



ENCOD VZW
European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug
Policies

Lange Lozanastraat 14 – 2018 Antwerpen - Belgium
Tel. + 32 (0)3 293 0886 – Mob. + 32 (0)495 122644
E-mail: info@encod.org / www.encod.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Annex 1: Current list of members
Annex 2: Financial report 2007



ENCOD VZW
European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug
Policies

Lange Lozanastraat 14 – 2018 Antwerpen - Belgium

Ondernemingsnummer: 472.682.681

Tel. + 32 (0)3 293 0886 – Mob. + 32 (0)495 122644

E-mail: info@encod.org / www.encod.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Antwerpen, 19 May 2008

Dear reader,

Herewith we present you the annual report on the year 2007 of the European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies. In this report, you will find a summary of the activities that were carried out in 2007 and the way ENCOD spent its money.

Thanks to a growing commitment among European citizens who are opposed to the war on drugs, ENCOD has been able to ensure their voice has been heard at the various processes of dialogue that have been set in motion by the European Union and the United Nations. ENCOD's public profile has also increased, among others due to the spread of the 'Freedom to Farm' campaign for the right of every world citizen to grow, possess and use all natural plants.

Due to past years' tendency throughout Europe to re-establish repressive and conservative policies regarding the drug issue, we should not be too optimistic about the real impact of our efforts on the official debate.

However, we firmly believe that our work in mobilising and inspiring people around Europe to speak out and act against the prohibition of drugs remains useful. Only in this way can we expect to convince our fellow citizens that the real drug problem is prohibition, not the drugs themselves.

On behalf of the ENCOD Steering Committee,

Joep Oomen

1. ENCOD membership

On 1 January 2007, ENCOD had 141 members (organisations and individuals). Throughout the year this number increased to 163.

At the moment (May 2008) we have 177 members. 57 of them are companies and/or shops, there are 37 organisations of consumers of cannabis and/or other drugs, 13 organisations involved in local drug policy reform work, 12 organisations specialised in harm reduction and 58 individual citizens. For a current list of ENCOD members, see annex 1.

The General Assembly of Members (which decides on the general work programme) took place in Antwerp on 22, 23 and 24 June 2007 and was attended by 38 members. On this GA a new Steering Committee was elected. This Committee now consists of Virginia Montañes (individual member, Spain), Marina Impallomeni (Forum Droghe, Italy, supported by Alberto Sciolari and Alessandra Viazzi, PIC, Italy), Joep Oomen (ENCOD-secretariat, Belgium), Fredrick Polak (Stichting Drugsbeleid, Netherlands), Jan Ludewig (BND, Germany), André Fürst (Chanvre-Info, Switzerland, currently represented by Sylvia Weisskopf, Zum Hinkelstein, Switzerland).

The secretariat is run by one paid person with the help of several activists from around Europe working on a voluntary basis. They support the secretariat with regular tasks (translation and editorial work) or in a practical way during the organisation of events, participation at fairs etc.

In September, the secretariat needed to carry out an extra fundraising campaign to obtain the 10.000 euros that were lacking to complete the 2007 budget. Due to this lack, the only staff worker was fired and two months later, re-employed, though only with a contract of 30 hours a week. This is the absolute minimum, so fundraising activities should still become more successful next year.

In August, we organised a “Summer University on the Freedom to Farm” in Morat, Switzerland, which was attended by 10 members. Here, plans were made to organise the Vienna 2008 campaign.

2. Activities

In 2007, ENCOD developed lobby activities directed at the European Union as well as the United Nations, information activities through the Freedom to Farm and Cannabis Social Club campaigns, and general activities.

Lobby activities

EU

We followed up on the continuing “dialogue process” with civil society that the European Commission has initiated in 2006 (after years of lobbying from our side). In view of the lack of response from the Commission to the Civil Society Organisations (CSO’s) that had commented the Green Paper on this dialogue in 2006), during the months of May / June we sent a public letter to the Commission containing our proposal for a dialogue, held meetings with other CSO’s and Members of the European Parliament. The Commission finally responded with a call for proposals to attend the first session of the so-called Civil Society Forum on EU Drug Policy in December. We replied to this call and were selected among 26 organisations for this first session that was held in December. We attended this CSF but continued to question the lack of transparency, sincerity and efficiency in the way the European Commission is managing this dialogue.

