

FOCUS on international drug control

Newsletter initiated by the International Narcotics Control Board

April – June 2012 - Issue 13

Raymond Yans elected President of the International Narcotics Control Board



Mr. Raymond Yans, President of INCB

At its 104th session, held in Vienna in May 2012, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) elected Mr. Raymond Yans (Belgium) as President

of the Board for a one-year term. He succeeds Professor Hamid Ghodse (Islamic Republic of Iran), who served as President since May 2010.

Mr. Yans (http://www.incb.org/incb/members_yans.html) graduated in Germanic philology and in philosophy in 1972. He held various assignments in the Belgian Foreign Service and served as Deputy-Mayor of Liège. From 2002 to 2006, Mr. Yans was Chairman of the Dublin Group. He represented his Government in many international conferences on drugs, among them,

the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs from 1995 to 2007, the preparatory sessions for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, and the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, from 1995 to 2005.

The President, in his statement at the thematic debate of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly on drugs and crime as a threat to development, held in New York, on 26 June 2012, stressed that “National laws and practices in the areas of drug abuse prevention and control must be fully aligned with the international treaties in order to avoid sending a mixed message to young people and society, giving the impression that drug abuse can be considered ‘normal’ and that “such situations transmit ambiguous signals to the authorities of countries where coca leaves or opium poppies are cultivated.” Mr. Yans further stressed “that demand reduction efforts, in which preventing

the abuse of drugs, including cannabis, must play a pivotal role” and “should be fully integrated into education programmes at all levels.”

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| - Raymond Yans elected President of the International Narcotics Control Board | 1 |
| - Board holds its 104 th session in May 2012 | 1 |
| - President of INCB meets with the President of the General Assembly | 2 |
| - Introducing the five new members of the Board | 2 |
| - Recent and upcoming events | 2 |
| - International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies on the Global Drug Problem, Lima, 25-26 June 2012 | 3 |
| - President's participation in the General Assembly thematic debate on drugs and crime as a threat to development, 26 June 2012 | 3 |
| - The current members of INCB | 3 |
| - 35th meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence | 4 |
| - INCB launches Precursors Incident Communication System Online during the 55th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs | 4 |
| - Papua New Guinea delegate attends the 104 th session of INCB | 5 |
| - Abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances: a forgotten menace | 6 |
| - INCB Missions | 7 |

Board holds its 104th session in May 2012

The International Narcotics Control Board held its 104th session from 7 to 18 May 2012, welcoming five new members to the body. On 8 May, the Board held the election of its Bureau, and elected Raymond Yans as President of the Board. The Board also elected Lochan Naidoo as First Vice-President, Viroj Sumyai as Second Vice-President of the Board and Chair of the Standing Committee on Estimates, and Francisco Thoumi as Rapporteur. The members of the Bureau were elected for one-year terms, until the beginning of the 107th session of the Board, in May 2013.

During the session, the Board continued its work of overseeing the international drug control system, including by analysing the international drug control situation, examining compliance with the three international drug control conventions, reviewing the movement of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals for licit purposes, and reviewing the supply of opiate raw materials and demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes. >>

continued on page 4

President of INCB meets with the President of the General Assembly



From left: H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly; Mr. Raymond Yans, President of INCB

On 11 May, at the margins of the 104th session of the 66th session of the Board, Mr. Raymond Yans, President of INCB, met with the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, on the occasion of his visit to Vienna, Austria. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the global drug problem and work of the Board in monitoring and promoting the implementation of the drug control conventions.

Introducing the five new members of the Board

On 7 May 2012, five new Members of the International Narcotics Control Board took office and were welcomed at the opening of the 104th session. The new Board members, as elected by the Economic and Social Council, and their nationalities and year of expiry of their mandates, are:

- **Wayne Hall** (Australia) 2017
- **David T. Johnson** (United States of America) 2017
- **Ahmed Kamal Eldin Samak** (Egypt) 2017

• **Werner Sipp** (Germany) 2017

• **Francisco Thoumi** (Colombia) 2015

Mr. Hall was elected by the Council from a list of individuals nominated by the World Health Organization (WHO) while the other incoming Board members were elected from a list of candidates nominated by Governments. Members of the Board serve in a personal capacity, not as Government representatives. The curricula vitae of the new members are available on the website of the Board (www.incb.org).

