



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

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Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable



Strasbourg, 17 April 2015

Dear Secretaries of National Delegations,

The Secretariat of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development kindly requests your assistance in identifying a member of your national parliament to participate in the **Parliamentary Conference on the MEDICRIME Convention**,¹ to be held on 24 November 2015 in the OECD Conference Centre, in Paris. The programme of the Conference is currently being prepared and will be sent to you as soon as possible. The working languages will be English, French, Russian, German and Italian.

The MEDICRIME Convention is the first international treaty against counterfeit medical products, providing for the criminalisation of certain acts, as well as a framework promoting national and international cooperation between different bodies involved in the fight against counterfeit medical products. The Convention was instigated by the Assembly, which then was closely involved in its elaboration. To date, 23 States have signed the Convention, including 3 non-member States of the Council of Europe (Guinea, Israel and Morocco), and 4 of them have ratified it.

We hope that a key representative of your Parliament, such as the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Committee responsible for issues related to counterfeiting of medical products, could participate in this event. The main objective of the Conference is to encourage States to sign and ratify the Convention. To this end, among other things, the benefits of and challenges to ratifying it will be discussed. A Handbook on the Convention will also be prepared and presented to parliamentarians on the occasion of the Conference.

In the light of the above, I would appreciate it if you could communicate the name of your delegate to our Committee's Secretariat as soon as possible, and by 1 June at the latest. We will then issue a nominal invitation to the parliamentarian, allowing him/her to make travel arrangements (the travel and subsistence expenses for one member of parliament will be borne by the Council of Europe in accordance with its rules).

Interested members of your national delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly who are members of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development are also welcome to attend, at the cost of their national parliaments. Please note that the Conference is preceded by the Committee's plenary meeting on 23 November at the Council of Europe office in Paris.

Ms Ayşegül Elveriş (tel. +33 3 88 41 23 32, e-mail: aysegu.elveris@coe.int) and Mr Raul Mallaina (tel. +33 3 90 21 53 57, e-mail: raul.mallaina@coe.int), Co-Secretaries to the Committee, remain at your disposal for any further information.

We rely on your assistance to make this Conference a true success.

Yours sincerely,

Tanja Kleinsorge
Head of the Secretariat

¹ Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (CETS No. 211).