

## **Statute of the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination**

The Statute of the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination<sup>1</sup> was adopted by Government Resolution No. 1057 of 15 October 2001 and subsequently amended by Government Resolutions No. 643 of 19 June 2002, No. 296 of 26 March 2003, No. 1312 of 22 December 2004, No. 300 of 16 March 2005, No. 23 of 4 January 2006, No. 616 of 4 June 2007 and No. 320 of 19 April 2010.

### **Article 1 Introductory Provisions**

(1) The Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination (hereinafter the "GCDPC") is a permanent advisory, initiating and coordinating body of the Government of the Czech Republic active in drug policy issues.

(2) The GCDPC was set up by the Government of the Czech Republic through Resolution No. 275 of 26 May 1993 (amended by Government Resolutions No. 446 of 18 August 1993, No. 163 of 15 March 1995, No. 208 of 9 April 1997 and No. 719 of 4 November 1998).

### **Article 2 Competencies**

(1) The GCDPC collects, discusses and submits to the Government information, materials and proposals for the creation and implementation of the Government's single drug policy and coordinates the fulfilment of tasks stemming from the National Drug Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic at international, central, regional and local levels.

(2) The GCDPC also in particular

a) Draws up the National Drug Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic and the Action Plan for its implementation as the reference documents that define the responsibilities, standpoints, targets and tasks of the Drug Policy for forthcoming periods,

b) Coordinates the fulfilment of tasks arising from international treaties by which the Czech Republic is bound and from the Czech Republic's membership of international organisations,

c) Monitors and annually evaluates the fulfilment of tasks arising from the National Drug Policy Strategy, and annually submits information about their fulfilment to the Government of the Czech Republic,

d) Methodologically regulates the activities of regional drug policy coordinators,

---

<sup>1</sup> For better international understanding, an informal name „National Drug Commission“ can be used (remark of the GCDPC Secretariat)..

e) Coordinates the system of providing financial resources from the state budget – Drug Policy expenses,

f) Evaluates requests for subsidies from the state budget provided via the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic– Drug Policy expenses, and decides on the provision of subsidies for the implementation of programmes.

(3) The GCDPC coordinates the procedure of protection from problems caused by narcotic and psychotropic substances and cooperates in particular with

a) State administration bodies,

b) Other administrative authorities,

c) Independent regional bodies,

d) Independent municipal bodies,

e) Professional societies and non-profit non-governmental organizations active in the areas of prevention, risk minimalisation, treatment and resocialisation of drug users.

### **Article 3 GCDPC Composition**

(1) The GCDPC has 14 members, comprising the Chairman, the Vice-Chairperson, the Executive Vice-Chairman and other members.

(2) The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the GCDPC.

(3) The Minister responsible for human rights and for national and ethnic minorities or the government commissioner for human rights is the Vice-Chairperson of the GCDPC. The Vice-Chairperson acts in lieu of the Chairman of the GCDPC in his absence and coordinates the fulfilment of the Drug Policy with other activities falling within the scope of her responsibilities.

(4) The GCDPC Executive Vice-Chairman is appointed and recalled by the Chairman. The Executive Vice-Chairman is responsible for day-to-day coordination of the bodies and institutions represented by members of the GCDPC; in so acting, the Executive Vice-Chairman implements and pursues the interministerial approach of the Government to the Drug Policy. In cooperation with the GCDPC member appointed by the Council of the Association of the Czech Republic's Regions, the Executive Vice-Chairman is responsible for mutual coordination and exchange of information between the Government and individual regions in issues related to the Drug Policy. The Executive Vice-Chairman may simultaneously hold the position of the Director of the GCDPC Secretariat.

(5) The other members of the GCDPC are:

- a) The Minister of Defence,
- b) The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs,
- c) The Minister of Justice,
- d) The Minister of Education, Youth and Sport,
- e) The Minister of Interior,
- f) The Minister for Health,
- g) The Minister of Foreign Affairs,
- h) The Minister of Finance,
- i) A representative of the Association of the Czech Republic's Regions – the governor of the region or the Mayor of the City of Prague appointed by the Council of the Association of the Czech Republic's Regions,
- j) A representative of the Society for Substance Abuse Disorders , associated with the Czech Medical Society of Jan Evangelista Purkyně,
- k) A representative of NGOs dealing with the prevention and treatment of drug addictions.

