



Invitation to special cocktail event during the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Dear [NAME],

Rethinking scheduling & taking on the challenge of NPS  
Towards more effectiveness and consistency

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 18.15-20.15

NH Danube Hotel (Wagramer Strasse 21. 1220 Vienna – next to the Vienna International Centre)

Drinks and light bites will be provided

The Transnational Institute and the International Drug Policy Consortium have the pleasure of inviting you to this special invitation-only event. Please RSVP by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

While often viewed merely as a technical issue, the effective scheduling of substances lies at the heart of the functioning of the international drug control system. In practice, the current scheduling system has been shown to be incoherent, at times archaic, and often ineffective at controlling fast emerging new psychoactive substances (NPS). This was reflected at **last year's Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** where unresolved discussions took place around the control of ketamine, tramadol and dronabinol, prompting member states to put the issue of scheduling on the table as a key issue for debate at this **year's CND**.

The current drug control landscape is marked by growing tensions among United Nations member states around what the global drug control regime should look like, with various governments now moving towards less repressive drug policies – reflecting an increasingly visible crack in the global consensus on drug control. In this context, the fast approaching UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in 2016, offers an opportunity to re-examine the current theory and practice around scheduling, and discuss the potential for a more effective, consistent and evidence-based drug control classification system.

This side event aims to discuss international scheduling, including successes and failures, tensions related to the WHO and INCB mandates in this field, key methodological difficulties and challenges, and potentials for establishing more effective and consistent mechanisms, in particular in the context of NPS control. The event will be an opportunity to launch a new IDPC/TNI briefing paper on scheduling, and to discuss the new NPS laws that have been introduced in New Zealand and the European Union. The session will consist of a facilitated panel discussion with plenty of time for questions and debate.

Draft agenda

Description of current scheduling system and recommendations for reform  
Speaker: Christopher Hallam, Research Officer, International Drug Policy Consortium

The current scheduling procedure: Difficulties and challenges  
Speaker: Dave Bewley-Taylor, Global Drug Policy Observatory

Responding to the challenge of new psychoactive substances in the European Union  
Danilo Ballotta, European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction

The New Zealand Psychoactive Act: An option for reform  
Ross Bell, Director, New Zealand Drugs Foundation

Please RVSP by emailing Marie Nougier ([mnougier@idpc.net](mailto:mnougier@idpc.net)) by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014. We very much hope you will be able to join us.

Kind regards,

Martin Jelsma  
Director  
Drugs and Democracy Programme, TNI  
<http://www.tni.org/work-area/drugs-and-democracy>

Ann Fordham  
Executive Director  
IDPC  
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**Drug Prevention and  
Information  
Programme of the  
European Union**



**OPEN SOCIETY  
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