



ENCOD VZW
European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug
Policies

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ANNUAL REPORT 2005



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ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Antwerpen, 14 april 2006

Dear reader,

Herewith we are proud to present you the annual report of activities for 2005.

This annual report is divided in four sections:

1. Foreword
2. Situation of the coalition
3. Finances
4. Campaign activities
5. Conclusions

Enjoy the reading.

Best wishes,

Joep Oomen
On behalf of the ENCOD Steering Committee

Annex 1: Current list of members

Annex 2: Financial report 2005

ENCOD ANNUAL REPORT

2005

1. Foreword

The year 2005 turned out to be crucial for the future of ENCOD. Politically, the positive tendencies of 2004 concerning our growing membership and the impact of our activities at EU level were confirmed. Financially, we faced a severe crisis during summer months as perspectives needed to be created urgently to ensure the salary and office costs of the co-ordinating unit in Antwerp.

Thanks to a growing commitment among our members, in particular the shops and companies with whom we established many contacts during our presence at the various Hemp Fairs that took place in Europe in 2005, we were able to solve this urgent financial crisis. In the end of November, the perspectives for ensuring the financial needs of the organisation in the first half of 2006 were sufficient to continue the co-ordination. The challenge is still to ensure the continuation of this support.

Our decision to establish the 'Freedom to Farm' campaign that started in October played a key role in this process. With this European wide campaign for the right of every world citizen to grow, possess and use natural plants, organised and financed by citizens and aimed at mobilising public and political support for the revision of UN Conventions in 2008, we may be able to open the eyes of many Europeans who have been, are or wish to be active in drug policy reform, but so far lacked an umbrella movement that could unite the different initiatives.

Other political developments play in our favour as well. In Europe, citizens' participation in policy-making has become an issue that can not longer be neglected by policy-makers after the referenda on the EU Constitution in France and the Netherlands had a disastrous effect on the European integration process. Also the European Commission is now aware of the need to involve citizens' associations in the elaboration of drug policies, and has started to reflect about ways how to organise this involvement.

And in Bolivia, the election of Evo Morales, leader of the coca growers, as president of the country in December 2005 opened new opportunities for the global drug policy reform movement and for ENCOD in particular to accompany the Bolivian request for depenalisation of coca leaves.

In 2006 our challenge will be to obtain stability in the professional working structure for the most involved activists and use the political opportunities to carry out concrete initiatives on a European and national level.

2.Situation of the coalition

Members

On 1 January 2005, ENCOD had 86 members (organisations and individuals). Throughout the year this number increased to 127 members. About 25 of them are companies and/or shops, there are approx. 20 organisations of cannabis consumers, 20 organisations of consumers of other drugs, 15 organisations working in harm reduction, and 15 organisations involved in general drug policy reform work, research or North South co-operation.

For a current list of ENCOD members, see annex 1.

A new feature in 2005 has been the monthly bulletin on European drug policy and the activities of ENCOD and its members to influence it. This bulletin is also being sent to some 25 subscribers who pay a minor amount for suscription. This bulletin is now edited in English, Spanish, Dutch, Finnish, French and Norwegian.

The General Assembly of Members took place in Berlin, Germany, on 25 and 26 June, brilliantly hosted by Akzept. On this GA a new Steering Committee was elected, consisting of former members Joep Oomen and Farid Ghehioeche as well as new members Christine Klüge (Akzept, Germany), Virginia Montañes (individual member, Spain), Marina Impallomeni (Forum Droghe, Italy), Artur Radosz (Kanaba, Poland) and Jan van der Tas (SDB, Netherlands). In January 2006, Artur Radosz suspended his membership of the Steering Committee.

One good friend of ENCOD died in 2005: Omayra Morales, prominent spokeswoman of the Colombian coca growers movement. She will never be forgotten.

Steering Committee and secretariat

The Steering Committee functioned basically through Internet and telephone communication, which was often felt as limiting to our capacity to reflect and take decisions. The work had to be done on a voluntary basis or with incidental and low payments. This counted for the secretary as well as for many other key activists such as Thorri Johansson, Artur Radosz, Farid Ghehioeche, Virginia Montañes and Kris Verdonck, not to mention a dozen of other people who collaborated regularly.

