

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

Friday, 22 September 2006

Present:

- Members:** R. Benesch (Soroptimist International), rbenesch@utanet.at
E. Carlin (Mentor Foundation), ec@mentoruk.org
E. Frei (Salvation Army), NGO@swi.salvationarmy.org
S. Gfundner (Zonta International), Sylvia.gfundner@chello.at
G. Köcher (IFUW)
H. Kaschitz (Soroptimist International ECE Liaison), hpkaschitz@aol.com
U. Nemling (International Inner Wheel), ulrike@nemling.at
M. Perron (2nd Vice-Chair) (Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse),
mperron@ccsa.ca
- E. Pomberger (Pax Romana, ICMICA-IMCS)
R. Spalt (CeIS), rosetta.spalt@gmx.at
E. Tongue (Chairperson) (IFUW), atongue@worldcom.ch
K. Tripp (Soroptimist International), tripp@mdw.ac.at
D. Turner, (CeIS), management2@ceis.it
A. Ulstein (Eurad), anders.ulstein@actis.no
E. von Wartburg (ICAA), esther.wartburg@aon.at
B. Walsberger (European Union of Women, (barfrina@utanet.at
F. Zeidler (Rotary International), f.zeidler@aon.at
- UNODC:** M. Dummar Frahi, mirella.frahi@unodc.org
G. Babbar, gautam.babbar@unodc.org
C. Dos Santos cicero.dos.santos@unvienna.org
- Guests:** F. Amicarelli (Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe), info@fdfe.eu
G. Dimitz (International Federation of Social Workers), g.dimitz@aon.at
W. Köhler, (Lions Club International), koehler.wolfgang@chello.at
C. LeBlanc (Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe), info@fdfe.eu
J. Rubio (CeIS), julia.rubio@aon.at
- Regrets:** M. Barzanti, (San Patrignano), mbarzanti@sanpatrignano.org
Dr. W. Beiglböck (Int. Assoc. of Applied Psychology),
wolfgang.beiglboeck@univie.ac.at
- F. Berger (International Police Association), franz.berger@ipa.at
E. Efthimiou-Mordaunt (John Mordaunt Trust), andria3a@yahoo.co.uk
E. Hauer-Rona (ICW). boefv.ncwaustralia@utanet.at
T. Legl (1st Vice-Chairman), (ICAA, Euro-TC), thomas.legl@gmx.at
M. Luppi (San Patrignano), mluppi@sanpatrignano.org
I. Luxon (IFUW)
M. Parenzan (IFBPW), marlene.parenzan@chello.at
I. Szabolcs (IFUW), szabolcsing@hotmail.com

Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10 May 2006
3. Introduction of guests/new members
4. Review of NGO briefing book
5. Update on 4th International NGO Forum
6. Report on meetings with UNODC officials
7. Nomination to the Selection Committee for the elections to the Board
8. Progress Update on UNODC Strategy
9. Report on the theme of the International Day Against Drug Abuse (26 June)
10. International CONGO Board Meeting 22-23 August 2006
11. Vienna Civil Society Award
12. Any other business

The Chairperson, E. Tongue, opened the meeting, welcoming the NGO Committee members and its guests.

1. Agenda

The agenda was approved after moving items 5 and 6 to the end of the discussions.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10 May 2006

The minutes were approved after correcting the organization which W. Köhler represents to Lions Club International.

3. Introduction of guests/new members

Anders Ullstein from Norway was introduced as the standing representative of Eurad to the Committee, as well as Julia Rubio as a potential future representative of Cels. Guests to the meeting were Fabio Amicarelli and Carl Le Blanc from the Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe based in Brussels and Georg Dimitz from the International Federation of Social Workers. Wolfgang Köhler from the Lions Club Vienna Cosmopolitan was welcomed and the hope expressed that he would represent the Lions Club International at the Committee on a permanent basis.

