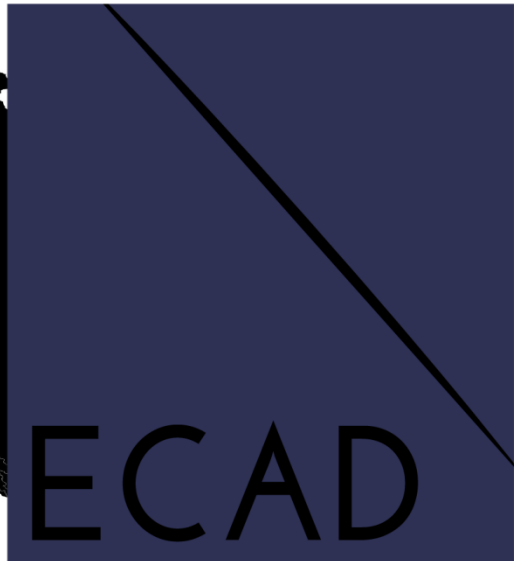


The Road to UNGASS 2016

Erik Leijonmarck
Secretary General



Advocacy:
250 Drug Free
European Cities



Exchange of
best practices



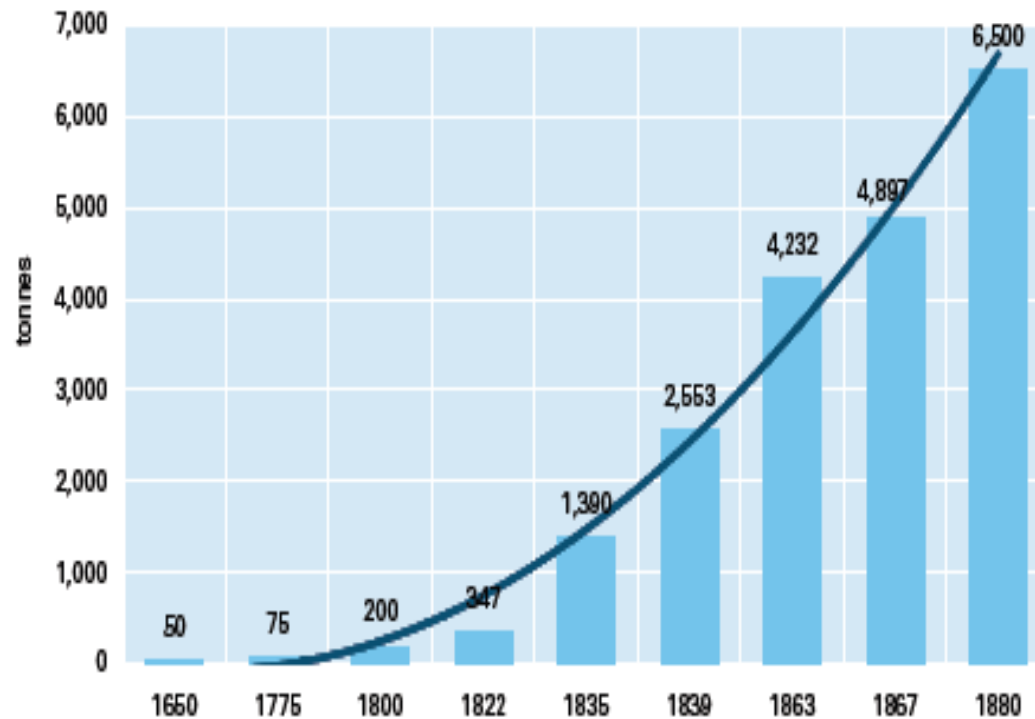
BASED ON THE UN CONVENTIONS AGAINST DRUGS

The Global Drug Situation leading up to UNGASS

- Narcotic Drugs have existed for thousands of years but wasn't a global problem until...
- 1700 - 1900s when drugs were legalized and widely exported as commodities by the major powers at the time
- Affected countries could give in to or resist the drug trade

