

1 December 2009

Declaration of Commitment

The Participants of the High Level Conference of the Mediterranean Network (MedNet) of the Pompidou Group (Strasbourg, 1 December 2009),

1. bearing in mind the activities of the Pompidou Group in the Mediterranean Region during the ten 10 years following the Malta Conference in 1999 and in particular the setting up of the MedNET network in 2006;
2. acknowledging the results obtained of the MedNET network and the commitment of its member countries;
3. taking note of the conclusions and proposals of the **feasibility study** on the setting up of a mediterranean monitoring centre on drugs and drug abuse, carried out by 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, law enforcement, exchange of good practice, and regional cooperation;

Affirm our commitment to the Mediterranean Network (MedNet) run and coordinated by the Pompidou Group and agree to actively support the network through:

- the establishment of the framework for the setting up of national systems for data collection on demand and supply of drugs in each participating country of the southern rim of the Mediterranean;
- the promotion of the evidence/knowledge base of drug policy and practice;
- facilitating communication between professionals of various disciplines, government officials, practitioners and researchers and give them an open forum for discussion, exchange of views and best practices, in view of the development of innovative approaches;
- recognise the necessity for MedNET to work effectively with other european and international organisations en the first place with the European Commission and EMCDDA, in order to enhance the quality of national and international drug policies, facilitate coordination of activities and avoid overlaps.

We therefore :

- endorse the proposals of the feasibility report ;
- adopt the 2010 MedNET Work Programme, acknowledging that it is based on the principle of open dialogue, flexible and reactive and 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, law enforcement through the exchange of good practice and regional cooperation;
- reaffirm the role of the Pompidou Group in furthering the cooperation in particular across the Mediterranean and consolidate the MedNET network;
- Make expertise and funds available to realise activities and programmes and facilitate the organisation of national and regional events;
- invite all interested States to participate in these efforts.