



Dear members and friends,

it has been a long time you haven't received a bulletin from ENCOD. Do you know this situation? When you want to write in your diary and you don't find time to do it? When you are on vacation and too busy to post or publish what you are doing because everything is so exiting and you cannot spare a minute for publishing? This was the situation more or less.

In September 2018 we held our General Assembly (GA) in Czech Republic, Vranc, at a very welcoming hemp farm. Our deal was to help with the harvest in order to use the premisses. So this meant a lot of work for us. Members present at the GA:

- Czech Republic: Radek Barhon, Frantisek Pisarik, Frantisek Slavik, Dusan Dvorak, Anna Nemcova,
- Austria: Ereik Ortmann-Kozar, Manuel Spindler, Paul Burger, Gaby Kozar
- the Netherlands: Nico Vlaming, Mathijs Pontier
- Germany: Richard Rainsford, Frido Hofmann
- Belgium: Sam Vanden Auweele
- Italy: Enrico Fletzer
- Spain: Ana Afuera Gomez
- Slovenia: Maja Kohek (over telephone)

At this GA ENCOD was re-organized into 5 departments, see graphic.



A new EC was elected, each EC-member heading one department, the names you find in the graphic. Unfortunately the president till GA, Mauro Picavet, could not participate and quit his position as president as well as his role in the EC with following letter:



ANNA NEMCOVA
SECRETARY
COMMUNICATION DEPT.

ANA AFUERA
DRUG POLICY DEPT.

ENRICO FLETZER
PRESIDENT
CIVIL SOCIETY/HARM REDUCTION DEPT.

MAJA KOHEK
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH DEPT.

GABY KOZAR
TREASURER
ADMIN/COORDINATION DEPT.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018/19



quote

Dear comrades, colleagues and friends,

Sadly enough I'm unable to attend the General Assembly due to various reasons, one of which is insufficient funds, but wanted to leave a message for you as outgoing President.

First and foremost, it has been an incredible honor to serve as the President of ENCOD, following in the footsteps of one of my mentors Joep Oomen.

This proved however incredibly difficult, as Joep was able to communicate and coordinate in so many languages, just to name one. As an organisation that required to be build-up pretty much from scratch, we did just that with the Executive Committee.

With a focus on communication, as an Executive Committee member I vowed to invest time in the outgoing communication first to show commitment to the revival of ENCOD. Following my election as President, I continued on this path now focusing on the new ENCOD website.

Together with Richard Rainsford, I'm very happy that we've managed to get it up and running before the next General Assembly. It is not done yet, as translations still need to be added.

However for the time being, it felt more important to get the website up and show progression. A new website gives opportunities, sponsorship wise but also for future campaigns.

I will also admit the frustrations that grew and facing difficulties in combining the work as President with my ongoing activities.

I hope however that you can build on the foundation which had been laid and continue to grow and become bigger and better than ever before.

For this, I highly recommend investing time during the GA in figuring out a way how you're going to coordinate the new Executive Committee. The internal structure and workload for a group that is divided amongst the European Nation, is something even multi-million dollar companies are struggling with.

For me, that means leaving it to the new team and leaving the board to focus on other things. I can still be hired as a freelancer to continue the work I did for ENCOD (website management, social media and/or newsletter), but I'm confident you already have the people capable of doing so or will attract them. Otherwise you know how to contact me.

Thank you for your time and patience.

May the future be drug war free.

Mauro Picavet

unquote

If you are interested in the GA meeting agenda and the minutes please let us know.

Ana Afuera and Gaby Kozàr lead through the GA. Catering was composed of meat products from Biofarma Sasova, vegetarian cooking was also available, nobody complained and no-one starved. We had guest presentors from Pirate Party Czech Republic, explaining their strategy to come to a legalization of Cannabis in their country and there was also a workshop on medical use held by Radek (owner of farm).

The cost of this GA (all included) was € 1.823,82

As an outcome of this GA a „General Project“ which we will work on at the GA 2019.

The next event to this GA was Cultiva hemp fair in Vienna, Austria, where ENCOD had a stand and was honored by Harry (Bushdoctor) for its 25th birthday. At this fair we renewed the sponsoring contract with SensiSeeds, our gold sponsor for the next 5 years.



This fair was followed by Cannafest in Prague in November, where we profited from the large number of Czech members to network. The planning of the [ICPC](#) was a big issue and we helped co-operated with our friends and partners from FAAAT who organized this event.

Which brings us right to the next events, ICPC in Vienna, December 2018. ENCOD helped with organization and also hosted people participating in the event in Austrian members private homes. New networks were built and old relationships renewed.

So slowly 2018 ended. It was quite a busy year for ENCOD. Only thanks to the activists and volunteers who helped with all the actions this positive movement was possible. This year the Czech and Austrian activists played a big role in the movement and a prosperous relationship between these 2 neighbouring countries has developed.

So 2019 started with a lot of work again – CND in March in Vienna. Just to let you know friends – we had planned a lot of action! Unfortunately this was against the CND rules and we were threatened to lose our access to this event, so – well obey – not to have the same experience like Joep who was not granted access in 2014 and only after numerous signatures and a petition was allowed to join the 2014 session again. Nevertheless, some political influence was reached, but as you all know – the mills are slow at CND – so „next year“ they say.

In April we attended various fairs, Bolgona, Ostrava, Hempexpo Vienna, Barcelona.

