

International Conference

*Towards the practical implementation of the Council of Europe
convention on counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes
involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME Convention)*

15-16 April 2010, Basel, Switzerland

CONFERENCE DECLARATION

International Conference

“Towards the practical implementation of the Council of Europe
Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar
crimes involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME Convention)”

Switzerland, 15-16 April 2010

16 April 2010

International Conference “Towards the practical implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME Convention)”, Switzerland, 15-16 April 2010

CONFERENCE Declaration

The participants of the above high-level International Conference, officials nominated by their national health, enforcement and judicial authorities, European and international institutions and organisations, organised by the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products, Swissmedic, in close co-operation with the Council of Europe, under the aegis of the Swiss Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe,

1. having met in Basel, Switzerland, on 15 – 16 April 2010, in order to:

- significantly advance the fight against counterfeit medical products and similar crimes that pose threats to public health in Europe and worldwide;
- promote political support for the practical implementation of the MEDICRIME Convention once adopted;
- discuss measures and means to provide for the practical implementation of the MEDICRIME Convention;

2. consider that counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes:

- violate the right to life as included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, and as enshrined in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (CETS No.5), by effectively denying patients the necessary medical treatment, being often harmful to their health, sometimes even leading to death;
- give rise to counterfeit and dangerous medical products which in addition to the risk they pose to the health of individuals, undermine the confidence of the general public in health authorities and healthcare systems;
- are crimes targeting all types of medical products and growing strongly globally, due to the relatively low risk of prosecution and detection and potential high gains, and their advertising and supply around the world through the internet;

3. welcome the MEDICRIME Convention, drafted under the aegis of the Council of Europe, as the first comprehensive international instrument centred on combating all forms of counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health through criminalisation of specific types of conduct, prevention, protection of victims, promotion of national and international cooperation on criminal and administrative matters, and which sets up a specific monitoring mechanism;

4. underline the need that the member States of the Council of Europe, as well as other States around the world sign and ratify or accede to the MEDICRIME Convention without unnecessary delay once adopted and attach the necessary importance to its effective implementation;

5. consider important the possibilities provided for by the MEDICRIME Convention for the accession of states which are not Council of Europe members as the threats to public health tackled by the MEDICRIME Convention have truly global proportions;

6. welcome useful developments and initiatives worldwide and at regional level carried out by states, organisations, the private sector, and the civil society to combat the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes, and emphasise that such initiatives should be complementary, in a spirit of synergy, and solidarity;

7. pay tribute to the long involvement of the Council of Europe finding appropriate answers to the serious problems posed by counterfeiting of medical products and other threats to public health.

The participants express their sincere gratitude to the conference organisers, in particular the Swiss authorities for the excellent organisation of the conference and for the great hospitality provided to them.

