

28 November 2006

## Political Declaration

**Ministers and government representatives of the States and representatives of the European Commission participating in the Strasbourg Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group on 27 and 28 November 2006:**

1. bearing in mind the mission and working methods as adopted during the last Ministerial Conference in Dublin in 2003;
2. taking note of the signals and results contained in the report of 2004-2006 Work Programme of the Pompidou Group;
3. taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the internal audit of the Pompidou Group;
4. recognising the importance of developing drug policies that take into account the principles of the international drug control system as enshrined in the UN Conventions;
5. Stressing the vital need for measures within the fields of prevention, treatment, criminal justice cooperation and regulations, airports, research, ethics and intersectoral cooperation;

6. reaffirm our commitment to the Pompidou Group and agree on the continuation of its work based on the new function offering professionals – officials in government administration, practitioners in the field and researchers - an informal and open forum for discussion, the exchange of views and information on best practice and the development of innovative approaches. This will be done in particular through:

- the collection of signals about needs, problems and experiences from practice
- addressing ethics and human rights aspects
- promoting the evidence/knowledge base of policy and practice whilst acknowledging and exploring the limitations and possibilities of this approach;
- bridging and filling gaps in linking between policy, practice and research,
- facilitating communication between professionals of various disciplines,
- facilitating cooperation with EU and non-EU countries;
- facilitating coordination of activities between different international organisations;
- facilitating mediation of different approaches to legal and illegal substances

7. We therefore:

- endorse the implemented changes on the basis of the Audit Committee report;
- adopt the 2007-2010 Work Programme, acknowledging that it is based on the principle of open dialogue, that it will contribute to the development and promotion of effective and timely responses to the use of drugs and related problems in the fields of prevention, treatment, criminal justice cooperation and regulations, airports and aviation, research, ethics and intersectoral cooperation.
- recognise the important role of the Pompidou Group in furthering the cooperation between EU and non-EU European countries and beyond, in particular across the Mediterranean, better to coordinate efforts with neighbouring regions.
- invite all interested States to participate in such efforts;
- reaffirm the necessity for the Pompidou Group to work with other international organisations in order to enhance the effectiveness and quality of drug policies by exploring possibilities for cooperation by holding regular meetings and sharing information that may in turn avoid overlaps in the programmes and activities of such organisations.