass), CICAD's Summit in Santiago, Chile, and the adoption of the above cooperation mechanism had all represented small victories, he said. Countries had now reached an agreed discourse on drugs and organisations were in place to offer a response, but it was now time for 'passing from the muse to the theatre', the speaker stressed: 'We have the instruments, we have the discourse, we have the doctrine, but we must be able to give these the content they require. Different responses are needed from all points of the globe.'

⁽²¹⁾ All Ibero-Latin American countries are members of this mechanism as well as the Caricom countries (see Part 1 for more details).

⁽²²⁾ This network met in Cartagena de las Indias in April 1998. Over 500 organisations and 20 countries were represented. They aimed to promote the role of civil society in the fight against drugs.

Finally Mr Robles spoke of Spain's participation in the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), its observer status in the CICAD and its special links with Latin America which had involved it, among others, in data collection and the training of judges and magistrates. He stated that while Spain favoured multilateral cooperation, it had also concluded a number of bilateral agreements on drugs with Latin American countries to identify points of mutual interest. The speaker ended on a note of optimism stating that while there was a tendency to overdramatise the situation, many obstacles had already been overcome. 'We are morally convinced that we are doing this for the good of the citizens of our countries, for the good of society, for the good of families,' he concluded.

Uruguay

Alberto Scavarelli

Vice-Minister of the President of the Republic of Uruguay

The representative of Uruguay, Alberto Scavarelli, reminded participants of the strong relations that had been forged between the European Union and Latin America since negotiations had begun in Cochabamba in 1996 (between the European Union and the Rio Group), and of the progress made in global cooperation on drugs in recent years as illustrated by the 1998 United Nations Special Session on Drugs (Ungass). The speaker affirmed that, in the wake of the Ungass, countries now had a shared language, a high-level political statement and a plan of action. They could no longer consider themselves individual nations, he

'Undoubtedly there is still a great deal to do, but we have the philosophy, the legal framework and the renewed political commitment. We are also strengthening the links between the European Union and Latin America since everything unites us and nothing divides us.'

said, but had to work together in full respect of national sovereignty and the rule of law in order to preserve man's freedom which was so affected by drugs.

The speaker stated that present-day Latin America was governed and guided by a 'strategy for the hemisphere', established by CICAD⁽²⁾ and taken up at the Summit of Presidents and Heads of State in Santiago, Chile, in 1998 with a new style and a common focus that was

internationally recognised. Latin America was thus both keen and ready to exchange experience and expertise with the European Union. The speaker explained that, for its part, the Government of Uruguay was developing a national drug policy, based on the support of all sectors of society, in the framework of which over 3 000 people were employed in drug education and prevention. He also referred to a new Uruguayan law (*La Ley de Estupefacientes* No 17 016) which targeted crime and recognised a new type of international cooperation based on 'co-responsibility'. Among others, this law declared that the State should be responsible for the effects of its actions. A universal jurisdiction had thus been established which decreed that any drug-related crime committed in the world would be tried in Uruguay if the offender moved to that country.

The speaker stressed that the time had come for deeper cooperation between the European Union and Latin America now that a proper legal framework and political commitment had been established. Alberto Scavarelli referred to the 'humanist philosophy' that had been built between Europe and Latin America over the years and concluded with an appeal to countries to strive for more democratic, open and pluralist societies fully integrated in the times in which we live.

⁽²⁾ For further information please consult: <http://www.oas.org/en/prog/cicad.htm/>.

Venezuela

Raúl Dominguez

Minister of State for Drugs, President of the National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs

The representative of Venezuela, Minister Raúl Dominguez, reported that his country had been combating drugs for over 20 years. The National Commission against the Illicit Use of Drugs had been established in 1984 and a strategic national plan against drugs (1997–2001) had been drawn up under President Rafael Caldera, prioritising, among others, prevention and law enforcement.

In the area of prevention, the Minister singled out the educational campaign 'Shoulder-to-shoulder against drugs' (*La lucha cuerpo a cuerpo contra las drogas*) primarily aimed at strengthening family values. Also highlighted were the government's regional anti-drug alliances, designed to reinforce prevention efforts locally, and the multimedia information system 'Without drugs' (*Sin drogas*), targeted at young people and designed to promote drug-free lifestyles.

'The establishment of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction was an important milestone in international cooperation on drugs... Venezuela is taking preliminary steps to interact with this Centre in what will be an important step forward for the Latin American community.'

