

**First EU Internet Forum Countering Drug Sales Online
Meeting at Technical Level
13 February 2023, online**

The first EU Internet Forum Countering Drug Sales Online Meeting at Technical Level took place on Monday 13 February 2023 (online). COM informed on the plans for the Knowledge Package and timeline for its development, while Europol, EMCDDA and the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board presented their experience with tackling drug sales online.

The meeting was attended by over 70 participants, representing Member States, EFTA countries, General Secretariat of the Council, EEAS, Europol and EMCDDA, and the Secretariat of the International Narcotic Control Board. Participants represented law enforcement agencies, as well as drugs units at Ministries of Justice, Interior and Foreign Affairs.

COM briefly outlined the context including drug sales online in the EU Internet Forum on a technical level, before highlighting the need to develop effective strategies to both monitor developments in the area of drug sales on social media and the need to consider appropriate responses. They specifically highlighted the increased visibility and accessibility of drugs to the young, often under aged user base of many social media platforms. After this, **COM** set out the preliminary plans for the Knowledge Package, which will be multilingual and will include terms used to advertise drug sales online that could help with the moderation of this content. The next steps will be a feedback phase to gather input for the modalities of the Knowledge Package, and afterwards a data collection phase will follow in which Member States will collect the data necessary to compile the Knowledge Package.

To explain the context of the issue of drug sales on social media, **Europol** informed about their work concerning the darknet. **EMCDDA** presented the findings of two studies on drug sales on social media in Nordic countries in 2019 and 2022. Lastly, the **Secretariat of the International Narcotic Control Board** presented their work done on tackling drug sales online.

The presentations were followed by a tour-de-table. The COM initiative was well received by Member States who will have another chance to respond in writing to an explanatory note which will already incorporate the insights from this meeting.