European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

EMCDDA/50/19

FINAL MINUTES OF THE SIXTIETH MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD (12–13 DECEMBER 2019)

12 DECEMBER

Introduction by the Chair

The **Chair, Ms Laura d'Arrigo,** welcomed the participants and informed about the new members on the Management Board.

The Chair welcomed the new members present at the meeting. Mr Stephan Brandt, from the Office of the Federal Drug Commissioner, was nominated as substitute member for Germany. Mr Brandt informed that Ms Daniela Ludwig, the new Federal Drug Commissioner and new member on the EMCDDA Management Board, apologised for not being able to attend the meeting. Ireland nominated Mr Eamon Keenan, of the national clinical Lead-Addiction Services, National Social Inclusion Office and HSE Primary Care Division, as member.

Ms Sandra Dybowski, representative of the German 'Länder', accompanied Mr Stephan Brandt as observer. In the absence of the member and substitute member from Hungary, Ms Zsófia Kimmel form the Ministry of Human Resources represented her country during this meeting as observer. Hungary gave its proxy vote to Spain. Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Malta, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden could not be represented at the meeting. Bulgaria gave its proxy vote to Poland, Estonia to Denmark, Greece to Cyprus, Slovakia to the Czech Republic and Finland to Denmark. The United Kingdom was not in a position to be represented at the meeting due to a general election in the country on 12 December 2019.

Norway was unable to participate in the meeting.

The European Commission was represented by Mr Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director-General Director at DG HOME, Ms Floriana Sipala (DG HOME) and Mr Wojciech Kałamarz (DG SANTE), as well as Ms Edith Hofer (DG HOME) as observer.

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Bühringer replaced the Chair of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee at the meeting. The Chair of the Management Board congratulated Ms Lies Gremeaux on her re-election in November as the Spokesperson of the Heads of Reitox national focal points (NFPs) for a second mandate.

The UNODC and WHO representatives were excused.

The Chair welcomed the interpreters, providing simultaneous interpretation from and into French, English, and German. Members could in addition speak Croatian, Polish and Portuguese.

The Chair reminded the participants that the Budget and the Executive Committee met on 11 December in order to prepare the Management Board meeting. Finally, Ms d'Arrigo announced some security measures in case of a fire alarm and evacuation of the building.

1. Adoption of the agenda

EMCDDA/24/19 rev 2
EMCDDA/25/19

Mr Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, proposed adding a point for information under 'Any other business' on the process of the statutory revision of the Pompidou Group. A briefing note has been uploaded on the special consultation site of the EMCDDA Management Board.

Decision: The Management Board adopted the revised agenda of the meeting.

2. Activity reports:

2.1. Report on the activities of the Chair EMCDDA/26/19

The **Chair** of the Management Board and the Chair of the Budget Committee addressed on 23 October 2019 a letter to the Management Board members to ask for their support to secure adequate funding for the agency for 2020 and over the next years (Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021−27), by contacting their relevant national authorities. The letter was accompanied by an annex with key figures on the budgetary situation.

2.2. Report from the Budget Committee EMCDDA/27/19

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** stressed that the informal meeting of the Budget Committee members in Brussels on 11 October 2019 was very timely and useful to examine action points in relation with the EMCDDA's budget situation for 2020. Mr Gillard informed the Board members about the discussions held at the Budget Committee meeting of 11 December according to the items on the agenda.

2.3. Report on the external activities of the Director EMCDDA/28/19

The **Director** briefly reported about his external activities. He highlighted the excellent collaboration with the European Commission, in particular with DG HOME. The Director intensified his contacts with the European Parliament in the second half of the year, since the election of the European Parliament in May, in particular in the context of the budget situation for 2020. On 8–9 July, the Director was invited by the Finnish Presidency to participate in an informal meeting of the Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI) of the Council in The Hague.

The Director paid an official visit to Croatia on 27–28 November 2019, where he met with the Secretaries of State of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health, and presented the main findings of the 2019 European Drug Markets Report (EDMR) to the Committee on Health and Social Policy of the Croatian Parliament.

The EMCDDA continued its very close collaboration with the Portuguese authorities. A special highlight was the visit of His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, to the EMCDDA on 10 July, in the presence of Mr João Goulão, Director General of for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD) and member for Portugal on the EMCDDA Management Board.

The Director provided policy support to practitioners through his participation in conferences, such as the 2019 International Conference on Drug Prevention, Treatment and Care – Inspiration and Direction, organised in Vienna in July by the International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP), training programmes and Masters.

The Director participated in the high-level and innovative First Scientific Conference on Addiction in Cyprus on 11–12 September, during which he met with the Minister of Health, the Chairman of the National Addictions Authority and the members of the Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council and representatives of Cyprus on the EMCDDA Management Board.

3. Presentations by EU Presidencies

3.1. Presentation on the conclusions of the Finnish Presidency

Ms Elina Kotovirta, Chair of the Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) of the Council, was unable to participate in the Management Board meeting as she had to attend the CND Reconvened Session in Vienna on the same dates, but delivered a video message with the first conclusions of the **FI** Presidency. She expressed her gratitude to all Member States, the Council Secretariat, the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), Europol and in particular the EMCDDA for their support. Ms Kotovirta thanked in particular the Director of the EMCDDA and his staff for the support provided during the preparation and throughout the Presidency.

The FI Presidency discussed the WHO recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances at the HDG and on the basis of this work the European Commission is now drafting an EU common position on this issue. The HDG further discussed cannabis and hemp legislation in the EU, and the European Commission agreed to draft a non-paper on the state of play. The Chair of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee had a dialogue on research with the HDG members.

EU dialogues took place with Eastern partnership countries, US and Russia. It was decided that a first EU dialogue with China on illicit drugs will be organised at the beginning of 2020. Discussions on starting an EU dialogue with Iran have been finalised in the HDG, but the final decision still has to be taken. Meetings of the EU-CELAC Committee and the Dublin Group were also organised. Good contacts were kept with the Civil Society Forum on Drugs by informal technical meetings and a joint meeting in October in Brussels. The National Drug Coordinators (NDC) meeting took place on 25–26 September 2019 in Helsinki about the topic of 'CND cooperation'.

On behalf of the Management Board, the **Chair** congratulated FI for its excellent EU Presidency, which was characterised by an open and inclusive approach, with the full support by the EU Member States, the European Commission and the EMCDDA.

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, thanked the FI Presidency for its excellent work and achievements. The European Commission is particularly grateful to the FI Presidency for having finalised the discussions on the future first EU dialogue with China on illicit drugs, which will take place on 18 February 2020 in Brussels. Ms Sipala further thanked the FI Presidency for the excellent coordination between the UN and the European Commission on CND issues, and informed that the European Commission adopted on 12 December 2019 a draft common position on cannabis and cannabis-related products that will be transmitted to the Council and discussed at the CND in March 2020.

3.2. Presentation of the programme for the Croatian Presidency

Mr željko Petkovič, future Chair of the HDG, thanked the FI Presidency for its efficient work and presented the priorities of the **HR** EU Presidency.

The preparation for the 63rd session of the CND will be a key priority for the HDG. The HR Presidency will follow up on the EU common position on cannabis and cannabis-related products, further to the WHO recommendations for an international scheduling of these products, and aim to ensure an EU common contribution to the revision of the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ). An important topic will be the inputs to be provided to the new EU Strategy on Drugs.

EU dialogues will take place with Western Balkans, US and a new dialogue will start with China (the dialogue with Iran has to be confirmed). Meetings of the Dublin Group and of the EU-CELAC Technical Committee will also be organised. Another discussion item will concern the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Drugs for 2017–20.

The closing COPOLAD II Conference will be organised in Zagreb on 1–2 April, and will be followed by an EU-CELAC High-Level Meeting also in Zagreb on 2–3 April. The National Drug Coordinators (NDC) meeting will take place on 14 May in Zagreb about reviewing the impacts and results of the implementation of strategic documents through their evaluation.

On behalf of the Management Board, the **Chair** wished HR good luck for its ambitious Presidency, and assured HR of the full support from the Member States and the EMCDDA.

