



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Secretary General Lamberto Zannier

**Statement at the special event devoted to the International Day Against
Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

Vienna, 26 June 2013

Distinguished Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to address today's event devoted to the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

In recent decades, we have witnessed remarkable developments in economic globalization, information and communication technologies, international trade and transportation networks. Although these advances have contributed to progress in many ways, the linkages created by globalization have also served as a catalyst for international drug crime.

Increasingly, drug cartels have developed strong links with other organized criminal groups, in particular in areas such as money-laundering, trafficking in human beings and terrorism. Tackling this multifaceted challenge is a common and shared responsibility. It requires effective international co-operation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing

and balanced approach. We need to step up our efforts to review existing cooperation models.

The OSCE, as the largest regional security organization, looks at the leading role of the United Nations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, in addressing the world drug problem. That is why I am here today – to support the efforts of UNODC and the INCB to strengthen international co-operation against drug abuse on the basis of the three universal drug control Conventions, and to enhance bilateral, regional and collective efforts to combat drug trafficking.

Allow me to briefly share with you what the OSCE is doing in these areas.

At both the planning and the implementation level, the **OSCE closely cooperates and coordinates its efforts with UNODC**. Our two organizations draw upon their respective comparative advantages, which are duly reflected in the biennial OSCE-UNODC Joint Action Plan, which was recently renewed for 2013-2014. Our Joint Action Plan, which is practical and focused on results, sets a benchmark for others. The OSCE also enjoys close co-operation in combatting illicit drugs with other international partners, including the Paris Pact Initiative, CARICC, CSTO, Interpol, Europol and SELEC, among others.

The OSCE *Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors*, adopted last December, provides a solid platform for closer co-operation among 57 OSCE participating States, 11 Partners for Co-operation, and our partners among international and regional organizations, civil society and the media.

The *OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities*, also adopted last year, provides further guidance in developing effective and comprehensive national anti-drug strategies with an emphasis on stemming drug

supply. The Framework also offers a useful platform for developing training plans and programmes that address drug-related issues for relevant law enforcement agencies, while encouraging their active co-operation.

One of the goals of the *OSCE Border Security and Management Concept* is to increase the capacity of our stakeholders to detect and interdict trafficking of illicit drugs across our borders, thus strengthening barriers to the flow of illicit narcotics.

On the ground, most of our **Field Operations** provide tailored assistance to the host countries in developing national anti-drug strategies and holding training courses for policy makers, border and customs officials, police and judicial authorities.

The OSCE **Border Management Staff College** in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, provides specialized training aimed to strengthen secure borders, which should reduce illicit trafficking while facilitating licit commercial exchange and people-to-people contacts. Since 2009, the College has provided more than 1200 border, customs and law enforcement officials from over 35 OSCE participating States with advanced training.

Since 2007, we have held an **OSCE-wide expert counter-narcotics conference** almost every year. This year's conference, which will take place in Vienna on 25-26 July, will focus on "Prevention of Illicit Drugs Trade through the Use of the Internet". It will provide an excellent opportunity to identify ways to use modern communication technologies and new methods of forensic computer investigations to strengthen prevention mechanisms against illicit drug supply. It will also enhance the implementation of the *INCB Guidelines* in this field.

In conclusion, let me stress that the OSCE is actively engaged to promote compliance with all international initiatives on combating drugs and we are

ready to participate in counter-narcotics programs of a practical nature. Only by working together in a coordinated manner we can break the supply chain of illicit drugs and protect our societies from drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the UNODC team that prepared the *World Drug Report 2013*. UNODC's flagship publication is an indispensable practical guide for anyone interested and involved in combating transnational drug trafficking.

Thank you.