The Minister explained that, due to its geography, Venezuela was particularly sensitive to drug trafficking. For this reason, the government encouraged transnational police cooperation and was undertaking measures to

strengthen the judicial system. On the latter, the country had proposed an Inter-American Convention against Corruption at the Summit of the Americas in Miami in 1994 while, in 1998, it had supported the creation of a supra-national criminal court proposed by the Summit of Presidents of Supreme Courts of Justice in Caracas. The speaker also referred to the numerous bilateral agreement on drugs signed by Venezuela including specific agreements to counter money laundering and the diversion of chemical precursors.

Finally, Minister Dominguez referred to the establishment of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction in Lisbon as an important milestone in international cooperation on drugs. He informed that, with the help of the European Union, Venezuela was taking preliminary steps to set up its own National Drug Monitoring Centre that would interact with the EMCDDA, a development he believed would be a step forward for Latin America. The Minister concluded by welcoming the 'philosophy and language' that had been developed in the fight against drugs in recent years and called for action. 'The stage is the world, the actors are all of us. The play is to rescue life, let us do something about this,' he said.

Part 3

Conclusions of the seminar

**Chaired by Lourenço Martins,
Deputy Attorney-General, Portugal**

**Workshop results
The 'Declaration of Oporto'**

Introduction

The national representatives and experts ⁽²⁴⁾ attending the seminar participated in three workshops. These focused on:

- information on drugs;
- drug demand reduction and harm reduction; and
- cooperation between cities.

A number of specialised papers were submitted by the experts for consideration in these sessions and have been considered by the Presidency of the Portuguese Republic in its record of the event ⁽²⁵⁾. These papers are available from the EMCDDA.

The conclusions of the three workshops were presented by the rapporteurs in plenary on the final day of the seminar following the interventions of the participating States of the Ibero-Latin American Summit (Oporto, 16 to 18 October 1999). This session was chaired by Lourenço Martins, Deputy Attorney-General of Portugal and member of the seminar's Scientific Committee.

In his introduction, Lourenço Martins commented that the issue of harm reduction was a controversial topic within the United Nations since there were fears that the approach was a step towards the decriminalisation or legalisation of drugs. In particular, he cited the example of the distribution of syringes in prisons, a practice which some felt implicitly admitted the circulation of drugs among inmates. However, he noted that the issue of harm reduction had gained the general support of the international community at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass) in June 1998. While maintaining its ultimate goal for a society free of drugs, the Ungass called on States not only to discourage the initial use of drugs (demand reduction and prevention) but also to reduce the negative consequences of drug abuse on the social and health level (harm reduction).

With regard to the legalisation of drugs, Lourenço Martins noted a tendency within the United Nations to move away from this debate to the issue of regulation and the implementation of the necessary control measures to prevent drug abuse. He stated that the organisation was not trying to restrict discussions but rather to accept different points of view based on scientific findings.

Commenting on the seminar and its conclusions, the speaker called for the greater involvement of local institutions in demand reduction and harm reduction activities and for increased efforts between Europe and Latin America to control supply (chemical precursors and synthetic drugs from the North and the traditional drugs from the South). He also called for deeper cooperation between States to find the necessary formulae to implement treaties on drugs effectively.

The session closed with the presentation of the 'Declaration of Oporto', the final statement of the seminar. This was delivered by member of the seminar's Scientific Committee, José Gameiro, Medical Psychiatrist and University Professor.

⁽²⁴⁾ See participants list in annex.

⁽²⁵⁾ 'Euro-Ibero American Seminar: Cooperation on Drugs and Drug Addiction Policies', Presidency of the Portuguese Republic, *Debates* series, 1999, multilingual volume. See Part 1 for details.

Workshop 1

Information on drugs in Latin America and Europe

Chairperson: Alain Wallon (EMCDDA)

Rapporteur: Alain Wallon (EMCDDA)

Conclusions

Workshop 1 focused on identifying and analysing the needs that had arisen in the field of information on drugs in the countries of Latin America. The contributions of the participating experts allowed the group to determine key points gained from experience in building networks and information systems both in Europe and Latin America.

A number of requirements were identified in Latin America which cooperation with the European Union could help to meet. These included the need to:

- strengthen awareness at political level of the importance of reliable, accurate and comparable information as a prerequisite for decision-making;
- encourage participation of the relevant sectors in the field of information (health, education and justice);
- use appropriate tools (databases, etc.) accessible to all partners, including NGOs;
- facilitate participation and exchange between actors so that they may communicate the type of data and information of interest to them;
- allocate resources to develop the basic epidemiological instruments and useful indicators for political decision-making.