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, thanked the HR Presidency for its programme. The European Commission counts on the HR Presidency for the negotiations on draft EC proposals to be voted on at the CND, and welcomes the idea to engage more at the level of the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) and at ministerial level on the policy on drugs and to discuss the implications of the worrying trends of the drugs situation as signalled in the European Drug Markets Report (EDMR).The new European Commission, which took up its functions in December and in particular the President, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, and the Commissioner in charge of Migration and Home Affairs, Ms Ylva Johansson, will strongly support the Presidency.

4. Budget and financial issues:

4.1. Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021–27: oral update by the European Commission

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, informed that the issue was on the very day on the agenda of the first European Council under the new President Charles Michel. The negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021–27 are particularly challenging due to the consequences of the possible withdrawal of the UK from the EU. The new MFF therefore foresees only 27 EU Member States and has to take into account the budget reduction resulting from the withdrawal of the UK from the EU if confirmed.

The European Commission made a proposal for the MFF for 2021–27 in June 2018. Trilogue discussions on the different legal basis of the new MFF, including the one on Home Affairs and Internal Security Fund (ISF), under which the EMCDDA will find its funding, took place in October 2019 under the FI Presidency. The discussion on the level of funding of each EU Agency can only take place when a decision on the overall figures will be reached by the Heads of State. The final agreement of the European Council on the next MFF could be expected in spring 2020. The European Commission will provide constant support to the EMCDDA Director and the Chair of the Budget Committee and provide updates on the negotiations and decisions.

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** reminded that the Internal Security Fund, the key financial instrument provided to support Member States in the area of security, will foresee the financing of three EU Agencies in this area, i.e. the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and the EMCDDA. The European Commission will make a proposal and take a decision on the breakdown for each EU Agency.

The **Chair** stressed the need to link the financial discussion to the reflections on the future mandate of the EMCDDA.

4.2. EMCDDA budget for 2020 **EMCDDA/29/19**

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** summarised the main figures of the EMCDDA budget for 2020.

The EMCDDA 2020 preliminary draft budget (PDB) as adopted by the Management Board was complemented by a request for additional resources reflected in the EMCDDA 2020 financial statement (as transmitted to the European Commission for the purpose of the EU 2020 budget procedure). The EMCDDA request for the EU 2020 subsidy amounted to a total of EUR 17 839 040, i.e. EUR 15 588 600 (as foreseen in the EC initial programming for 2020) + EUR 2 250 440 (request for additional resources).

The European Commission adopted a draft EU budget for 2020 on 5 June 2019 proposing an amount of EUR 16 288 600 for the EU 2020 subsidy to the EMCDDA. In line with the decision of the EU Budgetary Authority on the adoption of the EU budget for 2020, the EU 2020 subsidy to the EMCDDA corresponds to the European Commission proposal. This includes an additional amount of about EUR 700 000 in comparison with the initial amount foreseen by the EC financial programming for the EU subsidy to the EMCDDA for 2020, to cope with the automatic annual adjustment of salaries. The increase represents a minimum to enable the EMCDDA performing its expected activities.

The EMCDDA budget for 2020 also includes the contributions by Norway and by Turkey, as well as the financing for the second year of the execution of the 'EU4 Monitoring Drugs' project. The EMCDDA Establishment Plan foresees 74 posts (compared with 84 in 2013). The 2020 annual cost for the lease of the EMCDDA premises is expected to increase by EUR 417 402 compared to 2019, in accordance with the agreement in force for this lease, and as a result of the end, on 1 May 2020, of the mechanism agreed in this context for the reduction of this rent during the 2016–2020 period. The appropriations for the EMCDDA 2020 budget to ensure the maximum possible co-financing to the Reitox national focal points (NFPs) remain at the same level as in 2019. Mr Gillard proposed examining the periodicity of technical meetings for the epidemiological key indicators. The Chair of the Budget Committee stressed the importance for Member States to continue asking their national authorities to defend an adequate funding for the EMCDDA for the next years. The Budget Committee recommends to the Management Board to adopt the EMCDDA budget for 2020.

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, welcomed the result of the budget procedure for the EU budget for 2020. Solid justifications for needs are necessary to justify any budgetary increase. The EU institutions (European Commission, European Parliament and Council) have to act together to ensure the necessary resources for the EMCDDA in the coming years and the role of the EU Member States in the Council is fundamental.

Ms Lies Gremeaux, Spokesperson of the national focal points, expressed the gratitude of the Reitox network for the support of various actors in the 2020 budget procedure. The NFPs are pleased that the appropriations for the Reitox co-financing remain the same in 2020, but also stress the momentum for change and wish to be part of future discussions to avoid any loss of quality at the levels of the EMCDDA and the Reitox NFPs.

The **Chair** thanked DG HOME for its support to the agency during the budget procedure, the representatives of the European Parliament on the Management Board and all representatives of Member States who asked their national authorities to defend an adequate funding for the EMCDDA in 2020.

On 23 October 2019, the Chair of the Management Board and the Chair of the Budget Committee addressed a letter to the Management Board members to ask for their support to secure adequate funding for the agency for 2020 and over the next years, and Ms d'Arrigo encouraged the Member States to continue these efforts during the negotiations of the next MFF for 2021–27. It is important to place the drugs issue higher on the political agenda, and to remind about the positive result of the last external evaluation and the excellent budgetary execution of the EMCDDA.

Decision: The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA budget for 2020.

4.3. EMCDDA preliminary draft budget for 2021 EMCDDA/30/19

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** presented the main features of the EMCDDA preliminary draft budget (PDB) for 2021.

2021 will be the first year of the period to be covered by the new EU MFF for 2021–27, the definition and adoption of which is still in progress. Without prejudice to the conditions and constraints of the possible withdrawal of the UK from the EU in 2020, the proposed EMCDDA 2021 PDB assumes that the UK will be fully considered as a Third Country as from 1 January 2021, in line with the withdrawal agreement as currently negotiated.

The Budget Committee suggested that the EMCDDA PDB for 2021 should reflect the real needs of the agency. The PDB for 2021, which proposes an amount of EUR 18 106 000 for the EU 2021 subsidy to the EMCDDA, should provide justifications at a global level and explanations for the main budget appropriations (staff-related expenditure, renting and maintenance costs of the building), while technical issues should be discussed bilaterally with the European Commission. The Budget Committee recommends to the Management Board to adopt the EMCDDA preliminary budget for 2021.

NL wondered about the exact status of the Management Board decision on the PDB 2021 in relation with the on-going negotiations for the next MFF, and asked for clarification if the increase from EUR 16 288 600 for the EU 2020 subsidy to EUR 18 106 000 for the EU 2021 subsidy takes into account mainly the increase in salary and renting costs, or also additional activities. NL stressed the importance of maintaining the Reitox co-financing at the current level. It would be necessary to have a certain number of concrete arguments to defend the PDB for 2021 at national level.

The **Director** informed that the EMCDDA will provide the financial statement for the draft budget for 2021 to the European Commission by 31 January 2020, including justifications for each area of the budget. The amount for the EU 2021 subsidy proposed in the PDB for 2021 aims at reinstating the budget since the budget reduction in 2014. The EMCDDA has supported the automatic increase in salaries, the renting costs and all other savings since then. At this point in time additional savings can only be made in operational activities or staff contracts.

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** proposed that the EMCDDA financial statement for 2021 should be circulated to the Management Board members once it has been sent to the European Commission.

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, informed that the European Commission will abstain from voting for institutional reasons. The European Commission needs solid arguments to justify any budget increase, similarly to the Member States. As usual, the EMCDDA will make a request at the beginning of the year to the European Commission for the EU subsidy to the agency for year N+1. The European Commission will make a proposal between April and June for the draft EU budget for the year N+1 to the Budget Authority. In 2020, this proposal should be made after the agreement on the global figures for the MFF for 2021–27.

Ms Lies Gremeaux, Spokesperson of the national focal points, expressed the willingness of the Reitox network to provide feedback on the list of justifications concerning the needs of the NFPs at European and national level.