China fought the traffickers

Opium Imports* into China, 1650-1880



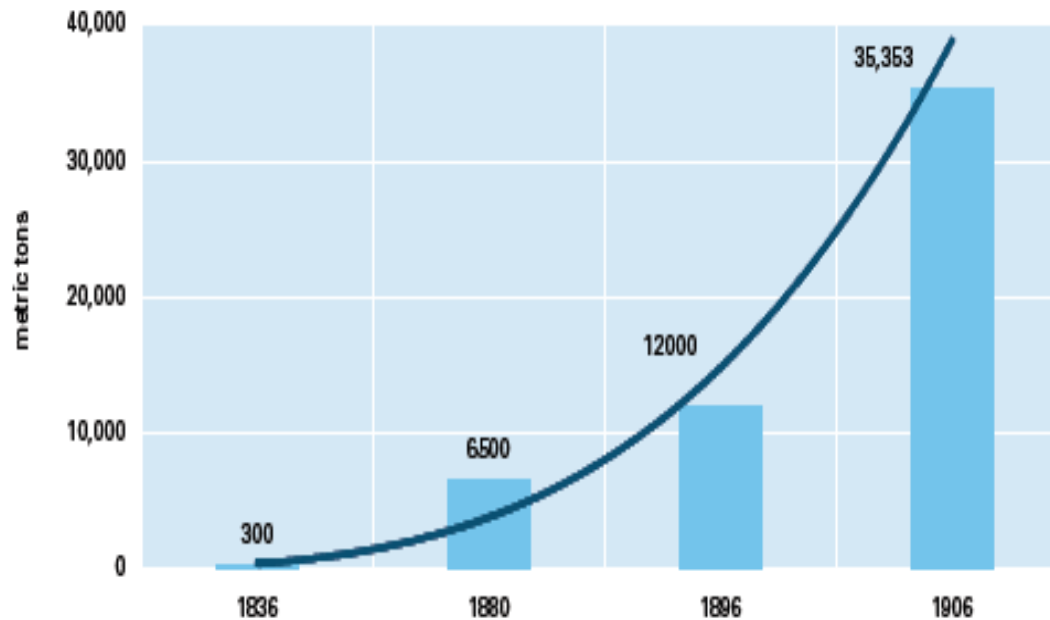
* Original data converted into metric tons using 1 chest = 140 lbs = 63.5 kg; 1 picul = 60.453 kg

Sources: Thomas D. Reins, "The Opium Suppression Movement in China", *Modern Asian Studies*, 25 (1), 1991; Greenberg, *British Trade and the Opening of China, 1800-1842*, UK 1979; Fred W. McCoy, *The Politics of Heroin*, New York 1991.

Source: World Drug Report 2009

but legalized the trade in opium under gunpoint

Domestic opium production in China, 1836-1906



Source: World Drug
Report 2009

Sources: Carl A. Trocki, *Opium Empire and the Global Political Economy*, New York 1999, p. 96, Observatoire Géopolitique des Drogues, *Atlas Mondial Des Drogues*, Paris 1996, p. 27 and *Report of the International Opium Commission*, Shanghai, China, Feb.1-Feb. 26, 1909, p. 119.

1906-1961: Beginning of Drug Control

Why:

- Drug use spread across the globe (truly transnational phenomenon)
- Drug Trade became a morally questionable source of revenue

How?

- Bilateral Conventions to ban and regulate the trade were partly successful but lacked universal adherence



