

47 member States

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav
Republic of
Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

29.09.2010

Council of Europe conference to focus on the dangers of "drug precursors"

Date: 30 September – 1 October

Location: Strasbourg (France)

Organised by: The Council of Europe's [Pompidou Group](#)

Description: The growth of "drug precursors" (*) used for the manufacture of illicit drugs will be examined. The conference will address the urgent need to nurture partnerships of regulatory boards, law enforcement agencies and chemical industry representatives. Such partnerships would increase the efficiency of precursor control by improving risk assessment of and rapid information exchange on suspicious transactions.

To tackle this problem, the conference will bring together some 100 representatives of national regulatory authorities and law enforcement agencies from the 35 member states of the Pompidou Group.

The conference – which is **closed to the press** – will also include officials from INTERPOL, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and representatives from other relevant international groups. Its aims are threefold:

1. to improve information exchange and coordination among law enforcement agencies and regulatory authorities on a national level;
2. to help national regulatory and law enforcement agencies use existing international cooperation tools in their efforts to prevent drug precursors' diversion;
3. to contribute to the improvement of inter-agency cooperation on an international level through an open exchange of views on issues of concern to all.

Against an international background characterized by the presence of many European and international bodies working on drugs, the Pompidou Group provides a multidisciplinary forum at the wider European level where it is possible for policy-makers, professionals and researchers to exchange information on the whole range of drug misuse and trafficking problems.

Notes for Editors

The Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group) is an **inter-governmental** body formed in 1971 at the initiative of the late French President Georges Pompidou. Initially, this informal forum consisted of seven European countries – France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom – looking to share their experience of **combating drug abuse and drug trafficking**. Since 1980 the Group has been incorporated into the institutional framework of the Council of Europe and at present it comprises 35 member states.

(*) "Drug Precursors" are chemical substances frequently used to manufacture illicit drugs such as ecstasy or amphetamines. Having wide legitimate uses, drug precursors may be extremely dangerous when diverted from the licit distribution channels for the illicit manufacturing of drugs.