DE observed that the EC subsidy to the EMCDDA for 2020 will allow the EMCDDA just to cope with the 2020 additional costs 'automatically' entailed by the expected annual adjustment of the EU staff's remuneration and the increased amount of the rent to be paid by the EMCDDA for its premises, and wondered if the EMCDDA 2021 budget will cover activities to be possibly carried forward from 2020.

The **Director** agreed that it is necessary to update the narrative on the added value of the agency, in addition to the technical budgetary justifications. The EMCDDA will prepare a list of arguments for the Management Board members and the Heads of the NFPs.

<u>Decision</u>: The Management Board adopted the preliminary draft budget for 2021, with the abstention of the European Commission for institutional reasons. The Director will send the list of arguments to defend the EMCDDA's budget for 2021 to the Management Board members and Reitox NFPs.

5. Performance, planning and internal controls:

5.1. Programming Document for 2020–22, including work programme for 2020 EMCDDA/31/19

The **Director** reminded that the EMCDDA Multi-annual Programming Document (PD) for 2020–22 is fully aligned with the EMCDDA Strategy 2025, and highlighted some key activities and outputs foreseen for 2020.

The PD for 2020–22 has to be seen in the context of a 'managed crisis' budget, as the 2020 resources will not allow the EMCDDA to reach the capacity to come back to the full operation of the activity of the Centre as it was the case several years ago. Therefore the preliminary draft PD for 2020–22 adopted by the Management Board in December 2018 differs from the current version. The Director thanked the Scientific Committee members for their cooperation, and expressed his gratitude to the European Commission for its positive formal opinion on the PD for 2020–22. Regrettably the EMCDDA could not to take on board some additional requests or suggestions made by the European Commission due to the existing budget constraints.

In terms of key external factors for 2020–22, the EMCDDA will provide support to the EC in the final evaluation of the EU Drug Strategy 2013–20, and technical support, as requested, for reflection on the new EU Drug Strategy post 2020. The EMCDDA will continue to ensure that its tools and methods remain fit for purpose in relation to the constantly evolving European drug phenomenon, and in particular in the area of innovations in drug production in the EU. A growing issue with a potential impact on drug use in Europe is the migration flow in Europe, and the EMCDDA will further invest in working on the issues of migrants, vulnerabilities and drugs use. The work for the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the follow-up of UNGASS, and in particular the Annual Reporting Questionnaire (ARQ) revision process, will be continued. The agency will further provide support to the EU in the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and contribute to the EU Agenda on Security.

The EMCDDA faces several short-term challenges for 2020, due to the reduced resources, and will introduce some changes in its main products. The European Drug Report (EDR) will have a new format/content, with the main part of the report in English and a shorter part (commentary, executive summary) translated into all EU languages. The publications have to be shorter, make different use of the available data and highlight the changes which occurred in the past 25 years as the EMCDDA will celebrate 25 years of drugs monitoring next year. Preparations will start for the next European Drug Markets Report (EDMR), which will be published in 2022. The next European Health and Social Responses Guide will be produced in 2020, but published only in 2021 probably on a web platform. The EMCDDA will communicate on the main contents of the ESPAD Report but the format will be part of a broader reflection. The implementation of the 'EU4 Monitoring Drugs' and EMCDDA/IPA7 projects will be continued, and the EMCDDA will start the preparations for the Lisbon Addictions Conference 2021. The Director further referred to some key activities in the areas of Health and Public Safety and Security.

The EMCDDA will continue reflections on a Business Model, in close collaboration with the Reitox network and the Scientific Committee, and will inform the Management Board about the progress. The final proposal for a new Business Model will be presented to the Management Board for adoption in December 2021. A new EMCDDA Framework for proactively identifying and responding to stakeholders' needs will be finalised. The Director invited all Member States and stakeholders to ask the EMCDDA for support whenever needed. A mid-term assessment of the EMCDDA Strategy 2025, guided by the Roadmap 2020, will take place in 2020 and the findings of this review will inform the new Roadmap for 2025, which will be presented to the Management Board in December 2020.

TR thanked the Director for the PD which covers all dimensions of the drugs phenomenon, and stressed the importance of the data on law enforcement and supply reduction. The EMCDDA reports, such as the EDMR, are very important as basic scientific reference documents. TR expressed the view that the EDR should not be shortened, but widened and published only in English to be more cost effective.

The **Director** thanked TR for the good quality data of their seizures. The EMCDDA will keep its investments in the area of security and supply reduction, in collaboration with Europol, and in general continue to work on how to best present useful data for the Member States.

Prof. Bühringer, representative of the Scientific Committee, presented the main points of the formal opinion of the Scientific Committee on the PD for 2020–22, and linking the scientific activities and needs with the last external evaluation of the EMCDDA.

The Scientific Committee welcomes the PD for 2020–22, which reflects well the core EMCDDA values of scientific excellence, integrity, customer focus and service orientation and efficiency. The document thoroughly reflects the long-term priorities defined by the EMCDDA Strategy 2025, and is already based on the agency's last external evaluation. The agency is not only collecting, monitoring, analysing and disseminating data, but is also well prepared for future looking and trend spotting activities.

In the main area of Health, the Scientific Committee supports the agency's approach to continue carrying out its monitoring core tasks but also to anticipate future developments (changes of cannabis legislation, new drugs) by promoting new methods to capture aspects not covered by the traditional data sources. The EMCDDA is well prepared with methods such as waste-water analysis, syringe residue analysis, screening Internet information and developments. In the main area of Security, the Scientific Committee noted the improvements in the risk assessments on substances identified by the EU Early Warning System and big developments towards a more comprehensive analysis of new drugs. The Scientific Committee stressed the importance of the cooperation with Europol for the development of better supply reduction and drug markets indicators. In general a clear improvement can be seen in the scientific quality of EMCDDA publications.

Prof. Bühringer emphasised that the EMCDDA has an unusual chance to establish a systematic link between science and policy. The Lisbon Addictions Conference is now the core event for scientific exchange in the world, and the EMCDDA is improving in the scientific area and plans more cooperation with scientific research institutes and agencies in Europe, but the link from the scientific community to policy does not work very well. Proposals from the Scientific Committee to the HDG on research needs are not followed up. Basic current research shows clear evidence that everyone has the same risk to get addicted, that certain vulnerability developed in childhood defines one's risks for the future to get addicted. The traditional education and prevention does not work for this group, and the EMCDDA has to be prepared for this development in research as it will change prevention policies in many areas. The EMCDDA could have a clear task to bring science, practice and policy together.

The EMCDDA's external evaluation listed 12 tasks which all mean additional work. The same is valid for the previous two external evaluations. In the last 10 years, neither the Member States nor the European Commission have suggested skipping some activities. In the context of reduced resources this should change.

The Scientific Committee is confident that, subject to the availability of adequate resources, the EMCDDA will successfully implement this Programming Document for 2020–22, including the 2020 work programme, and expresses its full support and endorsement to it.

FR thanked Prof. Bühringer for his interesting intervention and agreed that the link between science and policy is often not well articulated. It would be a challenging task for the EMCDDA, but it should also be clarified how, when and by whom decisions are taken in the area of drugs policies at European, national or local level. In FR the use of epidemiological data on alcohol, including on alcohol-related premature mortality, did not have any impact in the public debate. On the contrary, data on the link between violence and alcohol use or data on economic and social costs/benefits of certain decisions raised more interest in the public discussions.

The **Chair** added that the EMCDDA should explore better this link and use all available tools to anticipate more on future challenges. The scientific knowledge has to be shared, but the publications are maybe not always useful for policy makers. EMCDDA reports should be accompanied by short, concise abstracts describing main challenges and trends and reflect about different ways of communicating evidence–based data on drugs.

In the **NL** knowledge is exchanged with Secretaries of State and Ministers, but is more difficult on other levels. The EMCDDA should support a further common reflection on how to strengthen this link between policy makers and science, at national and European level.