SINGLE CONVENTION
ON
NARCOTIC DRUGS, 1961

As amended by the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,

UNITED NATIONS

1961-2015 Contemporary Drug Control

*Limit the use of drugs to medical
and research purposes only*

1961: Opiates, Cocaine, Cannabis

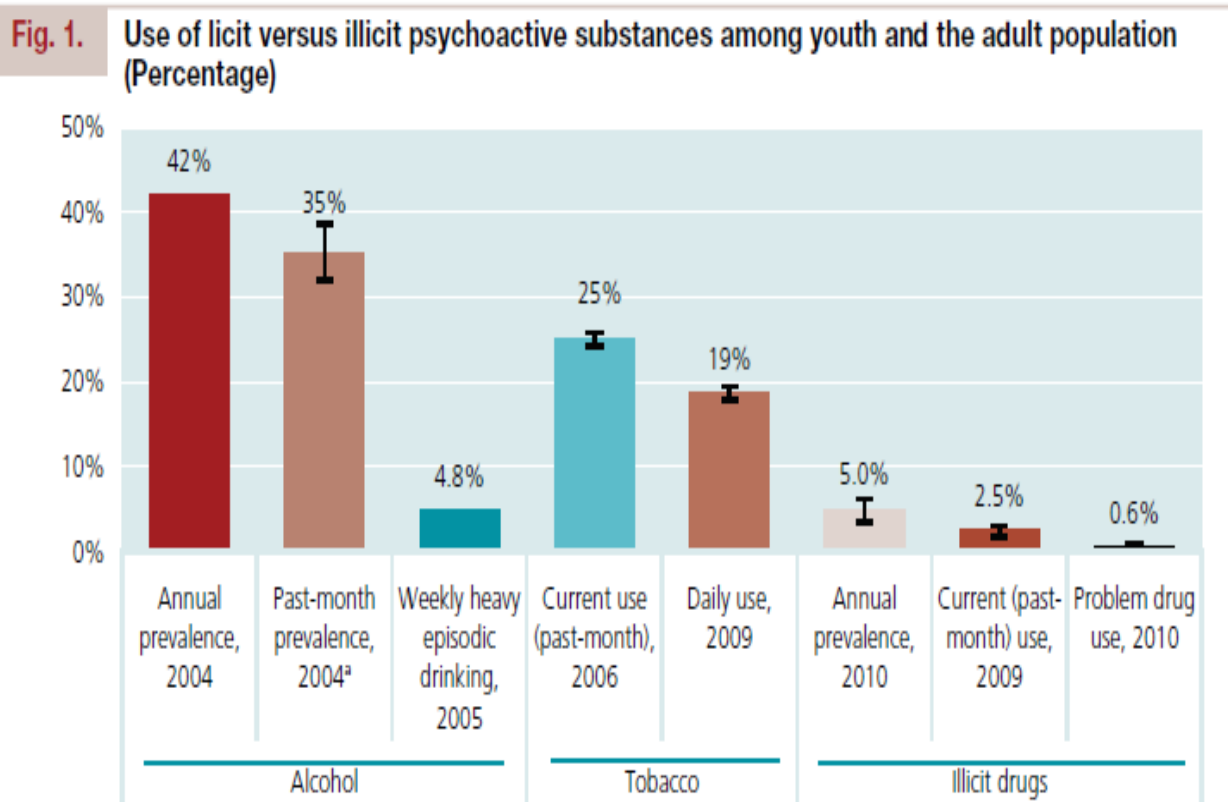
1971: Psychotropic Substances

1988: Illicit Trafficking

Continuous revisions, every 10 years

(1998, 2009, 2019)

The UN Conventions – a Success Story!



Source: Estimates for illicit drugs based on UNODC data from the annual report questionnaire; alcohol statistics: World Health Organization, *Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health* (Geneva, 2011); and *Global Health Risks: Mortality and Burden of Disease Attributable to Selected Major Risks* (Geneva 2009); tobacco statistics: World Health Organization, *World Health Statistics 2010* (Geneva 2010).

^aTentative estimate.

Action Plan of 2009

- Demand reduction
- Supply Reduction
- Cooperation Against Money Laundering and promoting judicial cooperation against drug trafficking

What is UNGASS 2016?

- and why should we care?

- Special session on drugs in general assembly in the UN
- Evaluation of the UN:s Action Plan counter narcotics efforts 2009-2019
 - Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala
- Re-evaluate the conventions?

”Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem”

Not yet - but 2016 is a crucial stepping stone to 2019

Mandate (res 67/193 General Assembly):“ to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the political declaration – and assessment of the achievements and challenges - within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant UN instruments”

The Legalization Narrative: "Current Drug Policies are Failing and Counter-Productive"

- Threatens development
- Threatens security
- Breaches Human Rights
- Fails to eradicate drug use
- Prevents people from seeking treatment

What the legalization movement seek from UNGASS (and Beyond?)

- Ensure an open and inclusive debate
- Re-set the objectives of drug policies
- Support policy experimentation and innovation
- End the criminalisation of the most affected populations
- Commit to the harm reduction approach

- Current drug policies are successful in containing global drug use. Improvements should be made in implementing the conventions and increase international collaboration and understanding of the shared responsibility of the global drug problem.
- Current drug policies are not in violation of human rights and need not be. Restricting drug use to medical and scientific purposes does not entail a right to breach human rights. Law enforcement plays an important role in supply reduction and upholding societal norms concerning drug use and could be used progressively to promote treatment of addicts.
- Current drug policies threatens the development and stability of states only if countries fail to address their demand for illicit drugs and fails to address root causes of state weakness. If implemented correctly and if states tackle their drugs problems ambitiously, drug policies could instead promote stability and development. After all, drugs - not the drug policies - are what threatens the lives of persons and nations.

What ECAD seeks from the UNGASS

- Strength of the conventions lies in the perception of a shared problem. Countries affect each other
- Strengthen implementation of the spirit of the conventions
- Continuously improve drug policies where necessary (nothing is perfect in this world)
- Engage in a serious drug policy debate and listen to the legitimate concern of some countries that they are carrying a heavy burden – Distribute that burden more evenly

What is ECAD and our friends doing?

Organizing Conferences on UNGASS

Providing our (NGO) input to the EU drug policy

Providing input (NGO to the UN (CND) through VNGOC in Vienna

Organizing Meetings with parliamentarians and governments

Publishing commentaries and reports

 ECAD XXII MAYORS' CONFERENCE
MALTA: MAY 11-12, 2015
PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



Building Towards a
Comprehensive and Ambitious
Drug Policy in Preparation for
UNGASS 2016



May 11-12, 2015
MALTA
Hosted by the Swiegi Local Council



Member of umbrella organization - Drug Policy Futures

- To be launched in Mexico in November
- Side events in the UN
- Seeking Political allies all over the world

The Future of Drug Policy

Real Solutions Driven by Evidence



What can you do?

- Bring the voice of NGO's to governments (NGO's are not just a weapon of the legalization movement)
- Make your voice heard to your parliaments
- Build bridges to other NGO's all over the world – we need your support
- Bring a positive message of hope – show that drug use is not inevitable and can be prevented

Be positive and constructive

Balanced: between supply- and demand reduction

Ambitious: dont give in to simple but bad solutions – aim higher

Evidence Based: to the best of our knowledge

Comprehensive: use all the toolboxes of society

Integrated: when relevant use them together

Forward-thinking: proactive rather than reactive

Be strict but always have a big heart



Do Keep in Touch

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