Recent and upcoming events

July – September 2012

- **26 June:** International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
 - General Assembly thematic debate on drugs and crime as a threat to development
 - Launch of the World Drug Report of UNODC
- **4 - 8 June:** 35th meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, Hammamet, Tunisia
- **23 - 27 July:** ECOSOC Substantive Session, New York

Forthcoming INCB missions

- **Cuba**
- **Nicaragua**
- **Pakistan**

In 2011, the Economic and Social Council also re-elected Hamid Ghodse (Islamic Republic of Iran), Jorge Montaño (Mexico) and Raymond Yans (Belgium) for additional five-year terms expiring in May 2017.



From left: A. Samak, R. Yans, F. Thoumi, M. Moinard, G. Korchagina, V. Sumyai, W. Hall, H. Ghodse, R. Ray, D. Johnson, W. Sipp, L. Naidoo, J. Montaño

International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies on the Global Drug Problem, Lima, 25-26 June 2012

The International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies on the Global Drug Problem was held in Lima on 25 and 26 June 2012. Coordinated by the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA) of Peru, the Conference brought

together Ministers of Foreign Affairs, heads of national agencies and other specialists in the field of drug control from around the world. Delegates participated in a political dialogue and panels on demand reduction, supply reduction and alternative development. At the conclusion of the Conference, delegates adopted the Lima Declaration, which reemphasizes that the world drug problem must be addressed in a multilateral, regional and bilateral framework, through concrete, comprehensive and effective evidence-based measures, to reduce significantly both the demand for and the supply of illicit drugs, under the principle of common and shared responsibility.



Participants at the International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies on the Global Drug Problem, Lima 25-26 June 2012

President's participation in the General Assembly thematic debate on drugs and crime as a threat to development, 26 June 2012

On 26 June, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the President of the Board, Raymond Yans, participated in the General Assembly thematic debate on drugs and crime as a threat to development. The debate addressed challenges in mainstreaming drug control and crime prevention into development initiatives and ways of improving the international community's coordinated efforts to address the adverse impact of illicit drugs and crime on development, and the role of the criminal justice sector in promoting the Millennium Development Goals.

Speaking at a panel on mainstreaming drug control into development initiatives, the President of the Board emphasized the grave impact that illicit drug cultivation, production and trafficking and drug abuse have on long-

term economic and social development. Mr. Yans described how illicit drug activity, drug-related corruption and economic and institutional decline can form a vicious circle, as seen in recent decades. Describing drug control as a prerequisite to development, the President outlined a number of elements that should be integrated into development programmes, including building of capacity for regulatory control of licit drugs, anti-corruption measures and building of capacity for demand reduction.

The outcome of the thematic debate included a summary by the President of the General Assembly, which will be transmitted to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha in 2015.

The current members of INCB:

- **Hamid Ghodse** (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- **Wayne Hall** (Australia)
- **David T. Johnson** (United States of America)
- **Galina Aleksandrovna Korchagina** (Russian Federation)
- **Marc Moinard** (France)
- **Jorge Montaña** (Mexico)
- **Lochan Naidoo** (South Africa)
- **Rajat Ray** (India)
- **Ahmed Kamal Eldin Samak** (Egypt)
- **Werner Sipp** (Germany)
- **Viroj Sumyai** (Thailand)
- **Franciso Thoumi** (Colombia)
- **Raymond Yans** (Belgium)

continued from page 1:

At the margins of the session, the Board's Standing Committee on Estimates and various working groups continued their deliberations.

The Board held a discussion with the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Carmen Buján Freire, Permanent

Representative of Spain to the United Nations (Vienna), on the outcome of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission. The Board also discussed the international drug control situation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, and other officials of

UNODC. A delegation from Papua New Guinea also attended the session, at the invitation of the Board (see also page 5, below).

The 105th session of the Board will commence on 30 October 2012.

35th meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence

The 35th meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, at which the Board was represented as an observer, was held from 4 to 8 June 2012 in Hammamet, Tunisia. The Expert Committee undertakes a medical and scientific assessment of the dependence and abuse potential of psychoactive substances, to guide WHO in its important mandate with regard to changing the scope of control of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. In particular, after taking into account the findings from the assessment of the Expert Committee, WHO may recommend to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that a substance be scheduled, de-scheduled or transferred

from one Schedule to another under those Conventions. On the basis of the assessment of the WHO Expert Committee, the Commission may then decide to change the scope of the 1961 Convention or the 1971 Convention. Following such a decision by the Commission, all parties to the Conventions must update their national laws and regulations accordingly.