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, thanked the Director and Prof. Bühringer for their excellent presentations. The European Commission provided a positive opinion on the PD for 2020–22 in July, in which the necessity to strengthen the link between the EMCDDA work and scientific research, as well as the collaboration with Europol, and to intensify the work on polydrug use were raised. The Commission fully shares the thoughts expressed on the need to increase the EMCDDA's capacity to produce Foresight exercises, and to provide together with the assessment and analysis of the drug situation recommendations for the future to policy makers, at national or European level, based on evidence. The European Commission encourages the EMCDDA to further analyse cannabis and cannabis-related issues, not only on legislation adopted by EU and third countries but also its impacts on consumption, health (particularly of young people) and market to gain a better understanding.

Decision: The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA's Programming Document for 2020–22, which includes the work programme for 2020.

5.2. Preliminary draft Programming Document for 2021–23, including work programme for 2021 — EMCDDA/32/19

The **Director** briefly introduced the preliminary draft PD covering the period 2021–23. The consultation draft PD will be submitted by 31 January 2020 to the European Commission and the EMCDDA Scientific Committee for formal opinion. The Management Board will receive a copy of this document.

The Director expressed the view that the agency needs to change its Business Model over the next two years. The EMCDDA has to start with the customers' needs to reinvent the methods used to produce useful data and provide services to policy makers. The initial and current 'pipeline model' for the collection, validation and analysis of data cannot be used any longer, it is not sustainable, and the agency has to change towards a 'digital platform model'. Open source information, waste-water analysis, hospital emergency data, syringe residue data have to be included in the working methods. Production timelines have to be shortened, and the EMCDDA has to improve its capacity to best use the data collected by learning from new technologies. In addition, risk communication with the European Commission and Member States could be strengthened (e.g. EMCDDA briefing on the use of 'vaping' in the United States), and co-production could be encouraged. In the area of dissemination of Best Practice in prevention, the EMCDDA has a unique mandate to put together the existing expertise, support more interaction between the partners to organise training in the Member States to use the guidelines for implementation of Best Practice. The EMCDDA currently has no mandate to organise prevention campaigns, but could support a new initiative like the European Prevention Week which was a strong initiative from the European Commission several years ago.

ES supported the view that changes for the future are necessary, and suggested to involve the Member States and the Reitox network in the reflections on how to change the way of working of the EMCDDA.

The **Chair** invited all Management Board members to share ideas, and will propose an inclusive discussion on this issue at a Management Board meeting in due time.

Decision: The Management Board adopted the preliminary draft Programming Document for 2021–23, which includes the preliminary draft work programme for 2021, with the abstention of the European Commission for institutional reasons.

5.3. EMCDDA action plan to follow up on the recommendations of the EMCDDA's external evaluation — EMCDDA/33/19

The **Director** reminded that as a follow up to the external evaluation of the EMCDDA carried out during 2018, the European Commission made, on the basis of the report presented by an independent consultant, a series of recommendations for follow up. The EMCDDA set up an action plan with the steps that the agency intends to take in order to address the recommendations made until the next external evaluation takes place. Actions are proposed taking into account the current EMCDDA mandate.

NL agreed with the actions proposed, but wondered if in the light of the budgetary situation it might not be more realistic to examine one or two priorities for improvement, such as the connection between science and policy.

The Director suggested that the Management Board be informed regularly at its December meeting about the implementation of the EMCDDA action plan to follow up on the recommendations from the external evaluation.

The **Chair** stated that a first discussion on the future of the EMCDDA could be held at a Management Board meeting in June or December 2020, to be coordinated with the European Commission.

Decision: The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA action plan to follow up on the recommendations of the EMCDDA's external evaluation.

5.4. State of implementation of the recommendations issued by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) — EMCDDA/34/19

The **Director** informed that as regards the 2015 audit on 'IT Project Management' and the 2017 audit on 'Management of Data Collection Validation and Quality Assurance', the EMCDDA submitted additional

information to the internal Audit Service (IAS) on 5 December 2019 following an informal request by the reviewer. The outstanding recommendations should be closed in the coming weeks.

5.5. IAS Strategic Audit Plan 2020–22 for the EMCDDA **EMCDDA/35/19**

The **Director** noted that the EMCDDA has no remarks concerning the topics proposed by the IAS for the audits over the next three years. He expressed however his disagreement with the fact that the IAS qualifies certain risks as very high when mitigation measures are already in place at the EMCDDA, and the risks are considered as merely theoretical by the agency.

The **Chair** noted the efforts led by the Director to restore the good collaboration between the EMCDDA and the IAS.

Decision: The Management Board endorsed the IAS Strategic internal audit plan for the EMCDDA for 2020–22.

6. International cooperation:

6.1. Cooperation with non-EU countries, international organisations and other EU agencies: recent developments **EMCDDA/36/19**

The **Director** highlighted some of the recent developments in the implementation of the international cooperation framework with third countries, international organisations, according to the existing priorities, as well as the cooperation with EU agencies.

In July 2019 the EMCDDA Director paid a useful official visit to Moscow and met representatives from General Directorate for Drug Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Deputy Minister of Health of the Russian Federation and representatives from the National Research Institute of Narcology. The Director also mentioned his participation in the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Ministerial Forum with Western Balkan partners in Skopje, North Macedonia, on 18–19 November, with an intervention on the challenges and perspectives of the cooperation on drugs between the EMCDDA and the Western Balkans. The Director thanked the European Commission for its direct support on this occasion.

FR wondered if any steps are foreseen to strengthen the cooperation between the EMCDDA and the Russian Federation, on the basis of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the EMCDDA and the Federal Drug Control Service (FDCS) in 2007.

The **Director** informed that a new Working Arrangement has to be negotiated since the former partner organisation has been dismantled. The MoU was negotiated at the time upon request of the European Commission and concerned mainly the information exchange on NPS.

Mr Wolfgang Götz, representative of the European Parliament, added that the request came from Commissioner Franco Frattini and represented the first concrete action of the 'Common Space for Justice, Freedom and Security'.

BE thanked the Director for the interesting overview of cooperation activities, and suggested to adopt a prudent approach with the Russian Federation.

Mr Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, reminded that the Russian Federation is a member of the Pompidou Group, and that an ad hoc activity on NPS will be undertaken in Russia in 2020.

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, also advised caution in relation with a new Working Arrangement with the Russian Federation, to be kept within the limits of the EMCDDA's mandate.

Mr Wojciech Kałamarz, representative of the European Commission, recently participated in the annual conference of the Northern Dimension of Partnership in Health and Social Well-being in Riga, with EU Member States around the Baltic Sea, Norway, Island and the Russian Federation, which provides a platform for dialogue. The Russian Federation confirmed its willingness to cooperate in a number of public health areas with exchange of data, and the European Commission will share the link to its Best Practice Portal.

In relation with document EMCDDA/39/19, **ES** observed on behalf of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Kosovo* (1) should be referred to as partner and not as country.

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, informed that the general instructions of the Commission's services are to add a mandatory asterisk and footnote to Kosovo, and that the term 'partner' can be used in this context.

The **Chair** concluded that the any initiative of the EMCDDA concerning the cooperation with the Russian Federation will be taken in close consultation with the European Commission.

- Candidate and potential candidate countries:

6.2. Working arrangement between the EMCDDA and Serbia EMCDDA/37/19

At its meeting in June 2019, the Management Board mandated the EMCDDA Director to negotiate Working Arrangements with Kosovo* and Serbia, as well as with any of the remaining three Western Balkan partners covered by the EMCDDA–IPA project (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia), should the latter put forward a request.

The EMCDDA and the Office for Combating Drugs of Serbia, in close liaison with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health of the Government of the Republic Serbia, agreed on a final draft which was subsequently submitted to the European Commission for opinion on 3 October 2019.

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, indicated that the Commission will adopt a favourable opinion on the Working Arrangement with Serbia shortly after the Management Board meeting.

<u>Decision</u>: The Management Board took note of and agreed with the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and the Office for Combating Drugs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, subject to the favourable opinion of the European Commission, and mandated the Director to sign the Working Arrangement on a date and place to be jointly decided.

