

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

Monday, 23 May 2005

Present

Members:

R. Benesch (Soroptimist International), rbenesch@utanet.at
F. Berger (International Police Association), franz.berger@ipa.at
E. Carlin (Mentor Foundation), ec@mentoruk.org.uk
E. Frei (Salvation Army), NGO@swi.salvationarmy.org
S. Gfundner (Zonta International), sylvia.gfundner@chello.at
E. Hauer-Rona (ICW), boefv.ncwaustria@utanet.at
H. Kaschitz (Soroptimist International, ECE liaison) hpkaschitz@aol.com
T. Legl (1st Vice-Chairman), (ICAA, Euro-TC), thomas.legl@gmx.at,
I. Luxon (IFUW)
M. Musalek (Anton Proksch Institute), musalek@api.or.at
M. Parenzan (IFBPW), marlene.parenzan@chello.at, fax: 923 69 10
E. Pomberger (Pax Romana, ICMICA-IMCS)
A. Söllei (World Organization of the Scout Movement),
asoellei@worldnet.scout.org
R. Spalt (CelS), rosetta.spalt@gmx.at
I. Szabolcs (IFUW), szabolcsing@hotmail.com
E. Tongue (Chairperson), (IFUW) atongue@worldcom.ch
K. Tripp (Soroptimist International), tripp@mdw.ac.at
B. Walsberger (European Union of Women), barfrina@utanet.at
E. Wartburg (ICAA), fax 01/317 34 17
N. Zimmer (Rotary International), fax 01/587 15 65-12 or 30
UNODC N. Deck, Chief, Global Challenges Section
M. Dummar Frahi, mirella.frahi@unodc.org
Guests F. Gehart (Vice-President of CONGO), friedrich.gehart@gmx.net
V. Meisinger (PPSEAWA-T Pan Pacific South-east Asia Women Association

of

Thailand), vanmeis@aon.at
Y. Redo (Asia Crime Prevention Foundation), redo@acpf.org
K. Rudolph (National Council of German Women's Organizations),
kerin.rudolph@chello.at
Apologies: E. Efthimiou-Mordaunt (John Mordaunt Trust), andria3a@yahoo.co.uk
E. Jensema (The Senlis Council), jensema@senliscouncil.net
M. Perron (2nd Vice-Chairman) (Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse),
mperron@ccsa.ca
H. Rohaczek (Bundesverband der Elternkreise), info@elternkreis.at

Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2005

3. NGO Forum 2006
4. Crime Prevention Congress in Bangkok
5. International Day 26 June 2005
6. International Forum 2007
7. Membership of the NGO Committee
8. Any other business

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and, in particular, Mr. Norman Deck (USA), the new Chief of the Global Challenges Section (formerly the Demand Reduction Section) of UNODC. She invited him to address the meeting.

Mr. Deck had been in Vienna for two weeks, having come from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, USA, where he had been working since 1989. He planned to strengthen the work of his office, increase the staff and build up cooperation with NGOs. In the next months, he would look for gaps where areas do not mesh or overlap. He had been impressed by his staff who are all proud of their impact and their partnerships around the world. He agreed with Committee members that early prevention begins in the family but felt that the extended family is also an important resource. The root causes for starting on addictive substances must be sought. Mr. Deck said that every level of society must be reached and each NGO can reach people. If Committee members have someone he should meet, he would be pleased to receive a telephone call. He left the meeting in order to attend the Commission on the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which was currently meeting.

Item 1: The agenda was approved

Item 2: The minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2005 were approved after E. Hauer-Rona and M. Parenzan had requested for their names to be included under "apologies".

Item 3: A written proposal for next year's Forum had been received from D. Turner in accordance with discussions at the last meeting, bringing together the visions of Mr. Costa, and relating the activities of our Committee with those of the NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and criminal justice. The theme of drug abuse within the criminal justice system had been suggested, looking at the methods of treating drug abusers within a prison setting. The Committee endorsed this theme.

E. Carlin suggested that good practices also be included and he agreed to send a few paragraphs to add to D. Turner's proposal. The final paper will be circulated to members for their comments and suggestions of speakers. These should be provided to the Chairperson or the Secretary.

Item 4: M. Dummar Frahi attended the 11th Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Bangkok in April 2005. There were 148 individuals officially registered as representing NGOs and more than 1,000 experts participating. Forty ancillary meetings had been organized by NGOs, including one on the trafficking of children organized by Soroptimist International, an NGO on our Committee. The report of the Congress is on the UNODC website.

The draft Bangkok Declaration (Synergies and responses: strategic alliances in crime prevention and criminal justice) was distributed to the Committee. Article 9 states: "We recognize the role of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in contributing to the prevention of and the fight against crime and terrorism. We encourage measures to strengthen this role within the rule of law". The current Crime Commission will follow up on the Bangkok Declaration adopted by the Congress.

In addition to the excellent exchange of information among experts from various countries, the 11th Congress provided an opportunity to give a boost to UN conventions. Sixteen legal instruments were deposited by Governments during the Congress. The Protocol on Firearms Control entered into force and the Convention on Corruption will come into force by end of this year following the required number of ratifications.

Y. Redo of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation said that her organization had organized a workshop two days before the Congress on the role of criminal justice to prevent post-disaster crimes and minimize socio-economic damage subsequent to natural disasters. Participants came from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The results of the workshop were introduced to the Congress.

