

# Summary of Congress

## 1<sup>st</sup> Panel: Tackling Drugs as a Global Issue

***Moderator:** Kevin Sabet – Director Drug Policy Institute, Florida University  
Professor – USA*

**António Maria Costa** – Former Director United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime Executive Director - Italy

**Raymond Yans** - President International Narcotics Control Board - Belgium

**Wolfgang Goetz** – Executive Director of EMCDDA – Germany

**Marcos Correia** – Entrepreneur, “Recovery is possible” – Portugal

### Key concepts of the 1<sup>st</sup> Panel:

- Drugs are actually a global issue (relevant examples were presented)
- Three-step approach concerning drugs – Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation
- Governments actually need to take appropriate measures
- Scientific evidence based treatments for more effectiveness in global policies
- Common problem to countries – sharing information between countries is crucial in tackling drug issues
- People have the right to be protected from drugs
- New drugs/new substances in the market – need of new approaches
- Internet – A new way of supplying drugs
- Drugs associated to poverty, unemployment, emotional disruption – consideration of the causes and the effects
- Recovery is possible

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Panel: Tackling Drugs as a Global Issue (cont.)**

*Moderator: Kevin Sabet – Director Drug Policy Institute, Florida University Professor – USA*

**Video Message from Head of President Obama's ONDCP - White House - USA**

**USA Government represented** by Stephanie Kotecki – Bohomme

**A. Barnie/ K. Bofo** | AYISI - Ghana | **David Ekwueme** - IOGT - Sweden

**Domingos Neto**- Psychiatrist, Former Director Centro R. de Alcoologia do Sul - Portugal

**Neil McKeganey**- Director of Centre for Drug Misuse Research – Scotland

### **Key concepts of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel:**

- Addiction problems should be scientifically addressed
- Successes and failures in the process of tackling drugs need to be acknowledged, but optimism is prevailing
- Drug free programs are possible leading to a total recovery
- Nothing less than our best efforts to extend and publicise success
- Growing awareness of the need of an early tackling of the drug problem
- Drugs are a multi causal issue – Unemployment, diseases, violence, and prostitution
- Recovery is possible if we join our hands together – We all have shared responsibilities

**3<sup>rd</sup> Panel: The rising problem of *smartshops*, drugs on the Internet, alcohol and cannabis – The SAM project**

**Moderator:** *Nuno Eloca, Psychologist, Lugar da Manhã – Portugal*

**Carlos Fugas** –Psychologist, Syntonic Therapy Project – Portugal

**Filipa Coelho** – ISCE Professor, President of Sociedade Anti-Alcoólica Portuguesa – Portugal

**Rui Martins** – Communication Director of Dianova - Portugal

**Susana Henriques** - Researcher of CIES-ISCTE-IUL - Portugal

**José A. Garcia del Castillo**- Universidade Miguel Hernandez, of Alicante - Spain

**Kevin Sabet** – Founder of SAM Project, Director of Drug Policy Institute, Florida – USA

**Key concepts of the 3rd Panel:**

- Acclaimed Portuguese Therapy Project – Syntonic Therapy Project, reduction of inner stress, syntonic relaxation, stimulation of the Symbolic thought, verbal and visual synchronisation
- Relevant role of the emotional intelligence and education in the prevention of several addictions - contexts, circumstances, and substances have to be considered
- New addictive products – Virtual “products” – The Internet as a source of addictions – new materials requiring analysis and reliable scientific data
- Relevance of the reintegration programs and its acknowledgement by the families
- The Smart Approach in the USA – A scientifically based, non ideological approach to drug use, having already penetrated the media
- Seeking new solutions – Responsible regulations

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Panel: Drugs and the Media**

**Moderator:** *Carlos Fugas, Psychologist, Syntonic Therapy Project – Portugal*

**David Raynes** – Executive Councilor of National Drug Prevention Alliance – England

**Jorgen Sviden** – Director of ECAD – Sweden

**Fay Watson** – Secretary-General of Europe Against Drugs - Belgium

**J. Margalho Carrilho** – Psychiatrist, President P.A. Addiction Medicine - Portugal

#### **Key concepts of the 4<sup>th</sup> Panel:**

- Drugs and the media – Success concerning drug tackling rarely if ever publicised in the UK
- Regular use concerns only a very small minority of young people in the UK
- Different Cultures, different legislation
- Continue to engage in drug policy debates
- Empower civil society groups and NGO's
- The role of the Internet in providing relevant data, and scientific University surveys on drug issues – Significant and informative web pages – a good means to provide political debate of ideas
- Strength of the legalization lobby – needed creative action to fight it back
- Misinformation on the media
- Vital role of the policy makers
- Media should not always be blamed – Civil society surely plays a relevant role
- When we do nothing accidents happen