6.3. The EMCDDA/IPA 7 project (Instrument for Pre-Accession) EMCDDA/38/19

The **Director** confirmed that the total duration of the new technical cooperation project of the EMCDDA with candidate countries and potential candidates was 36 months, and that the entire assigned revenue of EUR 1 Million has been entered in the EMCDDA budget for 2019.

- European Neighbourhood Countries:

6.4. 'EU4 Monitoring Drugs' project EMCDDA/39/19

The **Director** reminded that the 'EU4Monitoring Drugs' project (EU4MD) officially started on 1 January 2019. This project aims to enhance the capacity of the Partner countries – Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine(*) ([2]) and Tunisia (Southern Neighbourhood); and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (Eastern Neighbourhood) – to monitor drug markets and thereby contribute to improving national and regional responses to contemporary security and health threats in these countries/regions. The duration of the project is 36 months and the total earmarked budget is EUR 3 million.

The project works well despite some difficulties. The Steering Committee meeting will take place in January 2020 and will lead to the first activity report. The Director noted that the EMCDDA/IPA 7 and the EU4MD projects allowed recruiting additional staff with scientific background on public health or law enforcement.

The **Chair** welcomed the fruitful work achieved so far and the synergies with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, and invited the Director to provide regular updates on this important project to the Management Board members.

(1) *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
(*[2]) This designation does not entail any recognition of Palestine as a state and is without prejudice to positions on the recognition of Palestine as a state.

7. Reitox network:

7.1. State of play of the implementation of the Reitox Development Framework EMCDDA/40/19

The **Director** informed that at the discussion on the 2020 budget with the Heads of the Reitox NFPs in November, the Reitox network insisted that the reporting requirements should not be reduced even in the case of a significant budget cut to maintain its relevance for the work of the EMCDDA. The discussion was boosted by the Reitox Development Framework (RDF) concerning the commitment of the NFPs towards reinforcing the EU and national drug information systems. The implementation of the Reitox Development Framework is on-going as planned.

7.2. Measures to improve the implementation of the co-financing of the Reitox network EMCDDA/41/19

The **Director** reminded that a few Reitox NFPs have not been able to assess correctly its own resources and inform the EMCDDA on time before the end of the year. The funds that have not been used before the end of the financial year cannot be redeployed by the EMCDDA in a timely and useful way and have to be returned to the EU budget. Furthermore, this situation may negatively affect the overall budget execution of the EMCDDA, entailing the risk that the future EMCDDA budget may be 'penalised' (reduction of the annual EU subsidy). The measures adopted by the Director aim to improve the situation, and already resulted in the reallocation of about EUR 34 000 to other activities in 2019.

Ms Lies Gremeaux, Spokesperson of the national focal points, confirmed that the NFPs welcome the transparent measures to improve the implementation of the co-financing of the Reitox network, even if there are only a few NFPs with budget execution issues. The co-financing system, in which the financing of each NFP is the responsibility of the concerned country, is not working well for many NFPs.

The RDF was already an attempt by the NFPs to anticipate future challenges and analyse the role and needs of the European network. It is a non-binding document, of which the Management Board took note of, but which implies a collective approach from the EMCDDA, the Member States and the NFPs for its implementation. The Reitox network requests that the EMCDDA truly collaborates with the NFPs in this context, and involve the NFPs as partners in the discussions on the future Business Model. The Reitox network invited the Member States and the EMCDDA to support the goals of the NFPs.

The **Director** stated that the EMCDDA paid an amount of EUR 45 Million to the NFPs in 25 years, and the same amount was invested by the Member States. The co-financing system is no longer sustainable, and there is not enough added value at national level. He proposed to organise a working group like in 2003 with representatives of the Management Board and the Scientific Committee, of the Reitox coordination and the NFPs for the next update of the RDF and assessment of the Reitox co-financing.

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** asked the EMCDDA to examine the periodicity of technical meetings with NFPs for the epidemiological key indicators.

NL stressed the importance of the NFP and its collaboration with the EMCDDA and other NFPs, and supported the proposal of the Director concerning the assessment of the Reitox network.

ES underlined the relevance of both the Reitox co-financing and the reporting mechanisms.

Ms Floriana Sipala, representative of the European Commission, stressed that the NFPs are the backbone of the EMCDDA for the high quality data collection, and their good functioning is a matter of mutual interest. The European Commission welcomes the accreditation system for the NFPs of EU Member States and of third countries with which the EMCDDA has Working Arrangements, and supports the mitigation measures to allow the reallocation of appropriations which cannot be used on time by a NFP. Should the European Commission decide to start a discussion on the future revision of the EMCDDA's mandate, an exchange on possible ideas could be envisaged at a Heads of NFPs meeting.

The **Director** informed that the Management Board adopted the EMCDDA Strategy 2025, on which the NFPs were consulted, before the RDF following the decision of the NFPs to increase their quality and added value. The Management Board could decide to set a working group in the second half of 2020 or in 2021 to update the RDF for endorsement by the Board by December 2021 at the latest. It is necessary to redefine what the purpose of information and analysis is.

FR added that the most important for the population and for policy makers is to be informed about any emerging outbreaks or immediate public health risks, whereas the bigger trends usually do not vary significantly.

The **Chair** summarised that the budget situation triggered a fruitful reflection on the role of the EMCDDA and the Reitox network, and stressed that the Member States have supported at national level the sufficient resources to maintain the level of the Reitox co-financing. Ms d'Arrigo thanked the Reitox NFPs on behalf of the Management Board for their commitment to continue delivering all outputs even in case of a budget reduction, and welcomed the measures to improve the implementation of the co-financing of the Reitox network. There is certainly also room for improving the functioning of the Reitox network. The Chair welcomed the suggestions made on this issue and invited all participants to make further concrete proposals.

13 DECEMBER

8. Restricted session:

8.1. Renewal of the mandate of the EMCDDA Director: oral state of play of the procedure by the European Commission

The **Director** left the room.

Mr Olivier Onidi, representative of the European Commission, reminded that the first mandate of the EMCDDA Director ends on 31 December 2020. He informed the Management Board members about the possibility of extending the mandate of the Director for a second term. Should the Director be willing to have his mandate renewed, the European Commission will assess the Director's strategic vision for the second term. The European Commission will provide the assessment report to the Management Board members in time to allow a decision to be taken at the Management Board meeting in June 2020.

8.2. Election of one Budget Committee member EMCDDA/42/19

The **Chair** announced that one application was submitted for membership in the Budget Committee: Ms Sanja Mikulič (HR). The Chair was assisted by Mr Franz Pietsch and Mr Olivier Onidi counting the votes.

Decision: The Management Board elected Ms Sanja Mikulič (HR) as Budget Committee member in the first voting round at unanimity for a second mandate from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022.

Ms Sanja Mikulič thanked the Management Board members for their support.

8.3. Appointment of the members of the Scientific Committee and establishment of a reserve list (restricted session) EMCDDA/43/19

The **Chair** explained the procedure which will be followed according to the Rules of Procedure of the Management Board. The sensitive annexes with the recommendation for nominations to the Scientific Committee and the reserve list were distributed as room document. All participants in the meeting were requested to give this room document back to the Secretariat after the discussion. All participants were invited to sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and of confidentiality.

The Executive Committee assessed the recommendation from the pre-selection panel for nominations to the Scientific Committee and the reserve list and agreed to submit it to the Management Board. The Management is requested to take a decision on the whole list and not on individuals.

The pre-selection panel assessed 78 applications in strict observance of the procedure established by the Management Board in its Rules of procedure and of the criteria and scale to assess the requirements for the selection of 15 members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, published as an annex of the Call for expressions of interests in the membership of the Scientific Committee of the EMCDDA.

As per the criteria and scale to assess the requirements for the selection of the members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee mentioned above, the pre-selection panel scored each candidate for 1) proven scientific excellence; 2) peer-reviewing scientific work; 3) organisational and management experience; 4) professional experience in a multicultural environment; 5) experience in providing scientific advice and; 6) linguistic skills.

