



FOR MEANINGFUL ACTION

countering money laundering and promoting judicial cooperation,

STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COALITION FOR JUST AND EFFECTIVE DRUG POLICIES TO THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

14 MARCH 2014 - VIENNA

Dear delegates at the High Level Segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

This statement is presented to you by ENCOD, a European platform of organisations and individual citizens who are affected and concerned by current drug policies, and who wish to replace them with policies that are more just and more effective.

According to UN figures, a realistic estimate of the global turnover for the total illicit drug industry amounts to approximately \$400 billion USD per year. This means that every second, 12.683 USD changes hands worldwide through the sale of illegal drugs. Since production costs represent less than 1% of this amount, it becomes obvious why the illicit drug trade is a key engine behind organised crime and widespread corruption, and why the bulk of its revenues is not under control of warlords or local drug barons in producing countries, but rather of powerful financial interests well established in the Western world.

That, in a sentence, sums up the effects of international drug policy since the 1961 Convention went into effect. This is why member states like Uruguay, Portugal and the U.S. are unilaterally changing drug policy. Legal regulation is the only way to increase public safety and reduce crime surrounding all drugs.

Who organizes the crime? Is it the criminal who benefits from the opportunity given the fact that commodities that millions of people want to use continue to be prohibited? Or is those who insist on the illegality of drugs and thus enable easy and large profits to be made by all kinds of forces working in the dark, using our bank system to launder money and attack the democratic roots of our societies?

I will speak for 180 seconds. In the meantime the international drugs trade has generated 180 x 12.683 USD, that is 2 million 282 thousand USD. When this CND is over that will be 9 billion, 862 million, 300 thousand and 800 USD.

Please, members of the Commission, understand that we must change strategies now. The Convention on Narcotic Drugs must be reformed, to end the deplorable situation that prohibition has itself created. The U.N. must do **WHATEVER IT TAKES, AND DO IT WITHOUT DELAY, TO END** drug prohibition and to decide the most effective route to such an achievement. As a father/mother, I can say without hesitation that this is the single most effective policy move we can take to immediately make the world a safer place.