The participants underlined that the instruments to be developed for use in information systems had to be built step by step, respecting the specific conditions of different countries. They also emphasised the need to define priorities and objectives.

For its part, the EMCDDA expressed its openness to share its experience. In particular, two elements of this experience were underlined: the need for actors working with information systems to reach consensus; and the need to develop systems that could distinguish between specific and general phenomena in the field of drugs and drug addiction.

It was noted that prevention appeared to be the 'poor child' of existing budget lines and funding. It was also stressed that exchanges between Latin American and European NGOs had to be organised with the aim of defining courses of action and transfer of methodology in various fields, such as the evaluation of projects.

The importance of adapted research methods was also highlighted, such as ethnography and the comparative study of costs and public expenditure.

Finally, the identification of sources of information and of key instruments for the exchange of information was considered a first and crucial step.

It was concluded that:

- the development of cooperation in the field of information would need to rely, as appropriate, on specialised regional structures in the field, particularly the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) at European level, and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) at Latin American level;
- the European Union's North-South and URB-AL programmes needed to be improved so as to foster the development of technical cooperation between Europe and Latin America in the three areas covered by the Oporto seminar (information on drugs; drug demand and harm reduction; and cooperation between cities);
- on the political level, the decision-making structures of the Ibero-Latin American Summit and the Europe-Latin American/Caribbean cooperation mechanism, implemented by the European Union, were adequate channels for defining and encouraging this type of cooperation;
- actors in the field, particularly in the area of prevention, had to be placed in direct contact with one another and in a position to cooperate and exchange experience. The EMCDDA was invited to organise a workshop to bring together these partners.

Workshop 2

Drug demand reduction and harm reduction in Latin America and Europe

Chairperson: Rosa Bonifaz Pedrero (Mexico)

Rapporteur: Cândido da Agra (Portugal)

Conclusions

Workshop 2, thanks to a balance of participants from Latin America and Europe, offered an insight into work undertaken in both regions in the field of demand reduction and harm reduction, as well as the needs arising in these domains.

A number of requirements were considered essential for the effectiveness of demand reduction and harm reduction. These included:

- education and information, based on sound research;
- exchange of experience and methodology gained from positively evaluated prevention and treatment models;
- recognition of the influence of the media in the social perception of the drug phenomenon;
- provision of accurate and up-to-date information on the basis of which the general public might take informed decisions on drugs;
- sufficient human and financial resources.

It was concluded that:

- an exchange of information and methodology vis-à-vis prevention and treatment models needed to be maintained and adapted to the juridical, political, social, economic and cultural situation of each country;
- epidemiological, social, clinical and biomedical research needed to be carried out in order to obtain timely and comparable information;
- a commitment to allocate sufficient funds needed to be established so that a balance might be reached between funds used for supply reduction and those used for demand and harm reduction;
- the EMCDDA should constitute the bridge between Europe and Latin America, facilitating the organisation of forums in which initiatives could be presented relating to the areas of demand and harm reduction.

Workshop 3

Cooperation between cities in Latin America and Europe

Chairperson: Michel Marcus (France)

Rapporteur: Alvaro Camacho Guizado (Colombia)

Conclusions

Workshop 3 heard six contributions, each containing a number of proposals. The first two focused on the general topic of perspectives for cooperation. In this context, existing networks were presented, with their respective aims and objectives, and a number of difficulties of a geographical, cultural and political nature were identified.

The first two contributions underlined the need to:

- adopt a pragmatic rather than ideological approach to drugs. In this regard, the participants suggested that work be carried out to: promote shared experience; improve information; and increase research. It was recommended that work be undertaken in the areas of demand reduction; the control of drug trafficking; combating drug addiction; and multi-agency participation;
- recognise the advantages to be gained from cooperation between European and Latin American cities, especially when this cooperation included the harmonisation of local policies with the multinational nature of the illicit drug phenomenon. In this context, the workshop recommended the creation of a working group to draw up a strategic plan with specific aims and targets.

The second two contributions were based on local experiences, namely those of Barcelona and Bologna.

The experience of Barcelona indicated:

- the usefulness of improving the understanding of drugs among citizens and of considering the various dimensions of the problem rather than confronting it with ideological standpoints. This had been one of the most positive results of Barcelona's action plan on drugs which was based on political and social consensus. The main axes of this plan were: prevention; demand reduction; treatment; security; and information.

The experience of Bologna indicated:

- the need for cooperation between Europe and Latin America to be enhanced, specifically in the area of treatment for drug addiction. The methodology of therapeutic communities and rehabilitation was recommended.