Based on these quantitative scores and also supplementary considering geographical (in terms of regions in Europe) and gender balance, as well as the current needs of the EMCDDA in respect to its main working areas, a recommendation for candidates to be nominated to the Scientific Committee and reserve list was drafted.

If citizens of the United Kingdom are on the list of members for the Scientific or on the reserve list, the letters of appointment will include a disclaimer as follows, as per the instructions of the European Commission:

> 'Annex III of the rules of procedure of Management Board of the EMCDDA provides that the members of the Scientific Committee are nationals of one of the EU Member States or of countries with which an agreement with the EU in view of its participation in the work of the EMCDDA has entered into force. As of 1 February 2020 ('the withdrawal date'), the United Kingdom is no longer a Member State of the Union, unless the European Council, in agreement with the United Kingdom, decides to further extend the withdrawal date. Hence, United Kingdom nationals can no longer participate in the Scientific Committee as of that date. However, if the Withdrawal Agreement, which was endorsed by the European Council (Article 50) on 17 October 2019, has entered into force on the withdrawal date, it will allow for continued participation of these members in the Scientific Committee during the transition period.'

A slightly updated text applies for the list of experts to extend the Scientific Committee. The texts were distributed to the Management Board members.

Mr Fabian Pereyra, Head of the Executive Office, stated that a conflict of interest is defined as follows in the first bullet point of the declaration:

> 'A conflict of interest may arise where the ability to impartially and objectively perform the duties of selection or appointment of the above mentioned procedure is or might be perceived as being influenced, compromised, biased or impaired by a personal interest held or entrusted to a given individual, by family or emotional ties, by political or national affinity, or by any other outside influence or pertinent connection or common interest with the possible beneficiary.'

Further to the question from **IE** and **IT**, the Management Board considered that co-authorship or other professional links with one of the experts included in the lists without any personal relationship, as well as a remuneration granted by the organisation the Management Board members work in, do not represent a conflict of interest.

FR and **Ms Meni Malliori, representative of the European Parliament**, wondered about the procedure for the replacement of British experts after the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

The **Director**, who chaired the Pre-selection Panel, provided further information on the selection procedure. He reminded that the Management Board adopted the criteria established for the selection process in accordance with the published Call for expressions of interests in the membership of the Scientific Committee of the EMCDDA and the applicable rules of procedure. Since the recast of the EMCDDA regulation in 2006, the Scientific Committee of the EMCDDA includes no national representation and the members of the Committee are appointed in a personal capacity, in view of their scientific excellence and their independence. The Director also reminded that some experts have applied for several working areas. He guaranteed that the procedure has been followed strictly, in all independence, and respecting the clear result of the scores.

If a member of the Scientific Committee has to be replaced, the Director will make a proposal of an expert from the reserve list to the Executive Committee, which will decide on behalf of the Management Board. The Management Board members will be informed of the decision.

BE suggested that some selection criteria, in particular for the drugs policy area, should be better defined in the future. The EMCDDA should be very careful to avoid selecting certain activists write numerous scientific articles and intervene in scientific conferences in favour of drug legalisation. BE also stated that even if the geographical balance concerns rather the representation of regions, three countries are represented by two experts in the list of 15 members for the Scientific Committee. BE will abstain from voting.

FR agreed with BE on the point concerning conflicts of interests and informed that it will abstain from voting.

The **Chair** informed that the Scientific Committee members will be requested in the nomination letters to fill in a declaration of conflict of interest, and that a specific declaration will be circulated in case of meetings dealing with sensitive issues such as cannabis.

The **Director** reminded that the EMCDDA Scientific Committee does not issue legislative opinions, like in other EU Agencies, that the members adopt common positions and that mechanisms are in place at the EMCDDA to prevent conflicts of interest. He added that this issue should be specifically referred to in the Call for expressions of interest for the next Scientific Committee.

Mr João Goulão, member for **PT,** confirmed as former member of the Scientific Committee that the mechanisms in place limit personal opinions of the Scientific Committee and do not compromise EMCDDA positions.

Decision: The Management Board appointed the members of the Scientific Committee and established a reserve list, according to article 5 of annex III of the Rules of Procedure of the EMCDDA Management Board, with two abstentions. The Management Board will request the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the outgoing Scientific Committee to continue acting until the first meeting of the new Scientific Committee.

8.4. Approval of the list of experts to extend the Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances (restricted session) EMCDDA/44/19

The sensitive annexes with the recommendation for nominations to the list of experts to be used by the EMCDDA Director to extend the Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances were distributed as room document. All participants in the meeting were requested to give this room document back to the Secretariat after the discussion. All participants were invited to sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and of confidentiality.

The **Director** informed that a call for expressions of interest was published for the inclusion in a list of experts to complement the expertise available in the Scientific Committee for the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances. In total, 37 valid applications were received. A pre-selection panel, chaired by the EMCDDA Scientific Director, checked the eligibility of the candidates and assessed the applications to set up a list of candidates considered suitable for inclusion into the list of experts, a list of candidates considered not suitable and one candidate was not eligible. The Executive Committee validated the list of candidates who are considered suitable for inclusion into the list of experts, as presented by the EMCDDA Director.

Decision: According to article 5 of annex IV of the Rules of Procedure of the EMCDDA Management Board, on the basis of the list of suitable candidates validated and submitted by the Executive Committee, the Management Board approved the list of experts to be used by the EMCDDA Director to extend, as deemed necessary, the Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances.

9. Drug situation in Europe:

9.1. Main findings of the third joint EMCDDA-Europol *EU Drug Markets Report* EMCDDA/45/19

Mr Roumen Sedefov, Head of the 'Risks for public safety and security' unit, presented the main findings of the 2019 *EU Drug Markets Report* (EDMR).

TR thanked the EMCDDA for the good report and statements. TR asked how it could further cooperate with the EMCDDA in the field of drug trafficking.

PL stressed that the EDMR included very interesting and important information. In PL the number of laboratories for the production of methamphetamines is growing, and an increase of methamphetamine use is reported in PL, DE and CZ. PL will set up a working group to draft a legal framework in order to control and penalise the sale and retail points for these drugs.

Mr Olivier Onidi, representative of the European Commission, underlined that the report presents a thorough picture of the causes and the situation concerning drug markets in Europe. The state of play is particularly timely as the latest figures have been used for the analysis. In addition, the report examines new issues such as structural effects, digitalisation, effects on violence and homicides, links with terrorism in a nuanced way. Facts are illustrated and figures are set into contexts, and the report is very useful to understand the importance that the drug markets have taken in society. The drug markets activities use an extraordinary amount of energy, and their impact on the environment could be analysed in the next edition of the report. The EDMR seems however too complex for policy makers. It describes well the situation, the concerns about growing problems and the need for additional resources, but it could also be more explicit about a certain number of critical measures which would help to make a difference. The fact that the EU is confirmed as the

main drug producer can unite the EU and its Member States, also in the UN context, to reach an agreement on measures.

FR thanked the EMCDDA for its work and agreed that the environmental factor was very important. In addition, the social aspect and figures about the number of persons earning their living from drug trafficking, even if approximate, can be useful for policy makers (prevention measures to avoid entering in drug trafficking).

The **Director** reiterated that the future EMCDDA approach for publications and all other activities will be to start from the analysis of the needs of the customers.

The **Chair** congratulated the EMCDDA on the excellent report and important work undertaken in collaboration with Europol. It is sometimes difficult however to understand certain figures, which could be illustrated in a more comprehensible way. In general, it would be very useful to add a synthesis or summary to all main EMCDDA publications, in particular for policy makers.

9.2. Cocaine challenges in the EU: trends in production, trafficking and use

The **Chair** invited four delegations to briefly present recent national developments and challenges around cocaine: IE, IT, NL and SI.