4. Review of NGO briefing book

The Chairperson gave the floor to M. Perron, Second Vice-Chairman, to discuss this item. A new brochure to provide information on the proceedings connected with the Committee, the Office on Drugs and Crime (OCD) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) had been discussed at the last meeting. B. Walsberger had prepared a first draft describing the Committee, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status, access to the Vienna International Centre (VIC), etc. More work needed to be done before the brochure would be brought to the Committee for approval. It was planned for use during the next CND in March 2007.

5. Update on 4th International NGO Forum

M. Perron introduced this item and distributed the document "Beyond 2008", a global NGO Forum on the Review of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Illicit Drugs 1998/2008 which reported on the history of the Committee and activities undertaken in connection with the Forum (copy attached). The meetings of the Steering and Programme Committees had been attended by NGOs following various ideological policies but consensus had been achieved. The venue of the Forum will be the Vienna International Centre as it was available through UNODC at little cost and the date would be linked to the date of the UNGASS Review which, hopefully, will be held in 2009. The Forum will last three to four days. Some 20 to 25 places at the meeting would be reserved for international NGOs.

Six regional consultations made possible by funding from the European Community (EC) to be channelled through UNODC would be held in developing countries only. They would be organized by three lead NGOs (right, left, youth) in each region, who would be chosen with the help of UNODC Field Offices. These NGOs would also be invited to the 2007 session of the CND. Regional meetings in developed countries were not ruled out but must be self-financing.

The Secretariat of the Forum consisted of B. Walsberger on a voluntary basis and Amanda Cowl, a Canadian working part-time for the UN in Lima and an ex-intern with UNODC, who was working for the Forum one day per week. The latter was responsible for coordinating the regional consultations.

A questionnaire to be distributed world-wide to NGOs prepared on the basis of the UNODC biennial reporting questionnaire was almost ready and would obtain quantitative not qualitative information using tick boxes. It would be prepared in the six official UN languages with the help of UNODC Field Offices and would be put on the NGO Committee's website. It would be launched at the 2007 session of the CND. Many NGOs with wide networks would be asked to provide the names of NGOs to be approached. It was also hoped to collect titles of evaluations and research by NGOs to form a bibliography. Such world-wide data does not currently exist so there was great excitement about the result. The analysis of the questionnaire was expected to provide an input to the UNGASS Review.

With regard to funding, the original budget of the Forum of €680,000 had been increased to €980,000 through a contribution from the European Community (EC). M.Perron thanked

M. Dummar Frahi and D. Turner for their assistance in the preparation of the many drafts to request the funding by the EC of €400,000 (minus an overhead contribution to UNODC). The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse was managing the expenses for the Forum and will bill the account of the NGO Committee on a quarterly basis. It was committed to not spending more money than was on the Committee's account, currently €83,000.

With regard to sponsors, it was expected to find five or six large sponsors in the next few months. It was important that donations were not earmarked to specific interests. E. Tongue referred to her call to the NGO Committee to contact their headquarters concerning a one-time donation. Several organizations had expressed interest but requested additional information which could be found on the website. M. Perron promised to post on the website a half-page description of funding procedures.

D. Turner, Chairman of the Programme Committee, said that the participants in his Committee were not all known to the NGO Committee but that their names would appear on the website. The minutes of the last meeting in Edinburgh on 7 September would be emailed to NGO Committee members. The next meeting of the Programme Committee would be held in Vienna during the 2007 CND.

Thanks were offered in particular to M. Perron and D. Turner for the large amount of work they had done in preparing the Forum.

6. Report on meetings with UNODC and other officials

M. Perron reported on meetings with UNODC officials. Discussions with the CND Secretariat had included access to the Journal (daily information sheet to the CND), use of room(s) by NGOs during the CND, and a request to include in the agenda of the CND a presentation on the Forum.