(6) The members of the GCDPC specified in paragraph (5) letters (j) and (k) are appointed by the Chairman based on nominations proposed by the GCDPC.

(7) Any GCDPC member who, due to having an interest in the transacted issues, might be exposed to a suspicion of a conflict of interests is obligated to inform the Chairman to this effect in advance. Details are set out in the GCDPC Rules of Procedure.

(8) The term of office of GCDPC members is the same as the term of office of the Government.

(9) In the event a GCDPC member is appointed during the term of office of the Government, his/her term of office finishes at the same time as that of the Government. The number of repeated appointments is not limited unless there is a limitation by the operation of law.

(10) Membership of the GCDPC automatically ends with the end of the performance of the office.

#### **Article 4 GCDPC Chairman**

(1) The GCDPC Chairman is accountable to the Government for the activities of the GCDPC.

(2) The GCDPC Chairman calls and chairs GCDPC sessions. GCDPC sessions take place as and when necessary, but at least once every three months.

(3) The GCDPC Chairman further in particular

a) Regulates GCDPC activities,

b) Signs standpoints, recommendations and other GCDPC materials,

c) Presents GCDPC members with the GCDPC plan of work for approval and proposals of GCDPC material for discussion,

d) On proposal by the GCDPC, appoints and recalls the chairman or vice-chairmen of committees and working groups,

e) On proposal by the GCDPC, decides on the establishment or dissolution of GCDPC working groups and on their composition,

f) On proposal by the GCDPC, decides on the composition of GCDPC committees,

g) Decides whether guests will be invited to GCDPC sessions,

h) Proposes the amount of remuneration for GCDPC experts if they are entitled to such pursuant to Article 10 of this Statute.

#### **Article 5 GCDPC Members**

(1) GCDPC members are obliged to attend GCDPC sessions.

(2) GCDPC members have the right to submit proposals to the GCDPC and participate in its sessions. They have the right to participate in any GCDPC work or sessions of GCDPC committees and working groups.

(3) In the event a GCDPC member cannot attend a GCDPC session, it is his/her obligation to excuse himself/herself in advance to the GCDPC Chairman.

(4) In the event of illness or other reasons especially suitable for consideration, a GCDPC member, if a Minister, may send his/her deputy to a session; other GCDPC members may delegate a person representing the specific organisation to attend the session (hereinafter the "Representative"). The Representative must, before the start of the GCDPC session, submit a written authorisation signed by the represented GCDPC member.

(5) A Representative may vote only if the represented member has expressly authorised him/her to vote.

## **Article 6 GCDPC Committees**

(1) The GCDPC establishes committees. External persons may also be invited to work in a committee.

(2) Committees must be enumerated in the GCDPC Statute. The GCDPC will present the Government with a proposal for the establishment or dissolution of a committee together with a proposal for the appropriate amendment to the Statute.

(3) The GCDPC has a Committee of Departmental and Institutional Representatives, a Committee of Regional Representatives, a Committee for the Provision of Special-Purpose Grants from the State Budget – Drug Policy expenses, an Advisory Committee for Drug-Related Data Collection and a Certification Committee.

(4) The Committee of Departmental and Institutional Representatives in particular

a) Prepares for the GCDPC conceptual materials for the drug policy, expert opinions, evaluations and recommendations,

b) Prepares for the GCDPC standpoints and recommendations for proposals relating to drug legislation,

c) Prepares for the GCDPC proposals and standpoints relating to the use of drug policy financial resources,

d) Cooperates with state administrative bodies and local authorities, professional societies, NGOs and other institutions active in the area of prevention, mitigation of risks, treatment and resocialisation of drug users during the practical support of the Government drug policy,

e) Cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the area of the international aspects of the drug policy.

(5) The Committee of Regional Representatives:

a) Prepares for the GCDPC conceptual materials for implementation of the drug policy at the regional level,

b) Prepares for the GCDPC information regarding the status and progress of implementation of the drug policy at the regional level,

c) Is comprised of regional drug policy coordinators and the drug policy coordinator for the City of Prague.

(6) The Committee for the Provision of Special-Purpose Grants from the State Budget – Drugs Policy expenses, in particular considers requests for the provision of financial grants and proposes their provision to the GCDPC.

