



European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies  
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**Dear delegate,**

**In March 1961, the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was adopted.**

**After 50 years we must conclude that this Convention is worthless.**

The use and abuse of drugs is accompanied by a long list of seriously harmful “unintended consequences” that are unrelated with the drugs themselves, but are created by prohibition.



Prohibition of drugs has handed the control on the drug market over to criminal groups who are greedy by nature and evade accountability and responsibility.

As a result, drugs are easily available to anyone, including children.

Several UN member states have decriminalized drug use, production and even distribution. This approach is successful in the reduction of harm to users and society as a whole, but cannot be elaborated fully because of the restrictions that result from the Single Convention.



In January 2011, 18 countries objected against the Bolivian proposal to amend two articles of the Single Convention that oblige Andean countries to ban the traditional consumption of coca leaves. Their opposition to this amendment has nothing to do with the coca leaf as such, but is exclusively based on the importance to maintain the “integrity” of the Convention.

Therewith, these countries have implicitly admitted that starting to amend the Single Convention will inevitably lead to its dismantlement. Their message to the world is that they prefer the UN Convention to be violated than to be modified or even discussed.

## FOOD VALUE OF COCA LEAVES

### Harvard University 1976

	Coca	Milk	Meat
Calories	305.0	322.0	115.0
Proteines	18.8	7.9	19.4
Fats	3.3	9.2	3.6
Carbohydrate	44.3	53.7	0.0
Fibres	13.3	0.0	0.0

### MINERALS

Calcium	1789	276	8
Fosfor	637	107	186
Iron	26.8	0.1	3.1

### VITAMINES

Vit A	10.0	0.0	0.0
Vit B1	0.6	0.8	0.2
Vit B2	1.7	0.5	0.2
Vit B6	3.7	0.3	0.0
Vit C	1.4	0.0	0.0

The Single Convention has ceased to be relevant. The United Nations should start to design an alternative strategy to control the drug phenomenon. A strategy that is built on local experiences and scientific evidence, not on moral principles that are completely out of touch with reality.

As citizens of the world who are affected and concerned by the drug issue in many ways, we urge you to replace the UN Single Convention with a global agreement that will allow individual governments to design and implement their own policies.