In September 2005 we installed a new electronic mailing list: the ENCOD Member list, where consultation of members can take place before decisions are taken by the Steering Committee. The EURODRUG list continues as a list for general information and discussion. The intention was to integrate this list as a forum in the action.encod.org website, but until now this objective could not be obtained.

3. Finances

In January 2005, we organised a meeting in Paris for which we invited a number of representatives of the key networks of professionals that are involved in the drug policy field in Europe: Central Eastern European Harm Reduction Network, European Forum on Urban Safety, Beckley Foundation, Open Society Institute, Senlis Council, Correlation. We proposed them a concrete initiative to collaborate with regards to the opportunity created by the approval of the Catania report in December 2004 in the European Parliament. Unfortunately, it was impossible to create a common feeling of urgency: most networks showed reluctance to co-operate.

We contacted several donors such as foundations for financial support but did not obtain any positive response. Therefore, we put all our efforts on a fundraising campaign towards shops and companies in the cannabis industry. Most of them were contacted in the Netherlands, but also during our presence on hemp fairs like Spannabis (Barcelona), Cannatrade (Bern), Feria de Cañamo, (Madrid), Highlife (Barcelona), London Hemp Fair (London) and the UK Hemp Expo (London). We organised several meetings with Dutch and Swiss cannabis enterprises, which resulted in a spectacular growth of company-members.

ENCOD also obtained financial support from the Antwerp city government to run two projects related to the situation of drug users in the city: Breakline, a peer support project concerning the use of dance drugs and STAD, the local drug users' association in Antwerp. This support helped to pay for the overhead costs like the rent of the office in 2005.

The support for Breakline and STAD consisted of approx. 13.000 EURO, Membership fees reached a total amount of 22.000 EURO, and 5.500 EURO was received from partner organisations within and outside Europe to pay for our participation in international events like the IHRA Conference in Belfast, the REFORMA Conference in Buenos Aires and the Drug Policy Alliance Conference in Long Beach.

For an overview of the financial report of 2005, please see annex 3.

4. Campaign

In spite of the many efforts we had to do in order to ensure our survival and in spite of the few resources we had at our disposal we were able to carry out a considerable amount of campaign activities.

These activities can be summarised in the following chronological order:

EU lobby

Following a monthlong lobby campaign around the adoption of a new EU Drug Strategy and Action Plan by the EU authorities, and particularly on the need to organise a dialogue with civil society organisations around this, the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee organised a Public Hearing on EU drug policy on April 21. ENCOD participated in this Hearing with a speaker, and ENCOD members were predominantly present in the public.

In the words of some assistants of MEPs present in the room, this hearing meant a fresh wind went through the European parliament, as never before had the pressure of civil society organisations on EU authorities to take their demands serious been felt so intensively. At the end of the hearing an ENCOD delegation presented a peacepipe (made by the German firm ROOR) to Carel Edwards, Head of the Anti-Drugs Unit of the European Commission.

A petition campaign to support the EP report was set up through the use of a new action website. This campaign was very successful, in a few months the number of signatories reached 40.000 (the current number is 60.000), showing above all a great interest of Polish citizens to support this report. The reason for this may be that in the weeks prior to the petition campaign, the possibility of flexibilisation in Polish drug laws had been broadly discussed in the media.

As we know, EU authorities did not take into account the EP report nor the recommendations of ENCOD in the final version of both EU Drug Strategy and Action Plan. However, as time will tell, this decision to ignore public and parliamentarians' call for change has created a problem that is bound to come to the surface in the near future.

From September to December, we had monthly meetings with MEPs concerning the preparation of a Conference on European drug policy planned for the spring of 2006. Technical obstacles have been the reason that this conference has still not taken place. We hope the event will be carried out in the second half of 2006.

ENCOD was invited by the Council of Europe to deliver a speech concerning the ethical aspects of drug testing on European schools, at a meeting of the Pompidou group that took place on 13 October 2005 in Strassbourg.

Participation in conferences

ENCOD representatives took actively part in the following events: Annual Conference of ENLACE, Córdoba, Spain, IHRA Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland, CLAT 3 Conference in Barcelona, Legalize! Demonstration, Amsterdam, REFORMA Conference in the Senate of the Republic of Argentina, Buenos Aires, First Expert Meeting of the Correlation network in Egmond (Netherlands), bi-annual Drug Policy Alliance Conference in Long Beach, USA, Shadow Event to the National conference on Drug Abuse organised by the Italian MEP Giusto Catania in Palermo.