The 4th of May ENCOD organized the GMM 2019 in Vienna, with 3 weeks time to organize it. The GMM was very small, only around 200 demonstrators, but a lot of police and people were taken from the demo, weed, also CBD weed, was confiscated. Very different the MMM2019 in Madrid, where ENCOD was co-organizer and which had thousands of demonstrators joining.

So far so good. I hope you enjoy the short overview of our actions since GA 2018. After the GA is before the GA, so we are already planning GA 2019 which will be held from September 13th to 15th in Liebenfels, Carinthia, Austria. We will keep you updated on this.

[Ayahuasca conference](#) in Girona – Ana and Maja joined. Very successful.

On June 4th Maja and Ana (EC) joined a round table with coca activist [Agustin Guzmán](#) from Peru, who is planning an international coca forum in 2020 in Spain. Let's see what he comes up with, ENCOD agreed to help with organization if needed, but not to hold the forum as we cannot afford that.

Meanwhile I (Gaby) am cooperating with entities in Austria, Italy and Czech Republic with the aim to find a workable legal structure CSC/CMC in whole Europe. This also includes a solution for the possible upcoming closure of CBD shops in Austria. As you might understand, this is a big project and cannot be done in a couple of days. Parallel to that Ana, Gaby and other members of ENCOD are working on guidelines for a European CSC to be a must for CSC as per ENCOD model, including harm reduction and quality control

In Austria we found a very promising new cooperation with a former policeman, Josef Rohacek who has run the www.elternkreis.at for 23 years. We are working on a citizens' initiative to present to Austrian parliament to discuss our proposal to change to human drug laws. Connected to this, „Wiener Aufruf“ was done, based on „Berliner Aufruf“ by the evangelic protestant church of San Salvador, Reverendo Martin Diaz.

We are still fighting with the website problem – GA 2019 will hopefully get us an activist for EC taking care of that.

On June 26th we will have manifestation in Vienna remembering the victims of the drug war, for which we invited local politicians and opinion leaders in Vienna.

Enrico was busy in so many talks and had speeches in Berlin, Naples, Milano,..... so many, I am not even able to state them all here. In Italy they are having problems with the new cannabis regulation „cannabis light“ and the prohibition of same.

And not to forget all the political struggles and resolutions Ana Afuera is working on, too many to mention each one in detail (drugs and driving, resolution to EU parliament,...)

Impressions and thoughts:

The good news is that ENCOD is being recognized again. After Joep's death in 2016 it took us quite a while to get going. A lot of new organisations have appeared, a lot of good work is done. We built up co-operation with FAAAT and Knowmad institute.

Still, I am not satisfied with all that. I give you my personal opinion on all that I have seen in the last 3 years as member, treasurer and coordinator of ENCOD.

I think we all see the political development in Europe. The tendency to the right wing seems unstoppable. So not only refugees and migrants are facing problems, even the citizens of a lot of European countries suffer from the changes in their politics, governments and social welfare. Time seems to be going back to a deep dark past we all want to forget. Why this also influences our movement and our work to legalize? No instant reply to that. Why would that be? Are we so dangerous to their system? I hope so. Instead of acknowledging the scientific research and expertise from all over the world, they find their own experts, which leads to a „cannabis has no significant medical value“ from an expert called by the Austrian government, just to let you know one example, and the government accepts this expert's opinion without looking left or – I think they look right. All efforts of activists and experts, there I want to stress out especially the work done by FAAAT at WHO, are not being recognized. So why is legalization so dangerous?

It could be because „drugs“ increase the critical and independent thinking. So all the alternative thinkers have to be watched and kept under control. What is easier than taking data and punishing people for minor drug consumption. They have us all in their registers.

It could also be that the governments have their financial interests, well – they do, and facing some strong lobbies against us, like pharmaceutical, alcohol and tobacco industry.

But why don't they see the positive effects? As they are neo-liberal, their main concern should be economics. Don't they see the potential for their tax income and new jobs in that? The benefits to public health? The big international companies see that and are already flooding the market with their products. Of course, the pharma-lobby smiles, ruled by big international stakeholders. Doing the same thing in a small scale is still being punished. So can money buy everything? Looks like. What is the value of activists' work in that? Do they see it? I think they do but they don't care. We gave them access to all they are doing, working as volunteers, fighting for our rights. A lot of lives destroyed, people went into jail, families and careers lost.

Is the call for legalization of drug consumption against facsism? I want to believe that.

European countries experience a new influence in their population, refugees and migrants from foreign countries who are used to a different approach to drugs, are living amongst us. Is this what our governments are afraid of?

Working with so many individuals and organisations ENCOD also gets involved in a lot of internal struggles in these organisations. Of course we keep that confidential! But one thing I have been seeing all over the years is that people get tired of activism, start fights with other organisations, have personal fights. I see the danger in that. A lot of activist have become business people lately,

they want to make money of the movement. And this is ok, as long as they do not forget where they come from and still support the activists with no financial interest. Compared to all the lobbies we are fighting against, we are a small spanner in the works. How good for them that we are fighting each others! As I experienced, activists tend to be humans with an independent way of thinking, people who do not want to fit into any system. This is our strengths but same time, killing us. So I want to appeal to all of you, all of us: Please forget your egos, please forget your personal differences and focus on the goal we share. Only together we succeed!

Legalize – decriminalize – freedom to farm – freedom of choice – no plant is illegal – for a just and effective drug policy!

All the best and hope to see you at the GA!

Gaby Kozàr

EC member

Coordinator/Treasurer

ENCOD