UN

At the 50th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna in March we distributed a public statement on behalf of the International Coalition of NGOs for Just and Effective Drug Policies. We also responded to an invitation to participate in the European Regional Consultation on the “Beyond 2008” dialogue with CSO’s organised by the Vienna NGO Committee in January 2008. And from September 2007 onwards we started to prepare the events in Vienna in March 2008, prior to the CND meeting where the 10 year anti-drug strategy would be evaluated. This campaign involved a work visit to Vienna to form a group of local activists, publication of flyers in 4 languages and a fundraising campaign among cannabis and hemp companies.

Activism

Also in 2007, “Freedom to Farm” remained our main campaign slogan. The spread of the campaign (flyers, posters, stickers, T-shirts, badges and money boxes) took place through the establishment of stands on the Hemp Fairs in Barcelona (Highlife BCN, Spannabis), Amsterdam (Highlife), Madrid (Expocannabis in January and November) Bern (Cannatrade), Bologna (Cannabis Tipo Forte) and Telford (UK Hemp Expo).

As a response to the growing “war on weed” that is being waged in Europe, the FtF campaign (and especially its concrete outcome, the Cannabis Social Club proposal) slowly developed into a concrete alternative to the prohibition of cannabis, elaborated by people who are directly (and not anymore indirectly) affected by drug policies. The ENCOD secretariat was strongly involved in the actions around the CSC of Trekt Uw Plant in Belgium, in the protests against the incarceration of André Fürst in Switzerland, against the death penalty for a man in Malaysia who had been caught with 1 kilo of

cannabis to Swiss authorities, as well as against the silence of Italian authorities round the death in an Italian prison cell of Aldo Bianzino, who had been caught with a few cannabis plants.

Together with ENCOD members Hempflax and VRCO, we organised an action around the visit of Bill Clinton to a Climate Change Conference Rotterdam (proposing him and his wife to start promoting hemp as a sustainable alternative), and supported the organisation of a demonstration against the ban on mushrooms that was declared in the Netherlands

During the year we had various conversations on the possibility to organise the legal import of traditional coca leaf products with a Dutch specialised lawyer and with the Bolivian embassy in Brussels, as well as with organisations of coca producers in Bolivia.

General activities

An ENCOD Internet TV station was created on My Space.

In co-operation with Legalize!, we organised a Drugs Info Day in Amsterdam, Netherlands, with musicians, poets and speeches.

In March 2007, the ENCOD website was transferred to a new server, and a new design was installed. This site can now host various language versions, and offers an easy access to all those members who wish to participate in editing and translating articles. Since the new site is online, the number of daily visitors has gone up from an average of 450 to 4.000 per day (end of December 2007)

The monthly bulletin on European drug policy and the activities of ENCOD was produced in English, Spanish, Dutch, Italian and French. Most members are also subscribed to the various mailing lists: "eurodrug" (in English) or "hispadrug" (in Spanish) electronic mailing lists, where news on relevant issues is shared and discussed, as well as various working group lists which serve to discuss and prepare common ENCOD activities (in January 2008, the system of the mailing lists was partially replaced by the ENCOD forum).

ENCOD representatives accepted invitations to take part in several meetings and conferences, among others:

Meeting on Cannabis Social Clubs with activists in Liege (Belgium)
Conference on Cannabis Cultivation in University Gent (Belgium)
Drug policies yesterday, today and tomorrow, Conference of Amsterdam Drug Users Union, Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Conference on Harm Reduction in Latinspeaking countries, Milan, (Italy)
International Harm Reduction Conference, Warsaw (Poland)
Conference of Drug Policy Alliance, New Orleans (USA)
Civil Society Forum on EU Drug Policy, Brussels (Belgium)
Press Conference of Elefsyna, Athens (Greece)

Remembrance Day for Passed Away Drug Users, Copenhagen (Denmark)
Conference Legalise Cannabis Alliance, Stoke on Trent (UK)
AGORA on Citizens Participation in the Construction of Europe, Brussels (Belgium)
Meeting of International Drug Policy Consortium, Lisbon (Portugal)

Throughout the year, the ENCOD co-ordinator wrote articles in magazines such as Fuoriluogo (Italy), Highlife (Netherlands), Orde van de Dag (Belgium) and Cañamo (Spain), served as a consultant for students and journalists from various countries working on a thesis on the drugs phenomenon, had radio interviews with Belgian, Dutch, Spanish and European press

3. Financial report (see Annex 2)

The income continues to be formed by membership fees and donations, reimbursements or payments for articles or speeches, revenue proceeding from the sale of merchandising products and the membership fees of TREKT UW PLANT, the Antwerp Cannabis Social Club (as Belgian banks are refusing to open an account for this association, the account has been hosted by ENCOD).

