

Meeting of National Coordinators for Drugs (Athens, 16.6.2014)

The Hellenic Presidency of the Horizontal Drugs Group concludes its works with the Meeting of National Coordinators for Drugs at Zappeion Megaron, on 16 June, promoting the development of dialogue between the scientific community and drug policymakers. The National Drugs Coordinator and its executive cadres form the Hellenic Presidency Group, which achieved all initially set priorities during the current semester, relating to:

1. The elaboration and coordination of the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on new psychoactive substances
2. The coordination and representation of the EU at the 57th High Level Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna
3. The realization of technical Policy Dialogues with Third Countries, such as Western Balkans, Latin American countries, the US, Canada and Uruguay.
4. Discussion regarding thematic of Minimum Quality Standards services' provision in the field of the Reduction of drugs demand.

Health Minister Makis Voridis, Deputy Health Minister Katerina Papakosta and National Drugs Coordinator and President of the EU Horizontal Drugs Group, Dr. Teta-Christina Papoutsopoulou-Diamantopoulou, will address the meeting at the opening.

At the epicenter of the National Drug Coordinators' meeting from all EU member-states is the enhancement of Coordinators' synergies and relevant challenges in the application of drug policy and coordination. Number of widely respected speakers will provide analyses relating to the socioeconomic cost of drug use and basic measures for ensuring Quality Standards in healthcare services.

Aim is to conduct a constructive dialogue with innovative conclusions leading to solutions coping with challenges in the application of a unified policy and collaboration in the drug sector within the EU.

High-ranking representatives from EU member states, members of the National Committee for Planning and Coordination, as well as the Group of the Hellenic Presidency on Drugs are expected to honor the Meeting with their presence.