(7) The Advisory Board for Drug-Related Data Collection in particular

a) Assesses the research plan of the National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction for the subsequent year and evaluates its results from the previous year,

b) Ensures the use of scientific methods when drawing up the Annual Report on the situation in drug-related matters in the Czech Republic and also that its contents are drawn up in the structure required by the EMCDDA.

(8) The Certification Committee presents to the Council for decision its proposal for granting, or withdrawing, certification of professional competency to provide services to drug users.

(9) Each committee has its own statute that is subject to approval by the GCDPC.

#### **Article 7 Working Groups**

(1) The GCDPC, according to need, establishes temporary working groups. The working groups do not have their own statute.

(2) Working groups are established and dissolved by the GCDPC Chairman as a rule on proposal by GCDPC members. External persons may also be invited to work in a working group.

(3) Working groups deal with single issues in the area of competency of the GCDPC; in particular they prepare material for GCDPC sessions or, if appropriate, for committees.

#### **Article 8 External Cooperation**

(1) The GCDPC may, through its members, request cooperation from state administration employees or external experts (hereinafter the “Experts”).

(2) Experts, on invitation from the GCDPC Chairman, may attend GCDPC sessions either *ad hoc* for specific issues or they may participate in work in committees and working groups.

## **Article 9 GCDPC Secretariat**

(1) The activities of the GCDPC (including the activities of its committees and working groups) are supported by the GCDPC Secretariat (hereinafter the “Secretariat”), which is an organisational part of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.

(2) The Secretariat in particular

a) Administratively and organisationally supports the activities of the GCDPC,

b) Collects the materials and information necessary for the activities of the GCDPC,

c) Draws up expert materials for GCDPC sessions on the basis of instructions from the GCDPC Chairman,

d) Coordinates the activities of regional drug policy coordinators in compliance with the goals of the National Drug Strategy and the implementation of its action plans,

e) Coordinates the activities of GCDPC working bodies,

f) Is an expert methodical workplace for the collection and distribution of data on drugs and drug addiction; for this reason the National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction has been established in the Secretariat,

g) Regularly updates information published about the GCDPC and on the outputs of its activities, including information about committees and working groups, on the website of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.

(3) The Secretariat Director regulates the Secretariat's activities and is responsible for fulfilling its tasks. The Secretariat Director is appointed and recalled by the head of the Office of the Government on proposal by the GCDPC Chairman.

(4) The Secretariat Director represents the Czech Republic at expert international institutions engaged in international programmes for the prevention and treatment of drug use (e.g., the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the UN Commission for Narcotic Drugs, the Horizontal Working Party of the Council of the European Union). If needed the Secretariat Director may appoint other persons for cooperation with the given international institutions.

**Article 10**  
**Costs for Activities and Remuneration**

(1) Regular costs for the activities of the GCDPC are covered from the budget of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Expert activities according to approved programmes of the drug policy are financed from state budget resources Drug Policy expenses. Sessions of the GCDPC and its committees and working groups take place at the facilities of this authority and in justified cases outside the facilities of this authority.

(2) On proposal by the GCDPC Chairman, reimbursement of travel expenses and/or remuneration for performed work may be granted to experts who cooperate with the GCDPC. The same administrative rules apply to these reimbursements and remunerations as in respect of state administration staff.

**Article 11**  
**Rules of Procedure**

(1) The GCDPC procedures are regulated by the GCDPC Rules of Procedure. The GCDPC Rules of Procedure, its amendments and supplements are subject to approval by the GCDPC.

(2) GCDPC committees have independent rules of procedure that are subject to approval by the GCDPC.

(3) As a rule, working groups meet informally and decide on a consensual basis. If necessary, they proceed to a reasonable extent in accordance with the GCDPC Rules of Procedure, or the rules of procedure of the committee in the framework of which they are operating. The GCDPC Chairman decides, when establishing working groups, which rules of procedure they will be regulated by.

**Article 12**  
**Final Provisions**

(1) This Statute entered into effect on 19 April 2010, on the basis of approval by the Government through Resolution No. 320 of 19 April 2010.

(2) Amendments and supplements to the Statute are subject to approval by the Government.

(3) The Statute is available to the public on the website of the Office of the Government ([www.vlada.cz](http://www.vlada.cz)) and at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. The version displayed on the website is always the full wording of the valid Statute.

\*\*\*