



Order 528 (1996)¹

Social implications of the fight against drug addiction

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Drug trafficking and drug use are interdependent. As the century draws to a close, they are providing the main breeding ground for organised crime. The laundering of the proceeds of drug dealing is posing an insidious threat to our societies. Whole sections of the population in the producer countries have become hostages to the drug trade. Above all, however, drug taking is destroying the lives and future prospects of millions of often young drug users, thus jeopardising social cohesion in our countries.
2. The seriousness and complexity of the issue demand a comprehensive approach. However, drug misuse is often looked at in a piecemeal manner and tackled primarily from a legal angle.
3. The Assembly considers that the multiple implications of the fight against drug addiction call for the application of various types of know-how and skills, and that in any case, the prime concern of any measures introduced must be to take account of the potential impact on the lives of the individuals concerned.
4. Drug users are too often assimilated with offenders. They are, thereby, victims of an implacable process of marginalisation. Having recognised the need to combat exclusion, the Assembly is called to foster a social approach to the treatment of drug misuse.
5. The Assembly therefore charges its Social, Health, and Family Affairs Committee to make a study of the social aspects of the fight against drug addiction.

1. See [Doc. 7688](#), motion for an order presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold, MM. Gusenbauer and Gross. *Text adopted by the Standing Committee*, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 7 November 1996.