The expenses are formed by salary costs of the coordinator, the overhead costs of the Antwerp office, travel costs in relation to meetings and events and campaign costs (production of material etc.) Finally Trekt Uw Plant spends some money as well.

Necessarily, large part of the work of the ENCOD coordinator is formed by fundraising activities. Since 2004 these activities are focussed on the commercial sector that is related to the cultivation and consumption of cannabis. Thanks to these efforts, through visits to shops and companies in the Netherlands and contacts made at hemp fairs, various new members have joined ENCOD, and new ideas have surged to ensure the survival of the ENCOD. We hope these ideas will come into practice in 2008.

In 2007 we received the Award for the most active reform organisation from the Spanish “Cannabiscafé”, as well as from the Spanish magazine “Cañamo”.

Finally, it should be mentioned that ENCODOs work in 2007 could never have been possible without the active and excellent engagement of the following people (and of course the support of all members). Sorry if we forgot someone.....

Adriaan Jansen
Alberto Sciolari
Alessandra Viazzi
Alexandra Baltyn and Polish Hemp Lobby
Alun Buffry and LCA
Ana Pertika
André Fürst
Andreas Holy
Bas Tielens
Ben Dronkers and Sensi Seeds
Chris Franks
Christian Fuller
Claudia di Palma
Dana Beal
Enrico Fletzer
Farid Ghehioeche
Fernanda de la Figuera
Filomena Aguiar
Frank Deij
Fredrick Polak
Gaspar Fraga y Cañamo
Henk van Dalen and Dutch Passion
Ingrid Wunn
Jacqueline Woerlee
Jan Ludewig
Jan van der Tas
Jean Michel Rodriguez
Jeremie Koenig
Joep Oomen

Jorgen Kjaer and Brugerforeningen
Jorge Roque
Judith Laws
Juha Alakullpi
Khalid Rakhtoune
Kleo Halbeisen
Kris Verdonck
Laura Albarracín
Laurent Appel
Luca T.
Maria Solikova
Marina Impallomeni
Marc Josemans
Martin Veltjen
Myranda Bruin
Otmar Pusch
Paco Mascaraque
Paul Chang
Peter Cohen
Peter Webster
Phil Smith
Sergio Vidal
Simon of Serious Seeds
Timothy Gluckman
Vicente Orlegi
Virginia Montañes
Willemijn Los and MDHG

ANNEX 1

CURRENT ENCOD MEMBERSHIP – MAY 2008.

HARM REDUCTION ORGANISATIONS

AKZEPT e.V. - Germany
ALICE-PROJECT - Germany
AMOC - Netherlands
BLUE POINT DRUG COUNSELING AND OUTPATIENT CENTER – Hungary
BONJO - Netherlands
BUNDESVERBAND DER ELTERN – Germany
FEDERACION ANDALUZA DE DROGODEPENDENCIAS Y SIDA ENLACE – Spain
GASS - Spain
GRUP IGIA – Spain
EVE & RAVE - Switzerland

CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS, CANNABIS

AICC CANNABISCAFE – Spain
ALACANNABIS – Spain
AMEC – Spain
AMIGOS DE MARIA VITORIA - Spain
ARSECA - Spain
BÜNDNIS HANFPARADE. - Germany
CALMA – Spain
CAMPAIGN TO LEGALISE CANNABIS ASSOCIATION – UK
CANNABIS COLLEGE – Netherlands
CHARTER MARIJUANA CAMPAIGN 2007 – Slovak Republic
CIRC – France
DHV – Germany
DIE GRÜNE BLUME – Switzerland
FAC – Spain
GANJAZZ – Spain
GRÜNE HILFE - Germany
HEMP LOBBY - Poland

KONOPIJELEK – Czech Republic
LCA - United Kingdom
MARCHE MONDIALE - France
NORMAL – Sweden
OSLIK – Czech Republic
PANNAGH - Spain
PIC, Italy
SKY - Finland
TREKT UW PLANT - Belgium

CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS, OTHER DRUGS

ASAUPA'M – Spain
BRUGERFORENINGEN - Denmark
DEBED vzw - Belgium
EVE & RAVE - Switzerland
FAUDAS - Spain
HOPE SOFIA - Bulgaria
JMT - United Kingdom
MDHG Belangenvereniging Druggebruikers - Netherlands
REFORM - United Kingdom

DRUG POLICY REFORM ORGANISATIONS

ALA – Spain
BUNDESNETZWERK DROGENPOLITIK - Germany
CAM-RD - France
DMT AVOCATS – Spain
DROLEG – Switzerland
ELEFSYNA - Greece
FORUM DROGHE – Italy
HCLU - Hungary
LEGALIZE! – Netherlands
LIAISON ANTIPROHIBITIONNISTE - Belgium
MUNDO ANTIPROHIBICIONISTA - Spain
NETHERLANDS DRUG POLICY FOUNDATION - The Netherlands
PRO JUGENDSCHUTZ - Switzerland

TRANSFORM - United Kingdom
VFD - Germany

MEDIA

CANNACLOPEDIA – Belgium
CANNAWEED – France
CANNAZINE – United Kingdom
CAÑAMO – Spain
HANF JOURNAL – Germany
NACHTSCHATTEN VERLAG - Switzerland
RADIO K CENTRALE – Italy
SPANNABIS – Spain
SPLIFF - Poland

COMPANIES/SHOPS

ABC, Netherlands
AZARIUS - Netherlands
CAÑAMAZO, Spain
CASA JUANITA - Spain
COFFEESHOP COLOSSEUM - Netherlands
CHECKPOINT – Netherlands
DE DAMPKRING – Netherlands
DE SJAMAAN – Netherlands
DE VERDAMPER – Netherlands
DE VLIEGENDE HOLLANDER, Netherlands
DIOSA PLANTA – Spain
DOBLE ZERO – Spain
DUTCH PASSION - Netherlands
GANJACOLOMA – Spain
GREEN HOUSE SEED COMPANY - Netherlands

GROW IN BERLIN – Germany
HEMPFLAX BV - Netherlands
HIPERSEMILLAS – Spain
CHANVRE - INFO - Switzerland
LA HUERTA DE JUAN VALDES - Spain
LA MARIA DE VALLS - Spain
LA MARIETA GROWSHOP – Spain
LLUM VERDA – Spain
GROW SHOP MAS TRICOMAS - Spain
MATRIX GROWSHOP - Spain
THE NEW BALANCE - Netherlands
OTHALA BV – Netherlands
PARADISE SEEDS – Netherlands
PLANTACTIVA, Spain
POLLINATOR - Netherlands
QUINTESSENTIAL TIPS Ltd - United Kingdom
ROOR - Germany
SENSI SEEDS BV - Netherlands
SERIOUS SEEDS BV - Netherlands
SMK – Slovenia
SPLIF - The Netherlands
THE GROWSHOP - Netherlands
THE ROOKIES - The Netherlands
VOCM (Vereniging Officiële Coffeeshops Maastricht)- Netherlands
VRCO - Netherlands
ZERO ZERO GROWSHOP - Spain
ZUM HINKELSTEIN- Switzerland

And 58 individual members

FINANCIAL REPORT ENCOD vzw 2007

INCOME

Saldo 2006	10'876.98
Membership Fees	50'534.27
Sponsoring Vienna Campaign	7'531.55
Others	5'884.93
TREKT UW PLANT	1'265.00
Merchandising	487.00

TOTAL INCOME	76'579.73
---------------------	------------------

Saldo to 2008	17'964.42
----------------------	------------------

EXPENSES

Salary costs	27'017.96
Overhead	15'386.34
Campaign costs	8'270.82
Travel costs	5'470.75
TREKT UW PLANT	2'343.19
Other	126.25

TOTAL EXPENSES	58'615.31
-----------------------	------------------