

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

“BEYOND 2008” EUROPEAN CONSULTATION FORUM

**Alfa Arts Hotel, Budapest,
24-25 January 2008**

The ‘Beyond 2008’ initiative provides a mechanism for NGOs around the world to have an input to the review of the international drug control system that is currently being conducted through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In preparation for a global NGO Forum scheduled to be held in Vienna in July 2008, regional consultation events are being held around the world to facilitate an exchange of perspectives between NGOs in three core areas:

1. To highlight tangible NGO achievements in the field of drug control, with particular emphasis on contributions to the 1998 UNGASS Action Plan such as achievement in policy, community engagement, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social-reintegration.
2. To review best practices related to collaboration mechanisms among NGOs, governments and UN agencies in various fields of endeavour and propose new and/or improved ways of working with the UNODC and CND.
3. To adopt a series of high order principles, drawn from the Conventions and their commentaries that would be tabled with the UNODC and CND for their consideration and serve as a guide for future deliberations on drug policy matters.

The European regional consultation is being hosted by the Hungarian Association on Addictions, and is taking place in Budapest on 24/25 January 2008. There are still places available at this consultation, and we would urge any European NGO with an interest in international drug policy to try to send a representative. To reserve places, please contact beyond2008@mat.org.hu

The outline programme for the event is as follows:

Thursday, January 24th

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| 9.00-9.40 | Introduction of participants and hosts |
| 9.40-10.10 | Facilitator: Bob Keizer, independent expert
Overview on the <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) |

- NGO Committees on Narcotic Drugs
 - “Beyond 2008” International NGO Forum
 - regional consultations
- 10.10-10.20 Facilitator: San Patrignano
Introduction to Objective 1
- 10.20-10.50 Coffee break
- 10.50-12.20 Objective 1 discussions in small groups
- 12.20-13.00 Facilitator: San Patrignano
Report back from small groups, Plenary wrap up of Objective 1
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 14.20 Facilitator: Katalin Felvinczi, HAA
Introduction of Objective 2: Improved collaborative mechanisms
- Background
 - Current engagement with civil society on drugs issues
 - Examples of engagement with civil society on drugs issues elsewhere
 - Findings from consultation with members of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs
 - Recommendations
- 14.20–16.00 Objective 2 discussion in small groups
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30-16.50 Summary
- Report back from small groups
 - Plenary wrap up of Objective 2 – Facilitator: Katalin Felvinczi, HAA
 - Review of Objective 1&2 – Facilitator: Bob Keizer, independent expert
- 16.50-18.0 Facilitator: Mike Trace, IDPC
Overview of Objective 3
- The UN Drug Conventions
 - UNGASS 1998
 - Other UN instruments relating to drug policy
 - Agencies and actors involved in the implementation and monitoring of the UN drug conventions
 - Issues for discussion
- 19.00 Gala Dinner

Friday, January 25th

- 9.00-9.15 Introduction
- 9.15-11.00 Objective 3 discussions in small groups
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-12.00 Summary
- Report back from small groups
 - Plenary wrap up of Objective 3 – Facilitator: Mike Trace, IDPC

- 12.00-12.30 Regional Priorities – Facilitator: Bob Keizer, independent expert
- 12.30-13.00 Highlights of objectives 1, 2 and 3. – Facilitator: Bob Keizer, independent expert
- 13.00-13.30 Final remarks of participants and closing remarks – Facilitator: Bob Keizer, independent expert
- 13.30-14.30 Lunch and close

The conclusions from the event will be written up and fed in to the formal process for the United Nations review. This is a constructive opportunity for NGOs to contribute to an important governmental review, so we hope that you can attend, or can forward this announcement to other European NGOs in this field.