E. Pomberger said that the Chair of the Vienna NGO Alliance, had organized an ancillary meeting on the safeguard of the rights of prisoners as described in the UN standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners and other international standards.

Item 5: M. Dummar Frahi had previously circulated to the Committee information concerning the theme of the International Day in 2005: "Value yourself... make a healthy choice" which is a message of self-respect addressed to young people. It relates the health issue of drug abuse to positive activities of young people. In this connection, UNODC has prepared a poster showing Markus Rogan, the Austrian silver medallist at the last Olympic Games, with the text "Don't sink, drugs drag you down". The poster will be ready for distribution around 15 June and it is hoped that Markus Rogan will attend the launching press conference. Another more general poster will also be available. This campaign will run for one year. The logo can be downloaded from the UNODC website in the six UN languages .

The Executive Director of UNODC will be in Italy on the International Day to launch this campaign from San Patrignano, an Italian therapeutic community that is hosting the FEI European horse-jumping championship this year. This is a perfect example of youth making the right choice by organizing this sporting event . UNODC has no plans currently for special activities in Vienna on 26 June.

K. Tripp suggested that the posters be sent to schools for the International Day or to School Advisory Councils throughout Austria but E. Pomberger thought the time would be too short. She suggested they be distributed in autumn when the schools re-open. E. Tongue

proposed that Committee members send the poster to their headquarters, to be put on the respective websites.

M. Dummar Frahi said that the World Drug Report which is usually launched on the International Day, will only be made public in Stockholm on 29 June. E. Carlin offered the assistance of his organization in publicising the event as its International President is based in Stockholm.

Item 6: E. Tongue reported that two weeks before this meeting, she and M. Perron had visited Francis Maertens, UNODC's Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Research Branch, to discuss the Steering Committee's basic document presented to the Committee in March. The latest version is attached to these minutes. They explained to him the aims of the Forum and said that while wishing to co-operate with UNODC, we shall not be financially dependent on the Office. It is planned at the moment to hold the meeting in February 2007 so that any resolutions and the report could be presented to the 2007 session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, possibly through a friendly government. It was felt that the best venue would be Vienna.

Locations such as the City Hall or a hotel were under consideration. F. Maertens had suggested that if the programme of the Vienna International Centre permits space, one conference room could be reserved for the plenary and three or four other rooms be made available free of charge. He offered to look into this possibility. In case of any problems, UNODC could approach the Austrian Ambassador to the United Nations to check whether the Austrian Government would donate one room for the plenary and some other meeting rooms at the Austria Center. Once all the minor changes have been made to the draft paper, F. Maertens will have to bring it to attention of the UN Executive Committee (EXCOM) for endorsement of readiness by the UN to cooperate, bearing in mind past or future statements by the Secretary-General on co-operation between the UN and civil society.

The tentative budget, high as it appears to be, may have to be revised by the Steering Committee. The Chairperson requested all members to participate in fund-raising. She urged all NGOs to request from their headquarters donations of between 1,000 and 1,500 euros. She will discuss with the Treasurers other possibilities for obtaining donations, such as from banks or commercial companies. M. Perron will approach the Canadian

International Development for assistance in bringing people from developing countries of Africa and South-East Asia: F. Gehart suggested that the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs be approached as it had responded positively in connection with the forthcoming Regional Crime Prevention Forum for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe. The Chairperson took note of this proposal.

The Chairperson requested the Treasurer to open a special account for the International Forum 2007 and deposit into it the funds donated by Senlis.

The next step will be for the Steering Committee to correspond concerning the suggested dates and programme. The basic paper will be distributed to all Committee members for perusal and inputs to make changes or additions. The number of participants will be limited to 300 and the length of the meeting to three or four days. Powerful speakers will be sought

and workshops planned where NGOs can exchange experiences on their own operations and relationships with the UN and governments. UNODC will also take an active part in the proceedings. E. Carlin thanked the Chairperson and the Steering Committee for their engagement on the International Forum.

Item 7: The Treasurer informed the Committee that she will soon send out letters with payment forms for the 2005 membership. It had been decided by the board that the membership fee for 2005 will cost 45 euros plus 10 euros for each additional member of an organization.

The Chairperson announced that a new organization from the UK, the John Mordaunt Trust, had applied for membership. She regretted that the President of EURAD had objected to the membership of this organization and noted that the e-mail on this subject (distributed to the Committee), although addressed to many recipients, had not been copied to the persons mentioned in the message. E. Carlin and E. Tongue supported the membership of the new organization. The Committee was asked to vote on the proposed membership which was accepted by eleven votes in favour, six abstentions and none against.

Item 8:

Distribution of e-mails to members of the Committee

E. Hauer Rona wondered whether e-mails circulated to the Committee by members was a wise procedure? The Committee agreed that, in future, **no member may circulate messages to the Committee on their own initiative**. Any messages to be circulated should be sent to the Chairperson who will deal with them as necessary.

Regional Crime Prevention Forum for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe

The agenda for the above meeting was distributed to the members of the Committee. It will be held at the Vienna International Centre on 27 and 28 October and any NGO may apply to attend.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs 2006

M. Dummar Frahi said that the date of the next session had not yet been set but it would probably be held in March 2006.

Next meeting

The Chairperson suggested that, in view of the enormous task of the Steering Committee during the next few months, the Committee should not meet before October or early November. Hopefully, it will be possible to meet at that time with the complete Steering Committee if all the members are in Europe around that time. The date will therefore be announced later.

Barbara Walsberger
Secretary
Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs