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Speaker	<b>Franz Pietsch, Chair of the EMCDDA Management Board</b>
Title of speech	<b>European Drug Report 2023: Trends and Developments</b>
Occasion	<b>Launch of the European Drug Report 2023 (video address)</b>
Date	<b>16.06.2023</b>

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Today, the EMCDDA launches its *European Drug Report 2023*.

As Chair of the EMCDDA Management Board, I welcome this annual publication, which is an essential resource for gaining strategic insight into the European drug situation and its implications for public health and security.

Based on data from 29 countries (EU 27, Türkiye and Norway), the report delivers the latest overview of the drug situation in Europe up to 2023, exploring long-term trends and emerging threats. Echoing the EU's balanced approach to drugs, the report examines drug use and supply, with additional analyses on drug-related harms and treatment.

I am delighted that this flagship publication now follows the EMCDDA's digital-first approach to delivering products and services, an approach which is an integral part of its new business model initiative. This year, the report offers innovative ways for audiences to explore and interact with the content, access underlying data and visualise trends, both at European and national level.

The launch of the *European Drug Report 2023* comes at a very special moment, as the EMCDDA prepares for a new mandate and a new future. The European Parliament and the Council of the EU are expected to adopt the new Regulation for the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) in the coming weeks. We look forward to the implementation of this promising new mission. Enhancing our partnerships, promoting co-production and pursuing stakeholder engagement will be crucial to our work as we expand our monitoring, boost EU preparedness and help develop competence for better interventions in the drugs field. I am confident that this will increase the agency's added value in helping European and national policymakers and professionals in the drugs field to tackle the causes and consequences of drug use.

On behalf of the Management Board, I can affirm that the EU Member States fully support these developments and welcome the entry into application of the new Regulation in mid-2024.

Finally, I would like to convey my special thanks to the EMCDDA Director, and to all of his staff, for this high-quality, new-look report. My thanks also go to the national focal points, to the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, and to all national, European and international partners who contributed to this analysis.

*Thank you for your attention.*