While in the past the Expert Committee was convened fairly regularly, about every two years, the 35th meeting was its first meeting since 2006. The Board thus welcomes the reconvening of the Expert Committee after a six-year pause. During the meeting, the experts of WHO undertook a critical

review of gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and ketamine. GHB is currently included in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention, whereas ketamine is not under international control. The Expert Committee further pre-reviewed a number of substances that are currently not under international control and are abused in some countries, with a view to identifying whether a critical review of those substances was necessary. The findings of the assessments of the substances that were critically reviewed will be communicated to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session, to be held in Vienna in March 2013.

INCB launches Precursors Incident Communication System Online during the 55th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The INCB Secretariat's Precursors Control Section launched the new Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) Online during the 55th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2012.

The system is a secure communication platform designed to provide real-time notification to law enforcement and regulatory agencies of incidents involving precursors, such as seizures, cases of diversion of precursor chemicals, or cases of illicit drug manufacture where chemicals are found. PICS Online complements the INCB Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system, which monitors legitimate trade of precursor chemicals in real time.

Representatives from 45 Member States and international organizations attended the launch of PICS on 15 March 2012, and initial feedback has been very positive. Since then, competent national authorities have increasingly nominated users for registration, and more than 75 users from agencies around the world are now registered with PICS.

Government officials wishing to access PICS, at no charge, should either contact their competent national authority or send an e-mail providing their first and last names and the e-mail address and telephone number of their organization to pics@incb.org.

The **Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS)** is the INCB's secure online tool to enhance real-time communication and information sharing between national authorities on precursor incidents. PICS users have access to real-time data to assist with investigations of incidents related to precursors chemicals and will be able to quickly identify emerging diversion patterns of these chemicals.

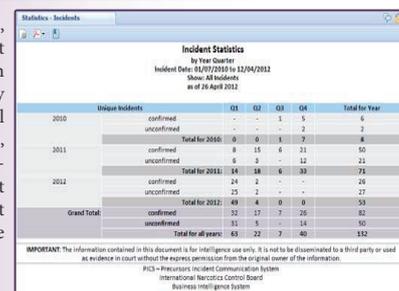
For whom is PICS designed?

Regulatory and law enforcement authorities, at the national level and worldwide, involved in preventing diversion of precursors chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. Different security levels in the system allows for access to varying levels of incident details.



What can PICS do?

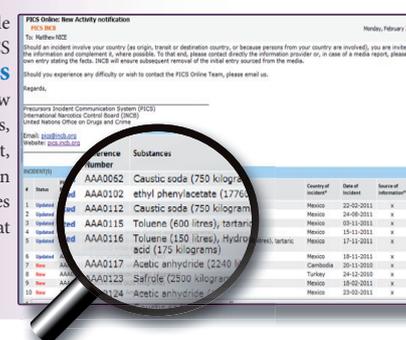
With easy-to-use queries, accessing precursor incident data and information communicated by governments, international and regional organizations, obtained via INCB-led initiatives Project PRISM and Project COHESION, or the media, is fast and simple.



How can PICS help you work?

- Provides users with detailed **real-time** information on precursor incidents worldwide, at no charge to governments;
- Provides contact details of the information owner to facilitate direct contact and the launching of bilateral/ regional **investigations** into seizures and identified cases of diversion;
- Allows for both structured reports and **"Google"**-type searches enabling instant access to individual incidents and aggregated statistics;
- Allows for the sharing of additional information such as **photographs**, shipping documents and other files that can be useful during an investigation.

Using a fully customizable messaging system, PICS **automatically alerts** you via email about new incidents such as seizures, shipments stopped in transit, diversions and diversion attempts, illicit laboratories and associated equipment, that are of interest to you.



Papua New Guinea delegate attends the 104th session of INCB

A high-level delegate of the Government of Papua New Guinea, at the invitation of INCB, attended the Board's 104th session in May 2012. Papua New Guinea remains one of the few countries worldwide that have yet to become parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

At its 103rd session in February 2012, the Board reviewed the drug control situation in Papua New Guinea, in the context of its mandate to ensure compliance by Governments with the international drug control conventions. The Board decided to invite the Government of Papua New Guinea to send a high-level delegation to its 104th session, in May 2012, to provide the Board with information on the current drug control situation in its country.