Mr Eamon Keenan gave a presentation on cocaine challenges and trends in **IE**. Ireland is recorded as one of the countries with the highest prevalence of cocaine use in Europe from the most recent prevalence figures of 2014/5. The trends in cocaine presentations in treatment are rising from 9% in 2012 to 31% in 2018. An increase can also be noted in the samples tested positive for cocaine by the national Drug Treatment Centre Laboratory. 51 cocaine related poisoning deaths have been registered in 2017. Mr Keenan provided information about Ireland's cocaine market and significant seizures. Trinity College launched for the first time a survey among young people in the summer 2019 to complement the data of the general population survey. Furthermore, HSE services organised staff training activities and prevention campaigns. Drug checking in festivals will hopefully start in summer 2020.

Ms Elisabetta Simeoni presented the trends concerning trafficking and seizures of cocaine in **IT**, as well as the figures for the prevalence of cocaine (life time and last year prevalence) among Italian students aged 15 to 19 as included in the 2018 ESPAD report. Ms Simeoni also informed about trends related to treatment demand outpatient services and the increase in cocaine-related hospitalisations and overdose deaths in Italy.

NL highlighted the quality of the EDMR and its usefulness for policy makers. Mr Victor Sannes informed about how NL is facing the challenges posed by the recent trends regarding production, trafficking and use of cocaine, the third most used drug in the country (after cannabis and ecstasy). Since 2017 the approach against undermining criminality linked to production and trafficking of drugs has been scaled up, and additional measures, including EUR 110 Million, have been announced in November 2019. The normalisation of drug use raises concerns in the NL. An Action plan in the area of prevention of substance use (school programmes and harm reduction programmes for festivals) is under preparation. The debate on drugs is very vivid at the moment, and it is easy to simplify solutions. The EMCDDA reports are useful to try to identify step by step solutions.

The **Director** informed that he will pay an official visit to the NL in March 2020 with scientific staff to better understand the situation. He also expressed the view that there are new needs for prevention. The EMCDDA could develop a platform for prevention to speed up and improve the implementation of Best Practice in Prevention in the Member States sharing more knowledge and standard training modules.

Mr Joze Hren gave an overview of recent developments around cocaine in **SI**. Cocaine did not present a major problem until recent years, but the situation changed. Prevalence data on cocaine are shown by an HBSC Study (Health Behaviour in School-aged Children) of 2018, a drug prevalence study among 15 to 64 years conducted in 2011/12 and 2018 and wastewater-based epidemiology in 3 Slovenian cities in 2018. 22 drug treatment centres regularly collect data on cocaine in Slovenia, the figures are low. Data on drug-related deaths are particularly worrying. Police data show that drug seizures increased slightly from 2013 to 2017, and the purity of seized cocaine increased. Cocaine is also imported as a medicine and as teas/beverages made with coca leaves. Increased mortality rates among drug users, especially among cocaine users, has led to the introduction of mobile drug testing services in Slovenia.

FR observed that cocaine, in particular when used associated to alcohol, is one of the major causes of cardiac incidents among young male adults in France, and that the treatments of dependent cocaine users are not totally efficient.

ES thanked the EMCDDA for the useful report, which was disseminated at national level. Seizures have increased in Spain since 2016. Cocaine is the most used drug in Spain, after cannabis, and the incidence rate of new users has increased. The purity of cocaine has increased but the prices have diminished. Coordination of intelligence centres is important at international level, in particular with Latin American countries, such as in the context of the COPOLAD project.

Mr Olivier Onidi, representative of the European Commission, thanked all participants for their interventions which highlight the diversity of the situations and the efforts made by the different Member States. The new European Commission is convinced that drugs need an enhanced focus overall. More attention will be given to policy initiatives on organised crime in the Home and Justice Affairs area, and activities on drugs will be scaled up. Initial elements of the evaluation of the EU Strategy on Drugs 2017–20 will be ready in June 2020, and the European Commission proposed to share this information with the Management Board members at the next meeting. On the basis of this evaluation a new EU Drugs Strategy will be presented in 2020. Also, a new EU Drug Action plan will be prepared. Mr Onidi invited the Member States to enhance their accountability and political responsibility by supporting the European Commission in this exercise, in budgetary and legislative terms, by identifying some key issues and quantifying the type of results expected.

A decision on the reinforcement of the EMCDDA mandate, linked with the last external evaluation of the agency, will probably be taken at the beginning of 2021, but will be prepared in the course of next year. The legal basis of the EMCDDA will be reviewed and the critical budgetary situation needs to be addressed in this context. The scientific activities providing evidence through reports and analytical documents to support existing legislative mechanisms are very important. The EMCDDA is discussing with Europol how the innovation hub that will be set up for all JHA Agencies will be relevant for the agency. The European Commission also sees the need to enhance the role of the EMCDDA as a provider of evaluations on different topics at the request of the European Commission and Member States. The EMCDDA could be, similarly to eu-LISA, an actor to provide advice and ad hoc support to Member States or national agencies where requested. Finally the EMCDDA could build upon its capacity for international cooperation activities. The cooperation with Norway and Turkey could be the starting point for analysing the opportunity of welcoming additional countries, such as the United Kingdom after its withdrawal from the EU, as members of the agency. These preliminary ideas have of course to be further discussed. The new Commissioner in charge of Migration and Home Affairs, Ms Ylva Johansson, considers drugs as a devastating societal problem, and therefore the agency should continue to be positioned both in the areas of health and security.

The **Chair** thanked the representatives of the four Member States for their presentations and Mr Onidi for sharing these observations on the institutional and political context. Ms d'Arrigo welcomed the proposal of the European Commission to exchange in due time with the Management Board on the new EU Drugs Strategy on Drugs and the revision of the EMCDDA's mandate.

9.3. Launch and uptake of the 2019 *EU Drug Markets Report* EMCDDA/46/19

The 2019 *European Drug Markets Report* was launched to the European press on 26 November 2019 in Brussels with Commissioner Avramopoulos.

The **Chair** observed that the uptake of the EDMR has been particularly relevant in the UK.

9.4. Review of the European Drug Report and related products EMCDDA/47/19

No comments were made to the document.

10. Data protection and prevention and management of conflicts of interest:

10.1. Assessment of the implementation of the EMCDDA Policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest for Management Board members, substitutes and observers EMCDDA/48/19

The **Director** informed that the declarations of conflicts of interest submitted by the members, substitutes and observers of the Management Board until 9 December 2019 show no existing conflicts of interest. The declarations of newly nominated members or substitutes are still outstanding.

FR advised to be vigilant in relation with possible interests linked to cannabis industries.

<u>Decision</u>: The Management Board took note of the outcome of the screening conducted by the EMCDDA Director that has revealed that for the moment there is no conflict of interest. However, in the future one cannot exclude that a risk of conflict of interest may emerge. Such cases will be addressed by the Management Board through the existing mitigating measures.

11. Any other business

- Third European Conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies (Lisbon, 23–25 October 2019): presentation by the Portuguese delegation **EMCDDA/49/19**

PT provided feedback on the third European Addiction Conference, which was organised on 23–25 October 2019 by the Portuguese SICAD (Serviço de Intervenção em Comportamentos Aditivos e Dependências – General Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies), the journal Addiction (of the Society for the Study of Addiction), the EMCDDA and ISAJE (International Society of Addiction Journal Editors). Lisbon Addictions 2019 was attended by a record number of more than 1300 participants from 73 countries. Mr João Goulão outlined the innovative approaches in the programme and thanked the staff of SICAD and of the EMCDDA for their excellent cooperation. The Fourth European conference on additive behaviours and dependencies – Lisbon Addictions 2021 will take place on 17–19 November 2021. PT thanked the Commission for its support to the Futurize project from the EU Justice Funds.

The **Director** stressed the joint cooperation for the organisation of the conference, and thanked in particular Ms Maria Moreira for her commitment.

The **Chair** thanked Portugal for its commitment and the EMCDDA for its contribution to this important event. Ms d'Arrigo underlined in particular the multidisciplinary approach of the conference about addictions as a whole, and the link between policy and science provided by the organisation of big debates, such as the one on 'Will changes in cannabis policy result in greater costs or greater benefits?' in which she participated.