Other activities

Organisation of the Million Marihuana March in various cities in Europe, 7 May 2005.

On 13 September we distributed an open letter accompanied with a bag of cannabis seeds to all Members of the European Parliament, asking them to take action against the threat of extradition that is affecting Marc Emery in Canada.

On the website we called for similar actions for Andre Fürst, a cannabis producer in Switzerland who was condemned by a Swiss local court in August.

Import of an amount of Trimate (Bolivian tea made with coca leaves among others) to the Netherlands. This envoy was confiscated by the Dutch customs at Schiphol airport, but we did not receive a sanction. We then contacted Dutch top lawyer Adele van der Plas who has declared herself willing to start a courtcase against the Dutch State in protest against this decision. We are currently looking for possibilities to establish a co-operation with the new Bolivian government on this subject.

Participation in visit of a delegation of the Bolivian MAS party to the European Parliament and public encounters in Brussels and Gent.

Freedom to Farm campaign (print of flyers and posters) and establishment of stands in different hemp fairs that took place in Barcelona (Spannabis, Highlife) and London (London Hemp Fair, UK Hemp Expo)

Throughout the year, the ENCOD co-ordinator served as a consultant for students from Belgium, Netherlands and Sweden working on a thesis on the drugs phenomenon, wrote articles in magazines such as Fuoriluogo and Cañamo, had radio interviews with Belgian national radio, Radio K from Italy. He also held lectures on drug policy in Antwerp, Gent and Brussels.

5. Conclusions

Taking into account the developments that followed after the adoption of the new EU Action Plan in June 2005, it seems that we have been somewhat successful. In January, the European Commission has started to initiate a dialogue process with NGOs on drug policy. The way in which this is done leaves much to be desired, but something is happening at least.

The next step for ENCOD it seems should consist in pressuring the political debate with a concrete proposal for regulation. Firstly, this proposal could become a spearpoint in our contacts with political parties or civil servants in the dialogue process. Secondly, it could become the core message of the campaign towards the UN meeting in 2008, when the 10 year strategy of a drug free world will have to be evaluated.

Several strategies and possible actions have been discussed in the past year to obtain both political objectives and funding to carry out ENCODs work in the future. Funding remains a key issue to ensure the continuity and stability of our work.

ENCODs work in 2005 could never have been possible without the active and excellent engagement of the following people (and of course the support of all members). Sorry if we forgot someone.....

Alan Dronkers
Alfonso y TRICOMA
Andria Efthimiou-Mordaunt
André Fürst
Artur Radosz
Beatriz Acevedo
Bruno Valkeneers
Bushka Bryndova
Christine Kluge
David Czernak
Eberhard Schatz
Eliot Ross Albert
Farid Ghehioeche
Fernanda de la Figuera
Franco Corleone
Fredrick Polak
Gaspar Fraga y Cañamo
Georg Wurth
Grazia Zuffa
Hakan Wallen
Hanka Gabrielova
Heidrun Behle
Henk van Dalen
Ian and Jill Harris
Iván Ugidos y los amigos de León
Jan Ludewig
Jan van der Tas

Joachim Eul
Job Joris Arnold
Joep Oomen
Judith Laws
Jürgen Heimchen
Kris Verdonck
Laurent Appel
Luc van Paradise Seeds
Marie Candius
Marina Impallomeni
Martín Barriuso
Martin Steidinger
Miguel de Andrés y Grup Igia
Mila Jansen
Milena Naydenova
Olivier Ferreira
Peter Cohen
Peter Sarosi
Peter Webster
Phil Smith
Silvia Inchaurreaga
Simon van Serious Seeds
Stijn Goossens
Thorri Johannson
Virginia Montañes, Nakles y Dani
Vito Georgievski
Wolfgang Sterneck
Xavier Mayó

ANNEX 1

CURRENT ENCOD MEMBERSHIP – JUNE 2006.

