

# Controlling drugs in Europe.

The Pompidou Group and the first European collaboration attempts around drug policies in the 1970's.

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WHEN DID EUROPEAN COUNTRIES  
DECIDE FOR A JOINT ACTION ON  
DRUGS?

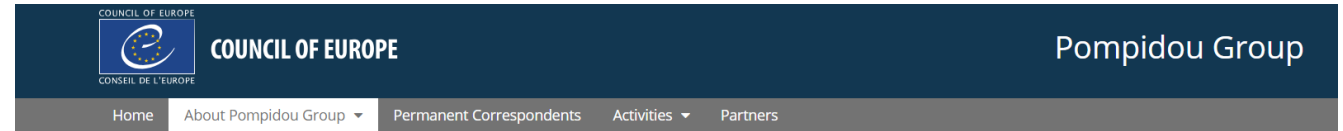


AND HOW DID THEY AGREE UPON A  
COMMON “DRUG PROBLEM”?

# European Drug Control

The Pompidou Group  
- Co-operation  
Group to Combat  
Drug Abuse and  
Illicit Trafficking in  
Drugs

- Only EEC cooperation in 1970's
- 'Independent'
- Reps of health, prevention & law enforcement
- Recommendations twice a year



You are here: Pompidou Group > About Pompidou Group



## History



The Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group) is an **inter-governmental** body formed in 1971 at the initiative of the late French President Georges Pompidou.

Initially, this informal forum consisted of seven European countries – France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom – looking to share their experience of **combating drug abuse and drug trafficking**. The cooperation was subsequently extended to include new countries.

In 1980 the Group was incorporated into the institutional framework of the Council of Europe and at present it comprises 39 member states.

Since 1990, technical co-operation has been extended to countries of central and eastern Europe which are not members of the Pompidou Group. Furthermore, non-European countries, like Canada, the USA, Australia and Mexico have also been invited to take part in activities, as well as other international bodies such as the European Union, the European Commission and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Since 2006 the Group has also developed co-operation activities for and with non member States from the Mediterranean Basin such as Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan.



[Agenda](#)

[Country profiles](#)

[Publications](#)



## Literature



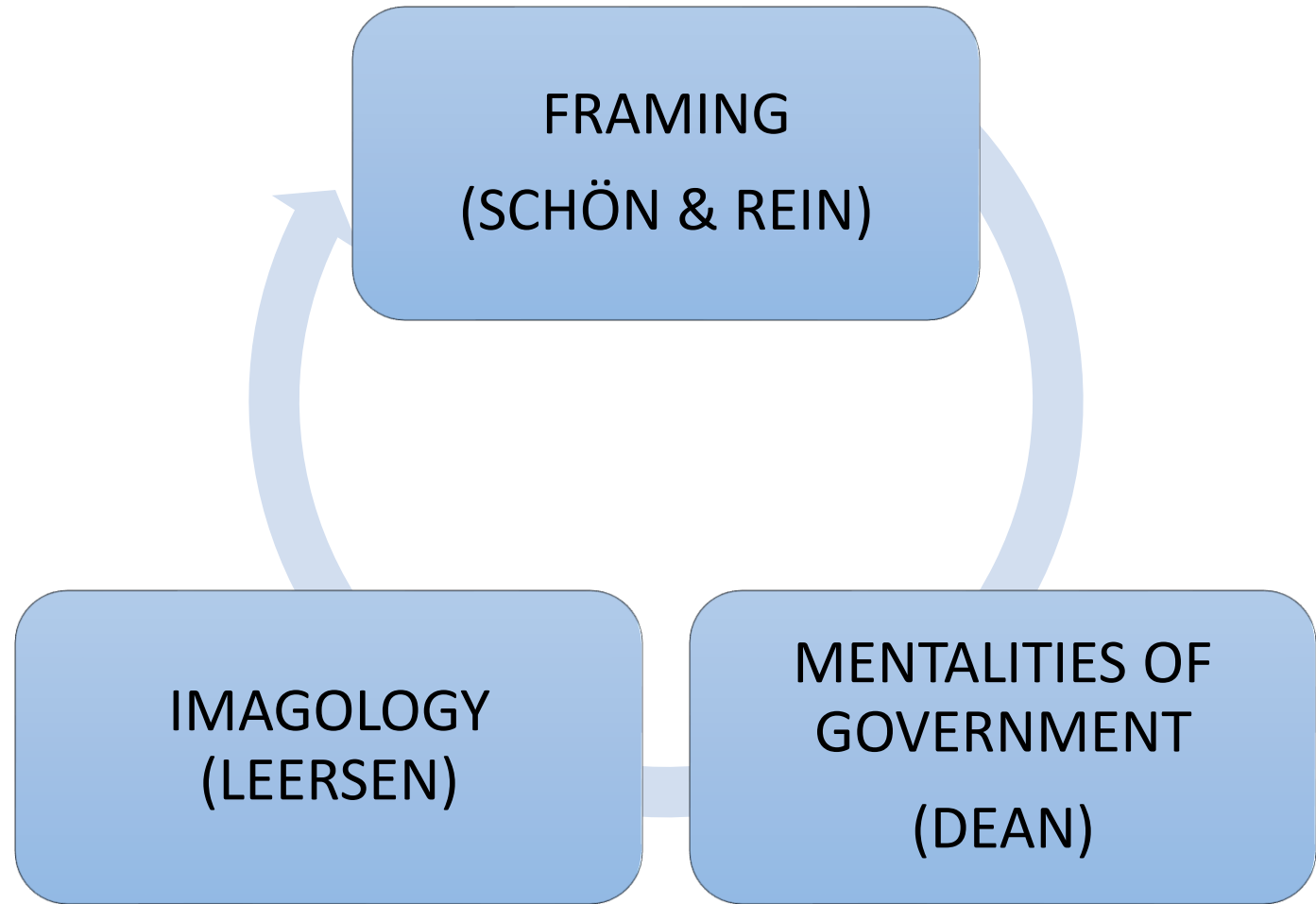
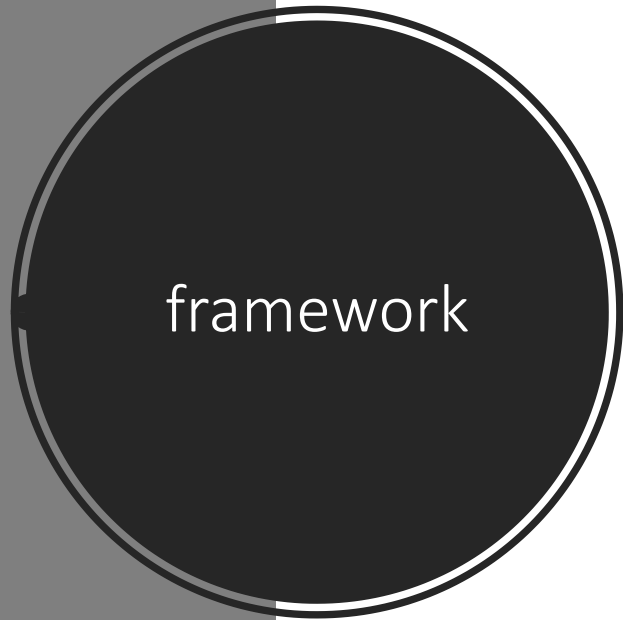
## Archives

