



## EUROPEAN CITIES AGAINST DRUGS

Head office  
City Hall, Stockholm

### PRESS RELEASE

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From ECAD – European Cities Against Drugs  
Contact person Jörgen Svidén Director ECAD

*Conference in support for UN Conventions on Drugs ahead of UN Strategic Drug Policy Review*

## World Mayors: We Stand Behind UN Conventions on Drugs

In 2009 it will be 100 years since the first international conference in Shanghai, China, which led to development of an international drug control system. Today, it is the three United Nations Conventions on narcotic drugs which regulate the international drug control. These conventions are presently under considerable pressure from drug liberal forces around the world.

During February 5-6, 2009 the City of Göteborg hosts the World Mayors' Conference on Drugs. Participation is estimated to over 200 representatives from such cities as Moscow, San Ramón, Nelson Mandela Bay (Port Elizabeth), Bari and other bigger and smaller world cities; non-governmental organisations, government representatives and researchers. The conference has two purposes: to declare the full support of the UN Conventions on Drugs and to strengthen, through international co-operation and exchange, the work against the abuse of illicit drugs.

The Second World Mayors' Conference is held together with the 16th ECAD Mayors' Conference. ECAD stands for humane, restrictive anti-drug policy rooted in prevention, treatment, research, and law enforcement. ECAD member cities work to develop initiatives and efforts against drug abuse supporting the UN Conventions which oppose legalisation of presently illicit drugs.

- The issue of maintaining restrictive and humane drug policies, both nationally and internationally, is on top of

the political agenda in 2009. Conference is taking place a month ahead of the Fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. At the conference, mayors who represent millions of world citizens will raise their voice in support for international goals against drug abuse, says Jörgen Svidén, ECAD Director.

- The Conference will also become a starting shoot for the City of Göteborg to focus, during 2009, a special attention on work against drug abuse and its consequences for the community, says Jörgen Linder, Lord Mayor of Göteborg.

The Conference is under the Patronage of H.M. Queen Silvia of Sweden. Among the key-note speakers is Antonio Maria Costa, UN's highest official for drug control. Other speakers include Hon. Raúl Antonio Gómez Guerrero, Mayor of the city of San Ramón, Costa Rica (EU LAC Initiative - the Initiative of European Union and Latin America and Caribbean Strategic Partnership); Cllr. Nondumiso Maphazi, Hon. Executive Mayor, Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (Port Elizabeth), South Africa; Ambassador Jan Eliasson - until July 1, 2008 Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Darfur; President of the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly 2005-2006; Sweden's Ambassador to the United States, 2000-2005; Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden in 2006.

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ECAD is an organisation initiated by the City of Stockholm in 1994. Today its members include 265 cities in 29 European countries. ECAD

- Is a common standpoint for leading decision-makers throughout Europe who show a united front against illicit drugs guided by the UN Conventions on Drugs;
- Is a unique platform for exchange of knowledge and best practice between decision-makers and specialists;
- Works to disseminate knowledge about evidence-based and successful methods and new research;
- Develops and maintains contacts with local, regional and national governments, the European Union, the United Nations and other international bodies in order to actively represent interests of ECAD member cities aimed at intensified counteraction of drugs;
- Gives lectures, arranges conferences and seminars and initiates local, regional and international projects on drug-related topics all over Europe.

**Where? Stora Teatern, Kungsparken 1, Göteborg Time: Thursday 09:30—17:00, Friday 09:00—13:30**



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