HARM REDUCTION ORGANISATIONS

A COMUNIDADE CONTRA SIDA – Portugal
Akzept e.V. - Germany
ALICE-PROJECT - Germany
Amoc - Netherlands
Blue Point Drug Counseling and Outpatient Center – Hungary
BONJO - Netherlands
FEDERACION ANDALUZA DE DROGODEPENDENCIAS Y SIDA ENLACE - Spain
Grup Igia - Spain
Gruppo Abele - Italy
Institute for Informational Activity and Alternative Culture, project Konoplja.org - Slovenia
Monar Krakow Drugs Project - Poland

CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS, CANNABIS

AICC CANNABISCAFE – Spain
Amigo@s de Maria Leon - Spain
AMIGOS DE MARIA VITORIA - Spain
Asociación Ramón Santos de Estudios del Cannabis de Andalucía (ARSECA) - Spain
Bündnis Hanfparade e.V. - Germany
CALMA – Spain
CAMPAIGN TO LEGALISE CANNABIS ASSOCIATION – UK
CANNABIS COLLEGE – Netherlands
CIVIC ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL CANNABIS - Czech Republic
Club Cultural y de Amigos de la Naturaleza - Spain
Deutscher Hanf Verband - Germany

Kanaba - Poland
Legalise Cannabis Alliance (LCA) - United Kingdom
NORMAL (NORML) - Norway
PANNAGH - Spain

CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS, OTHER DRUGS

Aupa'm – Spain
Brugerforeningen - Denmark
DEBED vzw - Belgium
DOVERBA - Republic of Macedonia
Eve & Rave - Switzerland
FAUDAS - Spain
Hope Sofia - Bulgaria
John Mordaunt Trust - United Kingdom
Ligne Blanche - France
MDHG Belangenvereniging Druggebruikers - Netherlands
Reform - United Kingdom
STEUNPUNT ANTWERPSE DRUGGEBRUIKERS (STAD) - Belgium

RELATIVES

BUNDESVERBAND DER ELTERN UND ANGEHÖRIGEN FÜR
AKZEPTIERENDE DROGENARBEIT E.V. - Germany

NORTH SOUTH NGOs

Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz Kolumbien, Fachstelle Bern - Switzerland

ANTI-PROHIBITIONIST ORGANISATIONS

ASSOCIACIÓ LLIURE ANTIPROHIBICIONISTA (ALA) - Spain
Bundesnetzwerk Drogenpolitik - Germany
Cam-RD - France
DMT AVOCATS – Spain
Droleg - Switzerland

DRUSTVO AREAL - Slovenia
ELEFSYNA - Greece
Forum Droghe - Italy
LEGALIZE! – Netherlands
Liaison Antiprohibitioniste - Belgium
Mundo Antiprohibicionista - Spain
Netherlands Drug Policy Foundation - The Netherlands
PRO JUGENDSCHUTZ - Switzerland
TEATER OLYDIG - Sweden
Transform Drug Policy Foundation - United Kingdom

MEDIA

Cannaclopedia - Belgium
Cañamo – Spain
HANF JOURNAL – Germany
Nachtschatten Verlag AG - Switzerland
Radio K Centrale – Italy
Spannabis - Spain

COMPANIES/SHOPS

AMSTERDAM HEADSHOP – Germany
CASA JUANITA - Spain
CHANVRE ET CIE – France
COFFEESHOP COLOSSEUM - Netherlands
DOBLE ZERO – Spain
Dutch Passion Seed Company - Netherlands
FLOW - Belgium
GANJACOLOMA - Spain
GLASGROW - United Kingdom
GREEN DELUXE - Austria
GROW IN BERLIN – Germany
HEMPFLAX BV - Netherlands
HIPERSEMILLAS – Spain
HOMEGROWN FANTASEEDS – Netherlands

INFO-CHANVRE - Switzerland
LA HUERTA DE JUAN VALDES - Spain
LA MARIA DE VALLS - Spain
LA MARIETA GROWSHOP – Spain
LLUM VERDA – Spain
GROW SHOP MAS TRICOMAS - Spain
MATRIX GROWSHOP - Spain
THE NEW BALANCE - Netherlands
OTHALA BV – Netherlands
Paradise Seeds – Netherlands
Pollinator Company - Netherlands
QUINTESSENTIAL TIPS Ltd - United Kingdom
ROOR - Germany
Sensi Seeds BV - Netherlands
SERIOUS SEEDS BV - Netherlands
SPLIF - The Netherlands
STORZ & BICKEL GMBH & CO. KG - Germany
THE ROOKIES - The Netherlands
Tricoma - Spain
VAPORSTAR ADMIN - United Kingdom
VOCM (Vereniging Officiële Coffeeshops Maastricht)- Netherlands
ZERO ZERO GROWSHOP - Spain
ZUM HINKELSTEIN- Switzerland

