

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
OF THE VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON NARCOTIC DRUGS**

**Thursday, 10 March 2005 at 10.30 a.m.**

**Present**

**Members:**

E. Carlin (Mentor Foundation), ec@mentoruk.org.uk  
E Frei (Salvation Army), NGO@swi.salvationarmy.org  
S. Gfundner (Zonta International),  
H. Kaschitz (Soroptimist International, ECE liaison) hpkaschitz@aol.com  
M. Jelsma (Transnational Institute), mjelsma@tni.org  
I. Luxon (IFUW)  
E. Pomberger (Pax Romana, ICMICA-IMCS)  
R. Schildböck (ICAA), secretariat@icaa.ch  
R. Spalt (CeIS), rosetta.spalt@gmx.at  
E. Tongue (Chairperson), (IFUW), atongue@worldcom.ch  
J. Travis (Mentor Foundation), jtravis@mentorfoundation.org  
D. Turner (CeIS), management2@ceis.it  
B. Walsberger (European Union of Women), barfrina@utanet.at  
E. Wartburg (ICAA), fax 01/317 34 17

**UNODC**

M. Dummar Frahi, mirella.frahi@unodc.org  
G. Babar

**Apologies**

T. Legl  
M. Musalek  
M. Perron

The Chairperson of the Committee opened the meeting. She announced that this extraordinary meeting had no agenda other than to review the events of the past few days, including the NGO Forum held on 9 March 2005 and to report on the progress of the planning for the 2007 International NGO Forum.

She welcomed all present and expressed her regret that few Committee members were able to attend the meeting.

**Steering Committee for the International Forum**

A meeting of the Steering Committee appointed in February was held on Monday, 7 March to discuss the plans for the international forum in 2007. It decided that the preparatory time was too short for a meeting in 2006. A decision on the date would probably be made at the next NGO Committee meeting on 23 May 2005. The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse had offered to provide a consultant for a few days to draw up a project proposal and budget outline. The consultant's proposal will be discussed by the Steering Committee and then brought to the attention of members at the meeting in May.

In reply to a question from E. Frei concerning the date of the international forum, the Chairperson said that they were targeting spring or early summer although no location had been identified as yet. The possibilities discussed had been Holland, London and Vienna but funding would be an essential aspect. They were thinking of some 300 participants with 100 from developing countries, who would probably need financial assistance to attend.

**NGO Committee's statement to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

At our last meeting, volunteers had been requested to draw up a statement to the Commission on behalf of our Committee. Everyone attending the NGO Forum had received a copy (also attached to these minutes). E. Jensema and M. Perron had provided a draft which T. Legl and E. tongue had reviewed. Our new liaison officer in UNODC, M. Dummar Frahi had kindly made arrangements to have it put in the pigeon holes of all delegations which was probably more useful than reading it out at the Commission.

### NGO Forum on 9 March 2005

Offering her special thanks to the Mentor Foundation for their input, both for the financing as well as the manpower, the Chairperson called on E. Carlin to give a short briefing.

E. Carlin informed the meeting that his colleague, J. Travis, had taken notes throughout the event, which would be distributed to members within the next couple of weeks. He felt that the session had been energetic and inspiring. The many activities, approaches and opinions of NGOs had given an indication to both NGO and government representatives of their wide range of experience and the fact that they are committed to working in partnership amongst themselves and with the UN.

The Chairperson asked the members for their comments. B. Walsberger said that the presentations and subsequent discussions on matters such as the exchange of studies and experiences had made her wonder whether a meeting of NGOs could be organized by UNODC, looking at possibilities of cooperation with UNODC and amongst the NGOs.

M. Dummar Frahi commented that there had been many discussions and examples of being flexible in dealing with drug issues. She had been very moved by the last speaker, an ex-police officer from Kyrgyzstan, who by working in supply reduction had realized the need to be more humane in dealing with those with drug problems. She was pleased that in his opening speech, Francis Maertens from UNODC had mentioned his interest in engaging more with NGOs and working in partnership. She said she would be happy in the future to share with the Committee by e-mail any items of importance.

### NGO Forum 2006

M. Jelsma asked whether there were any thoughts about the Forum next year. The Chairperson asked for suggestions. D. Turner mentioned that the Committee had focused so far on education, treatment and public health but much work was carried out by NGOs in touch with the criminal system. It would be interesting to look at how NGOs inter-relate with the criminal system. Perhaps this could be discussed at the May meeting.. E. Pomberger said that there were two specialized NGOs in the Alliance on Crime Prevention, which were working with prisoners. E. Carlin thought this topic would be an interesting focus for next year, especially as the following years would be more involved with UN activities. There were many international NGOs working in prisons. He would be happy to assist with this topic.

M. Dummar Frahi said that urban crime prevention was related and that this was an area where drugs and crimes have common issues. I. Luxon also brought up the subject of crimes connected with drugs in tourist areas.

D. Turner offered to prepare a brief draft as a basis for discussion at the May meeting, linking the level of NGO capacity (not organized crime). The Chairperson asked D. Turner and M. Jelsma to prepare some proposals. If anyone else had ideas, they should send them to herself or the Secretary. It would be helpful to have two or three short suggestions. Looking at the drug situation in a prison setting was a good idea which needs to be discussed further to see how it would be accepted by the majority.

### 26 June 2005

The Chairperson asked what UNODC was planning for the International Day this year and whether any assistance could be given by the NGO Committee. M. Dummar Frahi said that the theme was related to a healthy life but she would have to check the exact title. G. Babbar confirmed that it would concern young people choosing a healthy lifestyle. E. Carlin suggested that the Committee could involve some young people.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending this meeting and announced that the next meeting would be on 23 May 2005 at 2.30 p.m. in the Press Briefing Room.

Barbara Walsberger, Secretary, Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs