



# news release

from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

No. 4/2000 – 3 October 2000

## Operational/diary note

**Launched at 12 noon (CET) on Wednesday 11 October, Brussels,  
and on the Internet**

## **DRUGS IN THE EU – THE KEY ISSUES**

### **2000 Annual report of the EU drugs agency**

- Why is problem drug use in the EU changing?
- Why is multiple drug use a hot topic?
- How is substitution treatment developing?
- Special challenges facing women and drugs
- Children and young people at risk
- Trends in AIDS and other drug-related infectious diseases
- How many people in the EU have tried cannabis?
- Facts and figures, Member State by Member State

These are just some of the key issues to come under the spotlight in the fifth *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union* from the Lisbon-based EU drugs agency, the EMCDDA. The report – in 11 languages – will be launched at **12 noon (Central European Time) on Wednesday 11 October** at the **Spokesman's Service of the European Commission**. At the same time it will appear on the Internet, together with complementary statistics.

The **2000 Annual report** is the key to understanding the major features of the European drug problem and the EU's legal, political and social responses to it.

**Launch details: 12 noon (CET) Wednesday 11 October, 2000  
Spokesman's Service daily briefing, European Commission,  
Avenue d'Auderghem, 45 (Breydel), Press Room**

At 12 noon (CET), the *Annual report* may be downloaded from the EMCDDA web site ([http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications\\_annrep.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications_annrep.shtml) or <http://emcdda.kpnqwest.pt>) in all 11 EU languages. News releases outlining key findings will also be available at <http://www.emcdda.org/press/press.shtml>, again in 11 languages. These will include:

- *Problem drug use – a changing pattern (main release)*
- *Women drug users face greater stigma than men (special-focus release)*
- *Substitution treatment expanding EU-wide – 'but still under-evaluated and patchy' (special-focus release)*

A **help desk** will be open at the EMCDDA on **11 October** to take journalists' calls. The EMCDDA's **National Focal Points** in each of the 15 Member States will also be available to answer queries. Their contacts can be found at [http://www.emcdda.org/about/work\\_with\\_nfp.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/about/work_with_nfp.shtml)

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