Individual Members

Adriaan Jansen, The Netherlands.
Ana Pertika, Spain.
Andreas Holy, Austria
August de Loor - Netherlands
Beatriz Acevedo, Colombia/United Kingdom.
Carlo Dijkmeester, The Netherlands.
Eduardo López Arriero, Spain.
Eliot Ross Albert, United Kingdom.
Gerbrand Nootens, Belgium.
Hanne Joergensen, Denmark.

Ismael Pradera, Spain
Jan Vindheim, Norway
JB Richardson Woerlee, Netherlands
Jens Schneider, Germany
Jos Oomen, The Netherlands.
Juha Alakulppi, Finland.
Jules Sintorel, France
Kris Verdonck, Belgium.
Kristina von Stosch, Germany.
Maria Solikova, Slovakia
Marie-Francoise Potts-Provot, Netherlands.
Mauro Guarinieri, Italy.
Michael Benneke, Denmark.
Nora Stojanovik, Macedonia
Olivier Ferreira, France.
Paolo Crocchiolo, Italy.
Paul von Hartmann, France
Peter Cohen, The Netherlands.
Peter Webster, France.
Sjaak de Winter, Netherlands
Stein Hoftvedt, Norway.
Stijn Goossens, Belgium.

Thorri Johannson, Iceland.
Timothy Jake Gluckman, Germany.
Vero casamia, France
Virginia Montañes, Spain.
Wernard Bruining, Netherlands.
Uro' Skulj, Slovenia.
Xavier Majo, Spain.

ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS

CONSEJO ANDINO DE PRODUCTORES DE COCA, Bolivia/Peru/Colombia
REFORMA, Latin America
CEE-HRN NETWORK - Lithuania
COMMON SENSE ON DRUG POLICY, United States
DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE, United States
DRUG REFORM COORDINATION NETWORK, United States
MILDGREEN, New Zealand
NAP, Australia
Molly Charles, India

FINANCIAL REPORT ENCOD vzw 2005

INCOME

Saldo 2004	9.992,90
Subsidy STAD	13.403,55
Fees	22.620,36
Others	5.501,44
TOTAL INCOME	51.518,25

EXPENSES

STAD	11.302,58
Salary costs	530,53
Meeting costs	11.651,72
Campaign costs	12.889,37
TOTAL	36.374,20

EXPENSES

	jan	feb	mar	april	may	jun	jul	aug	sept	oct	nov	dec	TOTALS
EXPENSES													
STAD	259,25	150,00	180,00	183,00	1.653,17	818,35	1.181,00	750,60	793,52	466,37	3.336,99	1.530,33	11.302,58
Salary costs	10,16	157,50		10,48	310,48			10,48			31,43		530,53
Meeting costs	576,12	738,78	832,32	455,30	316,00	1.762,15	749,93	404,88	1.644,01	1.752,09	2.109,53	310,61	11.651,72
Campaign costs	362,19	438,52	265,32	4.121,24	582,62	726,17	273,30	707,55	800,19	3.813,97	332,76	465,54	12.889,37
TOTAL	1.207,72	1.484,80	1.277,64	4.770,02	2.862,27	3.306,67	2.204,23	1.873,51	3.237,72	6.032,43	5.810,71	2.306,48	36.374,20

INCOMES

Subs						6.092,50	2.437,00		2.437,00	1.218,50	1.218,55		13.403,55
Fees	585,00	1.291,66	1.425,16	1.807,25	699,56	1.491,87	1.012,67	350,00	5.934,29	2.679,14	1.943,06	3.400,70	22.620,36
Others	21,34		359,58	2.000,00		200,00	166,00		2.410,58		219,94	124,00	5.501,44
TOTAL	606,34	1.291,66	1.784,74	3.807,25	699,56	7.784,37	3.615,67	350,00	10.781,87	3.897,64	3.381,55	3.524,70	41.525,35

Saldo to 2006 14.008,56