From left: President of INCB Raymond Yans; Mr. Johan Mapusa, Director-General of the National Narcotics Bureau of Papua New Guinea; Mr. Andrés Fingeruet, Secretary of INCB

On 15 May 2012, John Mapusa, Director General of the National Narcotics Bureau of Papua New Guinea, addressed the Board during its session, presenting a report of his Government on the drug control situation in the country and measures taken by his Government in accordance with the international drug control treaties. In particular, Mr. Mapusa

informed the Board of measures taken against trafficking in and manufacture of illicit drugs in the country, the current status of Papua New Guinea's accession to the 1988 Convention and difficulties encountered by the Government in the control of licit activities related to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals in conformity

with the international drug control treaties. The Board will continue to monitor the situation in Papua New Guinea. As agreed with the Government, the Board will send an INCB mission to the country at an appropriate time following the electoral process that is now under way.

Abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances: a forgotten menace

There has been an alarming increase in reports of abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances in recent years. Reports received from many countries on seizures and abuse of these preparations indicate that the substances most often abused are stimulants, benzodiazepines (especially alprazolam, diazepam, nimetazepam and flunitrazepam) and buprenorphine, an opioid analgesic used predominantly in detoxification and substitution treatment for heroin addicts. However, unlike the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs (such as methadone, oxycodone and fentanyl), the extent of which is well observed and monitored in many countries, the extent and nature of the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances remain largely unknown and underreported worldwide.

Pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances have gained popularity among drug abusers due to

the perception that such medications can be obtained legally (through doctors or pharmacies, for example) and the mistaken belief that the abuse of such substances does not have a damaging effect on health. Recently, there have been reports showing that a growing number of students in some countries tend to use stimulants to improve academic performance.

In many countries, the increased abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances is closely linked to their wide availability on the illicit markets. The diversion of such preparations from licit domestic distribution channels has become the main source of supply for illicit markets. The usual *modi operandi* include falsified prescriptions, the supplying of substances by pharmacies without the required prescriptions, or theft from pharmacies, wholesalers or factories. Some preparations are available via illegal Internet pharmacies. In some

cases, pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances are supplied by friends or family members, indicating that public awareness of the health risks involved in the abuse of such medications is not adequate.

The Board notes that some Governments have become aware of and taken measures to counter the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances. However, more needs to be done. For example, Governments should include such preparations in national surveys on drug abuse to obtain information on the nature and extent of the abuse. In addition, national authorities need to alert the general population about the negative effects of such abuse. Furthermore, the Board urges all Governments to take measures to prevent diversions of such preparations, especially from domestic distribution channels.



Abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances is increasing in many countries

INCB missions

In the period April to June 2012, INCB mission were undertaken to Ecuador, Peru, Portugal, and the Republic of

Korea. The findings of the missions will be reviewed by the Board at its 105th session in November 2012, and will be

reflected in the INCB Annual Report for 2012, which will be published in early 2013.

Ecuador

An INCB mission visited Ecuador from 20 to 22 June 2012. The mission was conducted by Ambassador Jorge Montaña, member of the Board, accompanied by a member of the Board's Secretariat. It was for the first time since 2003 that a mission of the Board visited that country.

Ecuador is party to the three main drug control conventions. The purpose of the mission was to review the implementation of the three international drug control conventions through national policy. Deliberations focused on the recent developments in

drug trafficking and abuse in Ecuador, measures taken to control narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and the chemicals needed for their manufacture, actions taken and planned by the Government to prevent illicit cultivation and manufacture, and demand reduction policies. The availability of opiates for medical needs was also discussed. The mission met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Executive Secretary and representatives from the constituent ministries of the National Council for Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Consejo Nacional de Control de Sustancias

Estupefacientes y Psicotrópicas - CONSEP), customs authorities and the drug observatory of Ecuador.



Map of Ecuador

Peru

A high-level INCB mission visited Peru from 28 to 30 May 2012. The mission was conducted by the President of the Board, Raymond Yans, accompanied by a member of the INCB secretariat. The purpose of the mission was to discuss Peru's implementation of the three international drug control conventions, to which it is party. The last mission of the Board to Peru took place in 2006.