The final two contributions offered a Latin American point of view. The participants emphasised the need to:

- recognise that the main victims of the illicit drug trade were the local producers (*campesinos*) and drug consumers — who represented the most vulnerable sectors of society — and that the winners were the drug traffickers and money launderers.
- receive more information on European policies in order to provide an alternative to the North-American approach. In particular, a call was made for the exchange of experience and best practice between Europe and Latin America and the need to consider the usefulness of harm reduction policies, increased urbanisation of prevention and treatment policies and greater flexibility in penal matters.

In sum, it was recommended that cooperation concentrate on policies based on protecting the consumer rather than on the more ideological policies relating to the drug problem in its entirety.

Conclusions of the seminar

The 'Declaration of Oporto'

Rapporteur: José Gameiro

Text adopted

On 8 and 9 October 1998, the Euro-Ibero American Seminar: Cooperation on Drugs and Drug Addiction Policies took place in Oporto, Portugal.

Representatives nominated by the Latin American Heads of State participated in the event, along with experts from different continents.

The seminar was promoted by the President of the Portuguese Republic in cooperation with the Portuguese Government and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) under the patronage of the Vice-President of the European Commission, Manuel Marín.

The seminar was convened as the result of a proposal made by the President of the Portuguese Republic at the Ibero-Latin American Summit in Venezuela in 1997, a proposal welcomed by all the participating countries.

Awareness that the drug phenomenon is a global problem was reflected clearly in the documents approved by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass) in June 1998. This session placed particular emphasis on the need for: international cooperation at all levels; shared responsibility; and international solidarity.

The Oporto seminar was organised in the framework of these objectives. It aimed to promote the strengthening of existing instruments of cooperation or the creation of new projects in the area of drug policies in Latin America and Europe and focused on the following themes:

- information on drugs in Latin America and Europe;
- drug demand reduction and harm reduction in Latin America and Europe;
- cooperation between cities in Latin America and Europe.

The seminar concluded that:

- political decision-makers in Europe and Latin America should intensify cooperation in the area of drug addiction;
- it was noteworthy that the seminar had gathered together, at the same time, those responsible for political and technical responses to the drug problem and that this should be considered a fundamental basis for effective cooperation;

- channels of cooperation between Europe and Latin America should include cooperation between cities;
- political decision-making should be based on previous discussions at the level of society and on the crucial contributions of the technical experts involved;
- in order for political cooperation to be achieved, it was both necessary and crucial that reliable and compatible information systems be set up, allowing for a comparison of existing data;
- information support should be organised with the strong commitment of all the technical experts involved and with adequate financial resources;
- more resources should be earmarked for demand reduction, balancing them with funds from supply reduction;
- harm reduction policies should be strengthened;
- cooperation in this field should aim to avoid the social exclusion of drug addicts.

With these conclusions and recommendations, and in the perspective of the Ibero-Latin American Summit in October 1998, the seminar contributed to discussions on the theme of globalisation where drugs is a key issue.

The results of this seminar may also contribute to the Summit of the Heads of State or Government of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean to be convened in Rio de Janeiro in 1999, where cooperation in the field of drugs may be enhanced.

Part 4

Closing session

Highlights from the speeches by:

**His Excellency,
the Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister of Portugal,
José Sócrates**

**His Excellency,
the President of the Portuguese Republic,
Jorge Sampaio**

Highlights



His Excellency, the Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister of Portugal, José Sócrates

Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister of Portugal, José Sócrates, responsible for the drugs portfolio, stated that the dimensions of the drug phenomenon, its global nature and the drama it had created at the level of the individual and society, clearly justified the organisation of an event such as the Oporto seminar. It was important to recognise, he said, that drugs knew no borders, but it was equally important to note that simply recognising and sharing the problem was insufficient. Stressing the need for action, the Minister commented that the seminar represented merely a starting point: 'Today we need action, joint action and efficient action,' he said.

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (Ungass) in New York, where the 'path for action' had been defined, Minister Sócrates highlighted three important developments. The first of these was the recognition by the Ungass of the importance of demand reduction, including the prevention of drug abuse, work with young people and the treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts. The second was the need for deeper international cooperation (particularly judicial) based on the new principle of 'co-responsibility'. In particular, the Minister pointed to the responsibility of all nations to tackle money laundering and the supply of chemical precursors. The third development highlighted was the approval by the Ungass of an action plan encompassing crop eradication and alternative development programmes aimed at overcoming the structural problems of economic dependence on drugs. The effectiveness of these solutions, said the speaker, depended on the mobilisation of human and financial support needed to attain goals, and the openness of international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, to include the topic of drugs in their programmes.

