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Global Drug Policy program



# ***DRUG CONTROL POLICY: THE EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE***

## **International Symposium**

Academic Coordinator: Renaud Colson, EUI / University of Nantes

### **EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE**

**17-18 June 2013**

Villa La Fonte  
Via delle Fontanelle, 10  
I-50014 San Domenico di Fiesole, Firenze, ITALIA

The drug control regime established by the international community has not succeeded in curbing either the demand for, or the offer of, narcotics. Despite its meager success, support for repealing drug-prohibition laws remains scarce. Expertise casting doubt on the efficacy of current policies is often overshadowed by impassioned political discourses, and the criminalisation of drug use has discredited any attempt to voice the concern of drug users. Nonetheless, a gradual policy convergence in Europe reveals the emergence of a model favouring public-health strategies over a strictly penal approach to combating drugs.

Moreover, growing trans-national support for legalisation indicates the persistence of an alternative paradigm for drug policy. The impetus for drug policy changes originates from several *loci*: grassroots movements growing ever more trans-national, NGO networks, private foundations and academic research centres among others. These actors develop various strategies to challenge global prohibition ranging from awareness-raising campaigns to cause lawyering, and the proposal of blueprints for drug regulation. As such, they contribute alternative policy directions.

It is unclear, though, to what extent this announces a shift in the way the international community deals with the problem of illicit drugs. Local institutional experiences of drug decriminalisation remain controversial in Europe, and civil society initiatives promoting policy changes in this direction have failed to gather momentum. The symposium will assess these alternative discourses in the light of international drug policy. In order to do so, the meeting will revisit the architecture of the global drug control regime in a European perspective, map out the trans-national actors promoting policy changes in Europe, and evaluate their credibility and impact on European and international institutions.

## **INFORMATION & REGISTRATION**

**Attendance to the symposium is free of charge but pre-registration is required to [Annick.Bulckaen@eui.eu](mailto:Annick.Bulckaen@eui.eu)**

**Conference secretariat: Annick Bulckaen, [Annick.Bulckaen@eui.eu](mailto:Annick.Bulckaen@eui.eu), +39-055-4685 275**

**Academic contact: Renaud Colson, [Renaud.Colson@eui.eu](mailto:Renaud.Colson@eui.eu)**

# PROGRAMME

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17 June 2013, morning and afternoon

09:00

## **Reception and Opening**

**Hans-Wolfgang Micklitz** | Head of the Law Department, European University Institute

*Welcome speech*

**Renaud Colson** | European University Institute / University of Nantes

*Presentation of the Conference*

09:30 – 11:00

## **I – General Framework of International Drug Control**

**Pino Arlacchi** | Former Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna; Former Executive Director of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention; MEP; University of Sassari

*An Insider's Perspective on the UN Drug Control Strategy*

**Nancie Prud'homme** | University of Essex

*Articulation and Tension between the Drug Control Regime and International Human Rights*

**Christine Guillain** | Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles

*The United Nations International Drug Control Treaties: Legal or Political Obstacle to Decriminalization?*

*Coffee break*

11:15 – 12:45

## **II – Implementation of Drug Control Policies in Europe**

**Esther Wahlen** | European University Institute

*Drug Control Policy in Eastern Europe*

**Franz Trautmann** | Trimbos Instituut

*Converging and Diverging Trends in European Drug Policies*

**Laura d'Arrigo** | Diplomatic adviser to the chair of the Pompidou Group, Council of Europe (TBC)

*European Cooperation and Drug Control Policy*

*Lunch (speakers only)*

14:15 – 15:45

## **III – Current Trends in European Union Drug Policy**

**Caroline Chatwin** | University of Kent

*Drug Policy and European Harmonization*

**Martin Elvins** | University of Dundee

*Politics of Expertise and EU Drug Policy*

**Paola Tardioli-Schiavo** | Deputy Head of Anti-Drugs Policy Unit, DG Justice, European Commission

*EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020)*

*Coffee break*

16:00 – 17:30

## **IV – Social Actors in Drug Policy Reform**

**Aileen O'Gorman** | University College Dublin

*Drug Policy Advocacy Organisations in Europe*

**Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch** | Global Drug Policy Program, Open Society Foundations

*Agents of Change in Drug Policy: The International Movement for Reform*

**Ethan Nadelmann** | Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance (by Skype)

*Guiding Drug Law Reform in the USA*

**Grazia Zuffa** | Forum Droghe

*The Role of NGOs in Drug Policy Making (The Case of Italy)*

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18 June 2013, morning

09:30 – 11:00

**V – What Models for European Drug Policy?**

**Ruth Dreifuss** | Former President of Switzerland, Former Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, Member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy

*The Swiss Experience: Some Lessons Learned*

**Alex Stevens** | University of Kent

*Towards Progressive Decriminalisation?*

**Frank Zobel** | European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

*Drug Policy Developments in Europe and the International Drug Control System*

11:15 – 12:45

**VI – The Case of Cannabis**

**Tom Decorte** | Ghent University

*On Cannabis Social Clubs*

**Mario Lap** | DrugText Foundation

*The Dutch Model*

**Peter Reuter** | University of Maryland

*Moving Beyond Stalemate*

*Lunch (speakers only)*

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## PARTICIPANTS

- **Laurent Appel**, Freelance Journalist; Member of ASUD (Association d'auto-support des usagers de drogues), France
- **Pino Arlacchi**, Former Director-General of the UN Office in Vienna; former Executive Director of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention; Member of the European Parliament; Professor, University of Sassari, Italy
- **Laura d'Arrigo**, Diplomatic adviser to the chair of the Pompidou Group, Council of Europe, France (TBC)
- **Caroline Chatwin**, Senior Lecturer, University of Kent, UK
- **Renaud Colson**, Associate Professor, University of Nantes, France ; Marie Curie Fellow, EUI, Italy
- **Tom Decorte**, Professor, Ghent University, Belgium
- **Ruth Dreifuss**, Former President of Switzerland, Former Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, Member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, Switzerland
- **Martin Elvins**, Lecturer, University of Dundee, UK
- **Christine Guillain**, Professor, Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles, Belgium
- **Mario Lapp**, DrugText Foundation, France
- **Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch**, Director of the Global Drug Policy Program, Open Society Foundations, Poland
- **Gary T. Marx**, Professor Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA
- **Therese Murphy**, Professor, The University of Nottingham, UK
- **Ethan Nadelmann**, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance, NY, USA (by Skype)
- **Aileen O'Gorman**, Research Fellow, School of Applied Social Science, University College Dublin, Ireland
- **Nancie Prud'homme**, Projects Director, International Center on Human Rights and Drug Policy, University of Essex, UK
- **Peter Reuter**, Professor, University of Maryland, USA
- **Alex Stevens**, Professor, University of Kent, UK
- **Paola Tardioli-Schiavo**, Deputy Head of Anti-Drugs Policy Unit, DG Justice, European Commission, Belgium
- **Franz Trautmann**, Head Unit International Affairs, Trimbos Instituut / Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction, Netherlands
- **Esther Wahlen**, Phd Researcher, EUI, Italy
- **Frank Zobel**, Head of Policy Unit, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Portugal
- **Grazia Zuffa**, Forum Droghe, Italy