The Swedish Ambassador, the current Chairman of the CND, had been highly receptive to the idea of a presentation at a time when all the Member States would be present. They had discussed embedding the Forum in the UNODC road map but had been warned that some Governments are not receptive to including NGOs. This official platform would be best achieved through a resolution from a Member State. The Ambassador would look into the possibility of attendance at the 2007 CND of the 18 NGOs who would be organizing the regional consultations

A meeting had been held with a representative of the City of Vienna, who said that a financial contribution could be expected (free accommodation or Austrian Airlines tickets for participants from developing countries) if the meeting were to be held off-season (November to March).

7. Nomination to the Selection Committee for the elections to the Board

The Chairperson requested three volunteers for the Selection Committee to organize the election of the Committee's Board at the next meeting in November. E. Pomberger (convening Chairperson), R. Spalt and K. Tripp agreed to seek nominations, which must be sent to Committee members four weeks before the November meeting.

8. Progress Update on UNODC Strategy

G. Babbar from UNODC's Strategic Planning Section briefed the Committee. The comments of the Committee, the Crime Alliance, Member States and management experts had been considered in the full draft "Towards security and justice for all, Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism" (copy attached) which was distributed at the meeting. It was an attempt to combine the functions of drugs, crime and the civil community, and to provide achievement indicators.

This new draft will be provided to Member States for discussion with their capitals and must be finalized by the end of December for translation in time for the CND. M. Perron said that cooperation with NGOs had been included in detail and it remained to be seen whether the Member States would agree. Therefore, all NGOs having access to Government representatives should make contact to ensure that the draft is not changed.

Should the Committee have any *critical* comments, they should be passed to M. Dummar Frahi and might be taken into consideration if time is available.

9. Report on the theme of the International Day Against Drug Abuse (26 June)

M. Dummar Frahi reported that the theme of the last International Day "Drugs are not Child's Play" was a one-year campaign which was launched on 26 June.

She said that the theme for the 2007/2008 campaign was expected to be chosen from a number of possibilities:

- Drugs: Community responses
- Drug abuse in the workplace
- Drugs and the entertainment industry
- Women and substance use

M. Perron suggested that the themes of the past five years be provided to the Committee to ensure that our proposals did not coincide. D. Turner suggested "Stimulus without stimulants" which would connect with the UNGASS Review. Members were asked to provide their proposals to B. Walsberger for discussion at the November meeting.

Following the meeting, M. Dummar Frahi learnt that the decision would be taken by ODC during the week beginning 2 October. Therefore, an email was sent out to members to inquire whether any item was of particular interest and requesting a reply by 1 October 2006.

10. International CONGO Board Meeting 22-23 August 2006

In view of the shortage of time, it was decided to ask F. Gehart, Vice-President of CONGO, to let us have a one-page report on the three-day CONGO meeting and resolutions.

11. Vienna Civil Society Award

The UNODC Field Offices had been responsible for nominating organizations which had been carrying out excellent work and, therefore, no European NGOs had been considered. The Committee had been invited to participate in the decision on the Award and comments had been sent by T. Legl, First Vice-Chairman, by fax. The Award would be presented in the Vienna City Hall on 1 December.

12. Any other business

Website

M. Perron referred to the Committee's website www.vngoc.org which is currently under construction. It will also act as a repository for documents prepared by the Committee. Members of the NGO Committee could receive access codes. Any suggestions for the website could be sent to the email address provided on the website.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

C. Dos Santos from the Secretariat of the CND said that the next session would be held for one week between 12 and 23 March 2007. The provisional agenda was distributed. It was hoped that the topic of the thematic debate would be decided at the next intersessional meeting on 4 October.

Mini-Forum 2007

For identification purposes and lack of an alternative, the title remained for the time being. It was suggested that the 2007 meeting, instead of being based on the thematic debate, could present the work of some of the 18 NGOs leading the regional consultations. In addition, a short meeting would be organized to brief NGO colleagues on "Beyond 2008", on working with the CND and on other matters.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday, 24 November at 2.30 p.m. in the Press Briefing Room.

B. Walsberger, Secretary
Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs