



EUROPEAN CITIES AGAINST DRUGS

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*MAY 2003 - MAY 2004*



ECAD Chairman's Report 2003/2004

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# REPORT

The annual reports usually comprise a calendar year. Our report however begins and ends with the Annual Mayors' Conference. Since the first conference in 1994, we traditionally meet around the month of May – a good time to start anew and get new impulses and energy for the future work.



According to the ECAD constitution, the Advisory Board shall meet three times each year.

Without exception, this has been the case since the launch of the organisation.

The Advisory Board consists of representatives of at least ten member cities. The cities appoint

their representative/s. The current Advisory Board consists of both politicians and civil servants in varying positions in their cities, but they have one thing in common: A strong commitment to drug issues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the Advisory Board for the voluntary work they each year do for ECAD. In this report there is a short presentation of the members of your Advisory Board.

Please don't hesitate to contact us anytime with ideas on how we should improve our work, be it criticism or advise.

To reach the age of ten years is a big event – even for an organisation. Indeed it feels like ECAD has left the first fumbling years of childhood behind and entered adolescence.

Its distinguishing features are already in place, and the time has come to cultivate our creation and make use of its possibilities and talents. Conditions for growth are good, bearing in mind the supporting “parenthood” – I am thinking of the City of Stockholm which continues to support the ECAD head office in a formidable way. Stockholm should be proud over launching ECAD which today is widely recognised and respected both among its drug political opponents and those who share its views.

All participants to the ECAD 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mayors’ Conference in Stockholm I have spoken with feel that the conference was a great success. The speakers held a high standard, and the logistics were excellent. The social part of the programme with dinner at the City Hall and the dinner hosted by an NGO



left nothing to be desired. The participants could moreover choose among an impressive list of study visits, which was much appreciated. It is evident that the drug issue has high priority in various sectors of the Swedish society and above all in Stockholm.

Besides in connection with the Mayors’ conference in May 2003, the Advisory Board met in Rome on September 20-22 in 2003 and in Belfast on March 4-5 this year. One of the main tasks for the Advisory Board is to follow up the budget during the year and see to that the limits are kept. The ECAD head office changed accountants during the year, and this turned out to be most satisfactory, a fact that is also mirrored in the

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Auditors' Report, which clears ECAD's annual accounts without remarks. The improved financial reporting has also made the Board's work easier. The ECAD finances at the end of the year were sound, and left a certain surplus, as you can see in the separate financial report for the year 2003.



During the past years, the Advisory Board has frequently discussed how to strengthen ECAD's position in southern Europe. There is a predominance of member cities in northern and eastern Europe, while we have few active members in the south. This was one of the reasons we chose to hold our autumn meeting in Rome. The Board met in connection with the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Drug Prevention with over 500 delegates from 84 countries all over the world. The Advisory Board members continuously use their personal contacts, and strive to create new ones, to promote ECAD in every possible way. At the Rome conference, ECAD was also represented among the speakers through Torgny Peterson.

Another problem the Board has discussed during the year is the unfortunate fact that some large cities like London, Berlin and Paris have left the organisation. While this is regrettable, it is also something we have to take into account. Joining ECAD is a drug political standpoint, and this is also the case when a city chooses to leave the organisation. We have noticed that cities' leaving ECAD is often the result of elections and a new majority. Opinions among politicians differ, also regarding drug issues. The Advisory Board has encouraged the staff to work more actively with contacts in the major member cities. Part of this work is the decision to launch an ECAD offensive in Italy, Spain, Germany and France. It is obvious that English, ECAD official language, is not enough to reach out in these countries. Our experience shows that translating

the ECAD information materials to home languages gives the best results.

This has been evident in Sweden, Norway (where you can choose between the Swedish or English version of the newsletter), Latvia, Lithuania and Russia.

Consequently we are compiling an information package to be translated, printed and distributed to French, Spanish, Italian and German cities in their respective four languages.

Some time after the summer we hope to see results of this campaign.

ECAD Mission Statement emphasizes that ECAD promotes experience exchange between its member cities. Several member cities have paid attention to this, and asked for more active support towards experience exchange. Consequently, we have now established a grant which

those working in the drug field in our member cities can apply for. After decision by ECAD, the grant would finance part of the travel and accommodation costs for a study visit from a member city to another to study various aspects of drug issues. You can find out more about the study visit grant on our website [www.ecad.net](http://www.ecad.net). In the first year, the grant program is limited to 10-12 persons and shall be evaluated in the end of the year.

Following a proposal from the Swedish Carnegie Institute, we will furthermore establish an ECAD scholarship of some 2000 euros to be granted to a person of great merit in Russia for achievements against drug abuse and supporting the UN Conventions on Drugs. The scholarship was made possible thanks to the Carnegie Institute, which provides the major part of the scholarship amount.

The Advisory Board has discussed extending a similar scholarship to include other member cities also. We will, however, wait and see the outcome of the Russian scholarship before moving further.

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Furthermore, the Advisory Board has agreed that from the year 2005, the membership fees should be invoiced in euro. There has been some confusion in the last couple of years, and many cities have mixed up the invoice in British pounds with euro, and thus paid wrong amount. The new rates in euro will be materially the same, apart from usual currency changes.



At each meeting, the Advisory Board gets reports on the various projects ECAD carries out or is part of. Also the regional offices in St. Petersburg and Riga report three times annually to the Board. During the past year, ECAD changed its representation in Riga. We welcome Andrejs Vilks, the new regional director in Riga, to ECAD. The Board's autumn meeting is scheduled to take place in Riga, and we look forward to visiting the ECAD regional office in Riga on that occasion.

On behalf of the Advisory Board, I would like to thank for the fine work carried out by ECAD's local networks in Bulgaria, Norway and Sweden. The annual conferences of these networks are a valuable addition to the annual Mayors' conferences. May I also compliment Björg Månum Andersson from Oslo, Heiko Schneitler and Andre Withalm from Düsseldorf, Eric Smyth and Barry Flynn from Belfast, and indeed our host this year, Andreas Petrou from Aglantzia, for the conferences and seminars they have organised during the year.

*JIM CORR*

*Chairman/ECAD*

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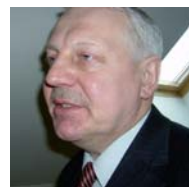
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