

Presentation of the CSFD's
contribution reg. the next EU Drug
Strategy
and perspectives of collaboration

Looking back on recent process of the Strategy :

- Contributions in the evaluation of the previous DS throughout the last year
- End of July
 - Communication from the Commission very much centered on the Drug Supply Reduction and the fight against criminality ; less priority given to Harm Reduction ; lack of inclusion of the CS in the dialogues (except for the CSFD) ; lack of embedment in the UN and Human Rights frameworks; a stigmatising language.
- A process that changed with a proposition by the EC without concertation from the HDG nor the CSFD

Main points of the CSFD's response for the drafting of a new EU Drug Strategy



- the importance of a balanced, evidence-based and integrated drug policy the need to address the specific needs of vulnerable populations and the negative consequences of criminalization of drug use.
- the need to build on previous efforts and lessons learned, including new developments and challenges in the field, the previous EU Drug Strategy and Action Plan, and their evaluation.
- the opportunity to learn of the Covid-19 pandemic, which clearly indicates the importance of a balanced approach and further develop and support innovative practices in particular harm reduction and treatment services which were essential in the response to support vulnerable drug users in Europe.
- the importance of a meaningful dialogue with civil society in developing and implementing drug policy interventions on European, national and local level.
- the need to link the EU drug policy documents to relevant UN other international policy and guidance documents, including the UN System Common Position on Drugs of 2018, the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy and the European Convention on Human Rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Process related questions



- The negotiation with the EC towards the start of October on a diplomatic version of the document
- The question of the equilibrium between being an expert group and having our freedom of speech. We manage to share our view with the HDG but it took 8 weeks...
- ➔ A common will to review our terms of references of the Forum (via MQS for meaningful CSI and a questionnaire)

We would be interested to discuss these issues with you

- Our discussion with the HDG
- A new improved draft is being discussed and finalized on november 24th :
 - Embedment of the DS in human rights and anchoring in the UN documents (UNGASS outcome document, UN systems common position, etc.)
 - Including (back) Cross-cutting themes
 - Clear separation of drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction
 - Acknowledgement of demand reduction services as basic and essential health/social services
 - Harm reduction as a separate policy pillar and strategy part – not listed as a category under the demand reduction.
 - Ensuring support for CS (funding) to do research and build evidence
 - Very strong and sound Action Plan is needed, including specific objectives, responsibilities and adequate indicators of success

Our common perspectives



The Portuguese presidency (Jan to July) will be the opportunity for new progresses in terms of Harm Reduction and Innovative drug policy

The EU Drug Action Plan and inclusion of Harm Reduction measures discussed in January

The anniversary of the UNGASS Outcome Document at the CND

A common meet between forums in 2021 with a renewed CSFD

Thank you