Contrary to the scepticism of many, the Ungass had managed to set definite goals and dates and, in so doing, to reinforce awareness of the urgency of the tasks at hand, said the Minister, reminding participants of some of the deadlines set. He recalled 2003 as the date by which countries were required to: draw up new strategies and programmes in the field of demand reduction (in order to obtain significant results by 2008); adopt their own national plan against the production, traffic and abuse of stimulants and amphetamines; establish national judicial cooperation; and possess consistent national legislation to fight money laundering.

He also recalled 2008 as the deadline for countries to: achieve a significant reduction in the production, traffic and abuse of synthetic drugs; ensure the elimination, or at least the substantial reduction of, the illicit traffic in coca, cannabis and poppies; and reduce the production of chemical precursors.

'It is a very good sign of hope, so we should learn how to mobilise that hope and to understand that to have hope is not the same as to remain waiting.'

The Minister stated that this work was clearly the responsibility of governments. For its part, the Portuguese Government, was seriously committed to the promises it had made at the Ungass, he stressed, and was pursuing cooperation at regional and bilateral level. He hoped that countries would honour their promises and fulfil their duties to the benefit of future generations. Finally, the Minister stated

that the Portuguese Government's approach to drugs was to build a policy not based on fear and ignorance but on science, public health and human rights and on pragmatic and humanistic principles which rejected prejudice and rhetoric in favour of reality and good sense.

Minister Sócrates concluded by welcoming the move by the international community to restructure its strategy against drugs in defiance of drugs. 'It is a very good sign of hope,' he said 'so we should learn how to mobilise that hope and to understand that to have hope is not the same as to remain waiting.'

Highlights



His Excellency, the President of the Portuguese Republic, Jorge Sampaio

His Excellency, the President of the Portuguese Republic, Jorge Sampaio, concluded the seminar with a special word of thanks to the representatives of the Heads of State and to the technical experts present for their valuable contributions to the meeting. The President also thanked the Oporto Town Council and Chamber of Commerce for their hospitality, and the Portuguese Government, the European Commission and the EMCDDA for their cooperation in organising the event which had been conceived one year earlier at the Ibero-Latin American Summit in Isla Margarita, Venezuela.

'I believe that this difficult issue of drugs teaches us to be modest, defiant and persistent. Modest, because we are constantly aware that we know less than we need to know. Defiant, because we must never give up, even if the results achieved do little justice to our efforts and investments. Persistent, because we are treating an illness that pervades all sectors of our society. ... Countries need to evaluate all that they know in order to understand the problem better. We need to make action against drugs a global, regional and local task.'

The President recalled the talks between the Heads of State in Isla Margarita which had demonstrated the need for greater international dialogue on drugs and which had led to his decision to precede the Ibero-Latin American Summit in Oporto (16 to 18 October 1999) with a meeting covering all aspects of the drugs problem. The event was designed to provide technical assistance to leaders at the 'Oporto Summit' and to raise awareness of a new perspective and a new form of cooperation.

The President stated that the 'Declaration of Oporto' did not aim to substitute existing international documents, such as those signed at the United Nations General Assembly