**5<sup>th</sup> Panel: “Disease Model” versus “Psychological Model” and the need for a clear definition of Prevention and Treatment**

*Moderator: Neil McKeganey – Director of Centre for Drug Misuse Research – Scotland*

**Anthony Daniels/Theodore Dalrymple** - Psychiatrist, Writer – England

**Paul Hayes** – Chief Executive of National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse –England

**Frans L. Koopmans** – Executive Expertise of Centre De Hoop Foundation - Netherlands

**Manuel Pinto Coelho** - MD, ISCE Professor, APLD – Portugal

**David G. Evans** - Lawyer, Executive Director of Drug free Coalition of Schools – USA

**Key concepts of the 5<sup>th</sup> Panel:**

- Difference between addiction and illness – conscious human choices affect addiction
- Addiction is not a chronic relapsing disease
- Addiction is centred in poorest communities – people who haven't been able to thrive, chaos surrounding their lives
- Drug issues should not be addressed in isolation
- Addiction is a polysemic word – different cultural, social contexts should be taken into account
- Drug addiction – a multi functional issue with genetic, psychological, and social levels
- Addiction is ultimately to be considered as a “problem of the heart”
- Drug policy reform should be rooted in neuro science not in political sense and as public health issue as well, not as a criminal justice issue
- Many cases of spontaneous remission should always be counted for

## **6<sup>th</sup> Panel: Drug abuse – the role of Enforcement**

*Moderator: Kathy Gyngell – Research fellow Centre for Policy Studies - England*

**Neil McKeganey** - Director of Centre for Drug Misuse Research – Scotland

**Kevin Sabet** - Director of Drug Policy Institute, Florida University Professor – USA

**Roger Howard** – Chief Executive of Drug Policy Consortium and Drug Scope - England

**Raymond Yans** – President of International Narcotics Control Board – Belgium

**Baba Tshiangula Kanyanya / Sarah Kankolongo Muteba** - Economic Force For Congolese Women - Congo

### **Key concepts of the 6<sup>th</sup> Panel:**

- New psycho substances finding new ways – it is important to schedule the substances
- UN recommendations are guidelines for all countries
- Recovery is possible
- Drug abuse and the role of enforcement – need of a new paradigm for enforcement interventions
- Need of being more creative about tackling drug problem through enforcement
- Need to improve communication with communities and stimulate a wider awareness on real impact on drug harm
- Many ways to reduce incarceration without legalizing drugs
- Communities do not feel safer because of Police intervention
- Legalization versus commercialization

## **7<sup>th</sup> Panel: “Portuguese Model” and the responsibility of politicians**

*Moderator: Margarida Pinto Correia, Journalist, Portugal*

**Carlos Mota Cardoso** – Psychiatrist, Psychologist – Portugal

**Nuno Melo** – Jurist, Member of European Parliament – Portugal

**Rui Rio** – Economist, Mayor of Oporto – Portugal

**Kathy Gyngell** – Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Studies – England

### **Key concepts of the 7<sup>th</sup> Panel:**

- It is important that the political discourse has its roots on the actual problems
- Predominance of spiritual void leading to drug use
- The Portuguese experience – “Porto Feliz”- an example of political engagement on a widespread drug phenomenon in the centre Oporto
- Emphasis should always be put on prevention, treatment, and reduction of harm
- More responsible decision taking is needed
- More treatment, less punishment
- The acknowledged Portuguese success – is it reliable?
- Validated scientific data that ca not be ignored by the politicians
- Focus and emphasis should be put on youth
- Changes take time – 10 years is the estimated time to produce meaningful changes in society concerning drug issues

## **8<sup>th</sup> Panel: Regularization/decriminalization/legalization of drugs**

*Moderator: David Raynes – Executive Councilor National Drug Prevention Alliance – England*

**Brendan Hughes** - EMCDDA

**Rui Rangel** - Judge, Leader of Movement “Ter esperança é fazer diferente” - Portugal

**John Redman** – Executive Director of Californians for Drug Free Youth - USA

**Jorge Quintas** – School of Criminology FDUP – Portugal

**Key concepts of the 8<sup>th</sup> Panel:**

- Effects of the decriminalisation of drugs should be properly assessed
- The European Monitoring Board for Drugs in Europe – Monitoring the several legal systems across countries encounters some language, terminological, and conceptual hindrances and obstacles
- Many terminological subtleties that have to be taken into account for a balanced comparability of the several systems
- Need of regulation in order to achieve the publicly desired outcomes
- *De jure or de facto* concerning drug use – what is what?
- A strong, heart-felt testimonial against the medical use of marijuana in the USA