- EU funded project 'Strengthening the data collection capacity of TUBIM': presentation by the Turkish delegation

TR provided information about the EU-funded project entitled 'Strengthening the data collection capacity of TUBIM', the Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction, in which the twinning component is being implemented together with Romania. The project is being implemented over 16 months and will end in November 2020, and has a funding of EUR 2 Million.

- Process of the statutory revision of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe

PT reminded that Portugal has been elected for the Presidency of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe at the Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group in Stavanger in November 2018. One of the decisions of this Ministerial Conference was to revise the status and working methods of the Pompidou Group. Mr Goulão invited all Member States to support the revision process which aims at strengthening cooperation with other international or European institutions and with the EMCDDA while avoiding overlaps.

Mr Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, thanked the Chair and the Director for the circulation of the briefing note to the Management Board members. The revision process is open and inclusive, and foresees consultations firstly with the 39 Member States of the Pompidou Group, but also with other Member States of the Council of Europe which are not part of the Pompidou Group at present, and major international partners such as the European Commission, the EMCDDA and CICAD with whom Mr Huber had bilateral consultations. Further consultation meetings are planned in the beginning of 2020 with UNODC, WHO and the UN Commissioner on Human Rights. A possible extension of the mandate of the Pompidou Group to cover licit substances (alcohol, tobacco, medicines) and some new forms of addictions (gambling, Internet) will be discussed. A specific focus on promoting human rights in the area of drugs policy should be given to the future statute, in light with the main mission of the Council of Europe. Another proposal under discussion is that the statute should allow the EU, which is currently an observer, to become a member of the PG. The new statute will be drafted in 2020 and should be adopted in 2021 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Pompidou Group.

IE expressed its interest in the human rights aspect, as the Irish Human Rights Commission has been engaging

with the Health Service in particular on the issue of treatment of drug addiction and drug addiction services. The policy of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe will be helpful to engage the services in Europe to bringing changes as concerns human rights.

The **Chair** thanked the Director and all the EMCDDA staff for the preparation of the meeting, and the Board members for their contributions. The Chair also expressed her special thanks to the interpreters for their work.

The next meeting will take place on 25 June 2020.

[signed]
Laura d'Arrigo
Chair of the Management Board

Annexes:	I	List of participants
	II	List of decisions and conclusions
	III	List of action points

Copy: Members, substitutes and observers of the Management Board

60th meeting of the EMCDDA Management Board

Lisbon, 12–13 December 2019

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Belgium	Mr Claude GILLARD
Czechia	Ms Jarmila VEDRALOVÁ
Denmark	Mr Lars PETERSEN
Germany	Mr Stephan BRANDT
	Ms Sandra DYBOWSKI
Ireland	Mr Eamon KEENAN
Spain	Ms Elena ÁLVAREZ MARTIN
France	Ms Laura d'ARRIGO
	Mr Nicolas PRISSE
Croatia	Mr Željko PETKOVIĆ
	Ms Sanja MIKULIĆ
Italy	Ms Elisabetta SIMEONI
Cyprus	Mr Stelios SERGIDES
Latvia	Mr Dzintars MOZGIS
Lithuania	Ms Gražina BELIAN
Luxembourg	Mr Xavier POOS
Hungary	Ms Zsófia KIMMEL
The Netherlands	Mr Victor SANNES
Austria	Mr Franz PIETSCH
Poland	Ms Boguslawa BUKOWSKA
Portugal	Mr João GOULÃO
	Mr Manuel CARDOSO
Romania	Mr Cristian DUŢĂ
Slovenia	Mr Jože HREN

EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Mr Olivier ONIDI (DG HOME)
	Ms Floriana SIPALA (DG HOME)
	Mr Wojciech KAŁAMARZ (DG SANTE)
	Ms Edith HOFER (DG HOME)
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	Ms Meni MALLIORI
	Mr Wolfgang GÖTZ
POMPIDOU GROUP OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE	Mr Denis HUBER
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	Mr Gerhard BÜHRINGER
REITOX	Ms Lies GREMEAUX
EMCDDA	Mr Alexis GOOSDEEL
	Mr Fabian PEREYRA
	Ms Monika BLUM

ANNEX II

LIST OF DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda — EMCDDA/24/19 rev 2

The Management Board adopted the revised agenda of the meeting.

4. Budget and financial issues:

4.2. EMCDDA budget for 2020 — EMCDDA/29/19

The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA budget for 2020.

4.3. EMCDDA preliminary draft budget for 2021 — EMCDDA/30/19

The Management Board adopted the preliminary draft budget for 2021, with the abstention of the European Commission for institutional reasons. The Director will send a list of arguments to defend the EMCDDA's budget for 2021 to the Management Board members and Reitox NFPs.

5.1. Programming Document for 2020–22, including work programme for 2020 — EMCDDA/31/19

The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA's Programming Document for 2020–22, which includes the work programme for 2020.

5.2. Preliminary draft Programming Document for 2021–23, including work programme for 2021 — EMCDDA/32/19

The Management Board adopted the preliminary draft Programming Document for 2021–23, which includes the preliminary draft work programme for 2021, with the abstention of the European Commission for institutional reasons.

5.3. EMCDDA action plan to follow up on the recommendations of the EMCDDA's external evaluation — EMCDDA/33/19

The Management Board adopted the EMCDDA action plan to follow up on the recommendations of the EMCDDA's external evaluation.

5.5. IAS Strategic Audit Plan 2020–22 for the EMCDDA — EMCDDA/35/19

The Management Board endorsed the IAS Strategic internal audit plan for the EMCDDA for 2020–22.

6. International cooperation:

- Candidate and potential candidate countries

6.2. Working arrangement between the EMCDDA and Serbia — EMCDDA/37/19

The Management Board took note of and agreed with the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and the Office for Combating Drugs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, subject to the favourable opinion of the European Commission, and mandated the Director to sign the Working Arrangement on a date and place to be jointly decided.

8. Restricted session

8.2. Election of one Budget Committee member **EMCDDA/42/19**

The Management Board elected Ms Sanja Mikulič (HR) as Budget Committee member in the first voting round at unanimity for a second mandate from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022.

8.3. Appointment of the members of the Scientific Committee and establishment of a reserve list **EMCDDA/43/19**

The Management Board appointed the members of the Scientific Committee and established a reserve list, according to article 5 of annex III of the Rules of Procedure of the EMCDDA Management Board, with two abstentions. The Management Board will request the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the outgoing Scientific Committee to continue acting until the first meeting of the new Scientific Committee.

8.4. Approval of the list of experts to extend the Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances **EMCDDA/44/19**

According to article 5 of annex IV of the Rules of Procedure of the EMCDDA Management Board, on the basis of the list of suitable candidates validated and submitted by the Executive Committee, the Management Board approved the list of experts to be used by the EMCDDA Director to extend, as deemed necessary, the Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances.

10. Data protection and prevention and management of conflicts of interest:

10.1. Assessment of the implementation of the EMCDDA Policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest for Management Board members, substitutes and observers **EMCDDA/48/19**

The Management Board took note of the outcome of the screening conducted by the EMCDDA Director that has revealed that for the moment there is no conflict of interest. However, in the future one cannot exclude that a risk of conflict of interest may emerge. Such cases will be addressed by the Management Board through the existing mitigating measures.

ANNEX III

LIST OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda point	Action to take	Responsable	Date
4.3.	Send EMCDDA Financial Statement for 2021 and list of arguments concerning the 2021 EMCDDA budget to the Management Board members for information	EMCDDA	February 2020
5.2.	Send consultation draft PD for 2021–23 to Management Board members for information	EMCDDA	February 2020
5.3.	Inform Management Board members about the implementation of the EMCDDA action plan to follow up on the recommendations of the EMCDDA's external evaluation	EMCDDA	December 2020
5.1.	Sign the Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and Serbia	EMCDDA	2020
8.3.	Send nomination letters from the Chair and the Director to the new members of the Scientific Committee and of the reserve list	EMCDDA	December 2019
8.4.	Send nomination letters from the Chair and the Director to the new members of list of experts to extend the Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances	EMCDDA	December 2019