The mission met ministers and vice-ministers with responsibility for drug control, including the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Juan Federico Jiménez Mayor; the Minister of Interior, Wilber Calle Girón; the Minister of Industry, Gladys Mónica Triveño Chan Jan; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, José Beraún Aranibar; the Vice-Minister for Human Rights and Access to Justice, Daniel Figallo Rivadeneyra; and the Vice-Minister for Institutional Management, Roberto Reynoso Peñaherrera. In addition, the mission met with the Attorney-

General of Peru, as well as key decision makers and senior officials from the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), the National Anti-Drug Directorate of the National Police of Peru (DIRANDRO), the Special Project for the Control and Reduction of Coca Cultivation in Alto Huallaga (CORAH), the Executive Office for Drug Control of the Ministry of Interior (OFECOD), the customs agency (SUNAT), the General Directorate for Medicaments, Controlled Substances and Drugs (DIGEMID), the National Coca Enterprise (ENACO) and the Information and Education Center for the Prevention of Drug Abuse (CEDRO). The mission also had the opportunity to visit two non-governmental organizations dedicated to drug abuse prevention.

Deliberations concentrated on recent developments in illicit coca cultivation and eradication efforts, drug trafficking and abuse in Peru, measures taken to

control narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and the chemicals needed for their illicit manufacture, and demand reduction policies. The availability of opiates for medical needs in Peru was also discussed with the national authorities.



Map of Peru

Portugal

A high-level INCB mission visited Portugal from 18 to 20 June 2012. The mission was conducted by the President of the Board, Mr. Raymond Yans, accompanied by Mr. Pavel Pachta, Deputy Secretary of the Board. The purpose of the mission was to discuss cooperation between Portugal and the Board and implementation by Portugal of the three international drug control conventions, to which it is party. The last mission of the Board to Portugal took place in 2004.

The mission met Mr. Fernando Leal da Costa, the Secretary of State in charge of drug control, and Mr. João Goulão, the National Drug Coordinator and General Director of the Service for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD). In addition, the mission met senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, National Authority of Medicines and

Health Products (INFARMED), Tax and Customs Administration and Prosecutor-General's Office. The mission also visited the Lisbon Commission for the Dissuasion of Drug Addiction and had the opportunity to hold discussions with two non-governmental organizations dedicated to drug abuse prevention, including treatment of drug addicts.

Deliberations concentrated on Portugal's cooperation with INCB in maintaining a global balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials, experience from the implementation of drug control legislation in Portugal regarding illegal possession of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for personal consumption, and on the Government's responses to current developments in drug abuse and illicit drug traffic in Portugal. The issue of rational use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical purposes in Portugal was also discussed with the national authorities.



Map of Portugal

Republic of Korea

An INCB mission visited the Republic of Korea from 27 to 29 June 2012. The mission was conducted by Dr. Viroj Sumyai, Second Vice-President and Member of the Board, accompanied by a member of the INCB Secretariat. The last INCB mission to the Republic of Korea took place in 2007.

The Republic of Korea is party to the three international drug control conventions. The purpose of the mission was to discuss the recent developments in drug trafficking and abuse in the Republic of Korea and the counter-measures adopted by the Korean authorities to address these issues. In particular, deliberations were focused on the control of precursors chemicals used for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. In addition, the mission also discussed

with the Korean authorities measures to control narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, to ensure their availability while at the same time preventing their diversion and abuse.

The mission met with senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Supreme Prosecutors' Office, the Korea Customs Service, and the Korea Food and Drug Administration. The mission was briefed by the Director of the World Customs Organisation Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and Pacific (RILO Asia and Pacific) on their activities, and had meetings with the representatives from the Korean Association against Drug Abuse (an NGO actively involved in prevention and treatment of drug abuse in the Republic of Korea) and Yongin Mental Hospital, a

treatment facility for substance abuse. The mission also paid visits to the Incheon International Airport Customs Office and the forensic drug laboratory of the Supreme Prosecutor's Office.



Map of Republic of Korea

Call for contributions

Readers are invited to submit comments and contributions:

E-mail: focus@incb.org

Facsimile: (+43-1) 26060 76948

Mail can be sent to the following address:

Focus on international drug control

Convention Evaluation Section (CES)

International Narcotics Control Board Secretariat

P.O. Box 500 | 1400 Vienna | Austria

The Focus Team reserves the right to edit and select articles depending on their relevance and the availability of space.

The contents of the Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of INCB, nor do they imply any endorsement. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of INCB concerning the legal status of any country, territory or city or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

About Focus on international drug control

Focus on international drug control is a quarterly publication, initiated by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), that provides insight into the activities and positions of the Board and information on other issues relevant to the Board's mandate. Focus also functions as a forum in which interested parties may share their opinions. Focus on international drug control is prepared by the Vienna-based INCB Secretariat.