



Factsheet – press pack

Drugs and harm reduction

2 sessions on Wednesday 20 March: 14:45-16:00 and 16:15-17:45

Two examples of practices by Efus member cities

>> Note to Editors: please let us know if you want to contact representatives of the cities and organisations mentioned here for an interview <<

- **The region of Brussels-Capital** (Belgium) supports the non-profit association [Transit](#), which cares for adults suffering from addiction (drugs, alcohol, medicines) through a range of services, including a safe consumption room called Gate, the provision of sterile material, supervised housing, prison work, and a space for women.
>> *Laurent Maisee, Deputy Director of Transit, will speak in the thematic session on drugs and harm reduction, on Wednesday 20 March, 16:15-17:45*
>> *Several visits on harm reduction schemes in the Brussels Capital Region will be organised during the conference (limited number of participants, first come, first served)*
- **The city of Loos** (France) took part along two other French cities (Lille and Sarcelles) in a wide-ranging pilot programme aimed at preventing young people from entering drug trafficking. Titled LIMIT's, this three-year project (2020-2023) led by the governmental [Interministerial Mission for the Prevention of Drugs and Addictive Behaviour](#) (Mission interministérielle de lutte contre les drogues et les conduites addictives, MILDECA) provided support for a whole range of local prevention schemes. In the case of Loos, these included support for parents, awareness activities with primary and secondary school pupils, and the training of prevention professionals. The project is currently being evaluated.



Speakers

Session 1 – plenary session Wednesday 20 March, 14:45-16:00

- [Ahmed Aboutaleb](#), Mayor of Rotterdam (Netherlands), Vice-President of Efus. As Europe's main port, Rotterdam is increasingly used as a platform by organised crime/drug traffickers and has put in place various schemes, notably to prevent young residents from being recruited into trafficking.
- [Ine Van Wymersch](#), National Commissioner for Drugs (Belgium)
- [Alexis Goosdeel](#), Director, [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) (EMCDDA), the European Union's agency providing independent scientific evidence and analysis on all aspects of drugs trafficking and consumption.

Session 2 – Thematic session Wednesday 20 March, 16:15-17:45

- Marie Jauffret-Roustide, researcher and sociologist, French National Institute of Health and Medical Research ([INSERM](#) - Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale)
- [Laurent Maise](#), Deputy Director, Transit asbl (Belgium), see above: [Transit](#) is a non-profit organisation that provides care to users in the Brussels-Capital region.
- [Arianna Rogialli](#), Project and Policy Support Officer, [Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network \(C-EHRN\)](#), a European civil society network and centre of expertise in the field of drug use, harm reduction and social inclusion
- Nadia Zourgui, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of public tranquillity, municipal police, crime prevention, mediation, victim support and crisis management (France). Strasbourg hosts one of France's two safe consumption rooms (the other one being in Paris)

Efus' work and position

Efus has been working on the [issue of drugs for three decades](#), advocating for giving a greater say to local authorities in drug policies, and for an approach based on prevention, harm reduction and the respect of users' fundamental rights.