Pompidou Group online  
Dutch National Archives (Health,  
Culture, specific groups)  
Dutch parliament archives



## NVivo software

*Methodology*





WHAT IS THE  
PROBLEM?



WHAT ARE POSSIBLE  
SOLUTIONS?



WHAT IS THE AIM OF  
THE REGULATION?



DUTCH  
STEREOTYPES

Questions on drug control



**An invitation to combat drugs**

1971



**Cannabis & counterculture**

1971-1972



**Fighting heroin**

1973 -1976



**Shifting towards producing countries**

1977-1980

1970's – Pompidou Group debates

# An invitation to combat drugs - 1971

*“The spectacular development of **addiction** is very worrying. If the evil appeared to strike the **United States**, where the president has underlined the **need for vigorous action**, it is certain that Europe, in its turn, is affected by this scourge. The **youth**, in particular, suffers the attraction of a fashion that is still relatively limited but must lead to increasing use of **terrible drugs** whose effects are **destructive for the personality, when not mortal**. There is a danger of incalculable consequences for our society and its future”. [...]*

Georges Pompidou, 6<sup>th</sup> August 1971







YOUTH ADDICTION | DRUG  
TRADE | HEROIN TRAFFIC TO US



EEC COOPERATION TO FIGHT  
TRADE



DRUG DEALERS

An invitation to combat drugs - 1971



YOUTH CANNABIS USE |  
COUNTERCULTURE |  
SMALL SCALE TRADE



EEC COOPERATION TO  
FIGHT TRADE



DRUG DEALERS



DRUGS PARADISE |  
BAD EXAMPLE

Cannabis & counterculture 1971-  
1972



HEROIN ADDICTION |  
DRUG TRADE



MULTI TREATMENT |  
ABSTINENCE | LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
COOPERATION



'ADDICTS' | DRUG  
DEALERS



THE BIGGEST  
SUPPLIERS OF  
EUROPE

Fighting heroin 1973-1975



OPIUM PRODUCING  
COUNTRIES|  
DIFFERENT  
PUNISHMENTS



DIPLOMATIC ACTION ON  
PRODUCING COUNTRIES|  
LEGISLATION  
HARMONIZATION



OPIUM PRODUCING  
COUNTRIES



SOFTIES IN  
PUNISHMENT

Shifting towards producing countries  
1976-1980



From cannabis to heroin



From use to addiction



Increasing pressure to fight traffic



Increasing pressure for harmonization (policies, penalties)



From fight within EU to fight 3<sup>rd</sup> countries

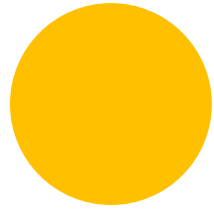
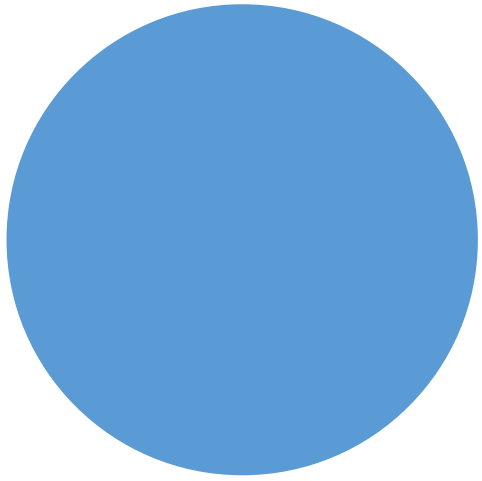


Increasing research and exchange on prevention and health

# General shift trends

# Snippets of the future

- 1980s: PG in the Council of Europe
- 2016: *“a time of consensus on drug policy in the EU”*. – Harm reduction.
- How did we get here?



Thank you!

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