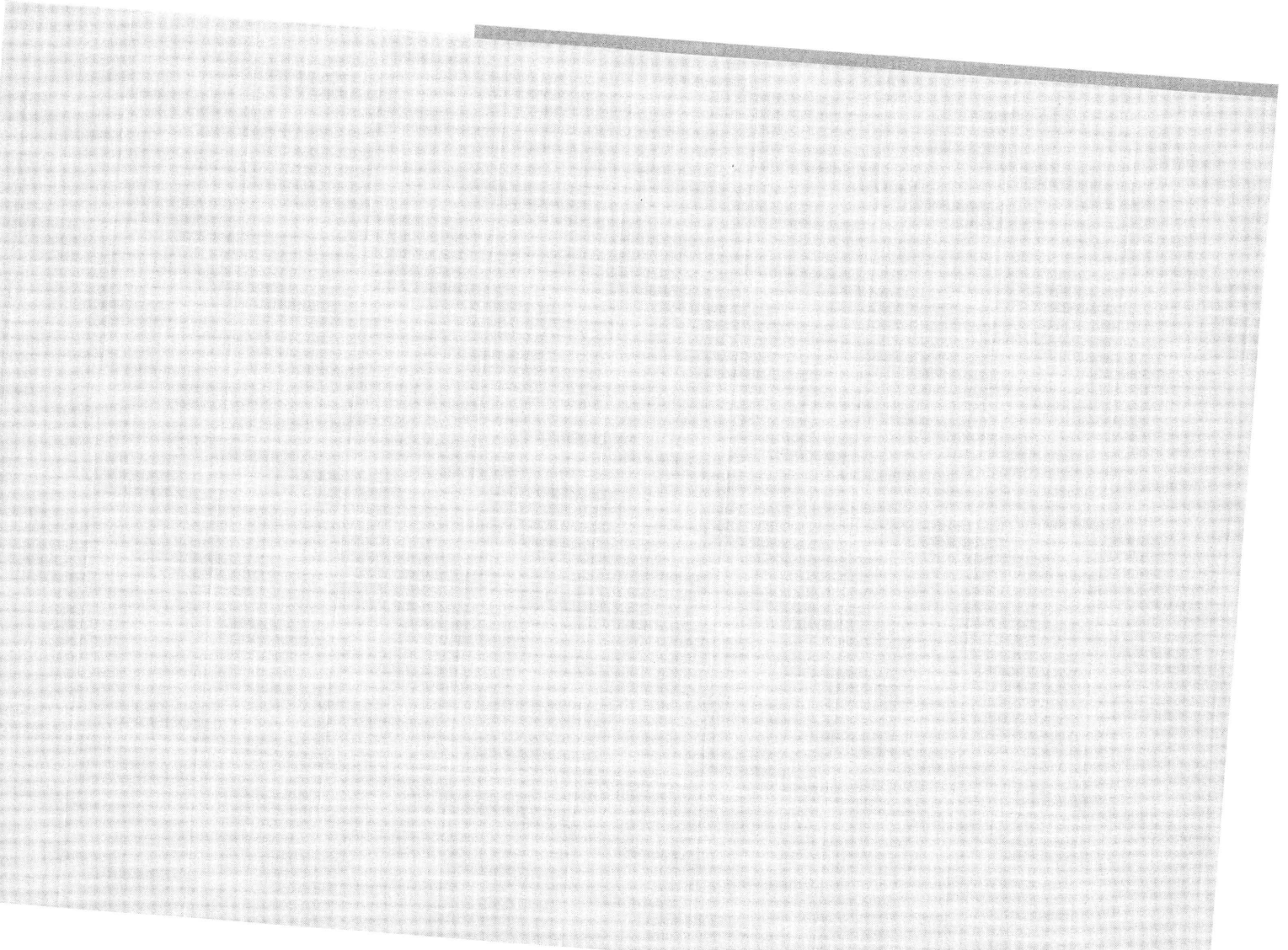
Special Session on Drugs (Ungass) in June 1998. Nevertheless, he noted that the seminar had been a 'significant meeting point' for politicians and experts on an issue that was both complex and controversial, and hoped that it would be the first of many events of its kind. The seminar had heralded a new approach, he said,

which recognised that global action could only occur in parallel with global and regional cooperation. In particular, the President called for greater interdisciplinary cooperation and the exchange of expertise between Europe and Latin America.

'I believe that this difficult issue of drugs teaches us to be modest, defiant and persistent', stated the President, underlining that there was still a great deal to learn on the topic and stressing that the struggle had to continue since drugs affected all societies and all areas of the globe. 'The forces and talents of all disciplines have to be employed against drugs,' he said. 'Countries need to evaluate all that they know in order to understand the problem better. We need to make action against drugs a global, regional and local task.'

The President closed his address by thanking Minister Sócrates for his support in defining a new anti-drug strategy for Portugal. On that note, he hoped that all countries could proceed from dialogue to action without submitting to difficulties.

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The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) was set up in the face of an escalating drug problem in the European Union and a lack of sound and comparable information on the subject at European level. Established by Council Regulation (EEC) No 302/93 of 8 February 1993, the Centre became fully operational in 1995. Its main goal is to provide 'objective, reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences'.

The Centre's tasks are divided into four categories:

- the collection and analysis of existing data;
- the improvement of data-comparison methods;
- the dissemination of data; and
- cooperation with European and international bodies and organisations, and with non-EU countries.

The Centre's work focuses on several aspects of the drugs problem:

- demand and reduction of the demand for drugs;
- national and Community strategies and policies;
- international cooperation and the geopolitics of supply;
- control of the trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors; and
- implications of the drugs phenomenon for producer, consumer and transit countries.

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