



DECLARATION OF THE ROME CONSENSUS EUROPE CONFERENCE, RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF DRUG USE IN EUROPE

MADRID 27 March 2009

The *Rome Consensus Europe* Conference on “Rising to the Challenge of Drug Use in Europe” is an opportunity to:

- **Reaffirm** the commitment in the Founding Text of the Rome Consensus for a Humanitarian Drug Policy to raise the profile of drug policy to the forefront of social concerns;
- **Renew** the commitment to a humanitarian drug policy based on reason and compassion that generates action, free from ideology, force, stigmatisation and discrimination;
- **Realise** that the network of Red Cross and Red Crescent in Europe provides a unique platform for spreading and reinforcing good practices in drug policy due to its special position both within local communities and vis-à-vis national governments;
- **Reaffirm** full commitment to the principles and objectives of the Rome Consensus;
- **Acknowledge** that the EU Drugs Strategy and corresponding Action Plan provide an excellent policy framework for National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent to reinforce and strengthen their capacity in the field of drug prevention, information and treatment;
- **Commit** to mainstreaming, where relevant, the EU Drugs Strategy within current drug prevention, information and treatment programmes and activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies;
- **Commit** to transferring know-how and expertise related to drug prevention, information and treatment both within and between European National Societies of Red Cross;
- **Establish** an online reporting mechanism to monitor and evaluate how elements of the EU Drugs Strategy and its corresponding Action Plan are integrated and reinforced through the European network of Red Cross and Red Crescent;
- **Inform** the Rome Consensus Coordination of any relevant activities and programmes being planned, which relate to the objectives of the EU Drugs Strategy and which could be of benefit to other National Societies;

Specifically, the Rome Consensus Europe coordination commits to:

- Continued support as the central communication, coordination and organisational body working towards mainstreaming and strengthening EU drugs policy principles in the work of the National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent in Europe;
- Continued support as liaison with the European Commission and other relevant European Institutions;
- Constant provision of information, ideas, feedback and proposals on how best to exchange best practices between National Societies and on how to successfully mainstream the EU Drugs Strategy and corresponding Action Plan into the work of the National Societies.