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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

The Prime Minister

1364712/SG

Paris, 17th October 2012

Dear Mrs Jourdain-Menninger,

You have just taken up your position as President of the Interministerial Mission for the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction.

The interministerial role of the MILDT is set out in a body of texts, which establish this task force's powers of coordination and organisation. The fight against drugs, drug addiction and addictive behaviours is a transverse policy to which each Ministry needs to contribute in its own field of competence, to match the efforts required by the fields of public initiative for which it is responsible as a whole.

The Mission's administrative attachment to the Prime Minister enables it to put forward far-reaching and integrated initiatives, combining prevention, health, research, the fight against trafficking, compliance with the law and training.

Scientific data show that the development of addictive behaviours is the result of multiple and complex interactions between repeated exposure to drugs and individual, family and social problems. The public health measures that you put forward should therefore take all of the decisive elements and confirmed factors of risk into account.

Accordingly, priority should be given to a broadened view of prevention as an integral part of civic and scientific education, including the raising of awareness of risks as a whole. In particular, behavioural influences linked to Internet and social networks should be taken into account: these factors are all the more important insofar as they are aimed at very young and therefore vulnerable people.

A consistent and coordinated approach to the prevention of addictive behaviours requires the elaboration of an active policy including tobacco, alcohol, psychotropic prescription drugs and narcotics. The phenomena of "poly-drug use", the practice of doping and non-substance based addictions (for example gambling addiction) need to be taken into account.

Madame Danièle JOURDAIN-MENNINGER
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In spite of the efforts of the various services of the State, narcotics trafficking remains a threat to public security in France. We need to be in a position to understand all of the dimensions of this phenomenon. It is important for you to ensure consolidated coordination between the initiatives of the independent Ministries, in order to stimulate responses that measure up to the issues involved.

The fight against trafficking needs to be conducted unceasingly. The “drug” cooperation funds, financed by the seizure and confiscation of traffickers’ assets and managed by the MILDT, should provide resources for regularly conducting effective and innovative initiatives in the fight against trafficking. It is important to ensure that the sums thus confiscated are also devoted to the development of appropriate preventive actions.

These directions are to be implemented with the support of the network of heads of drug addiction projects, placed in close relation with the prefects, at the departmental and regional levels. In order to ensure consistency of public initiative it is important to make sure that the regional health agencies are involved in the reflection and work undertaken by the heads of project, with equal regard to prevention, healthcare and risk-reduction.

You should also aim to consolidate the MILDT’s role of providing expertise to the authorities, with the support of the OFDT / French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (*Observatoire français des drogues et des toxicomanies*), research teams in the fields concerned and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. The MILDT thus needs to help to promote the expansion of multidisciplinary research in medicine and the human and social sciences, within establishments and large research bodies.

At the international level, the MILDT will contribute, in close association with the SGAE / French Secretariat for European Affairs (*Secrétariat général aux affaires européennes*) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the elaboration of the French position in international and European bodies with regard to the fight against drugs. In particular, the MILDT will promote France’s overall integrated approach, both in bilateral relations with foreign partners and in international bodies. It will make use of the Training Centre for the Fight against Drugs (CIFAD) in order to disseminate the know-how of the French administrations in the countries of the Caribbean arc and Latin America.

Under your presidency, I also want the MILDT to become a source of proposals with regard to the legal changes necessary for ensuring the effectiveness of the fight against drugs, drug addiction and addictive behaviours.

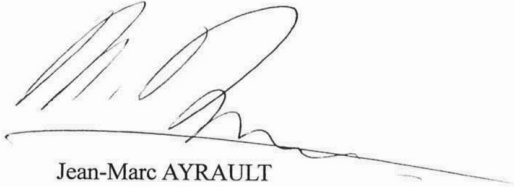
These directions as a whole should constitute the priorities of the next Government Plan.

I ask you to rapidly begin the elaboration of the new Plan with the Ministries concerned, while ensuring close coordination of this work and collecting the opinions of the territorial authorities and associations of locally elected representatives, as well as the various partner professionals and associations. The work needs to draw upon advances made in scientific knowledge. In accordance with government initiatives, this plan should make it possible to ensure better prevention of addictive behaviours – among young people and vulnerable population groups from unstable and insecure social backgrounds in particular –, reassert the importance of risk-reduction policy, put forward initiatives in the field of support and follow-up – for persons in custody in particular –, improve the effectiveness of the fight against trafficking, conduct regular and long-term communication initiatives and undertake determined action in French overseas territories, as well as at the international and European levels.

I ask you to set out to promote measures whose effectiveness has been proven within this long-term Plan. The initiatives undertaken need to be regularly assessed.

This Government Plan for the years 2013-2015 will be validated by a meeting of the Interministerial Committee for the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction and for the Prevention of Dependence held under my chairmanship.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Marc AYRAULT