

International Seminar on Combating Drug Trafficking in the Caribbean and Treating Addictions

December 10 -12, 2024 in Fort-de-France

"Never has drugs been produced so much in the world, never has it been so distributed¹", with ever more agile traffickers and routes that are constantly diversifying.

Faced with an increase in drug trafficking in the Caribbean arc, a rebound zone towards the European and American markets, by sea or air, it is becoming essential for an effective fight and to protect our overseas territories, to strengthen judicial cooperation not only at the level of the islands of the region, but also with the United States and nearby South American states, such as Venezuela and Colombia, and those particularly affected and carrying security challenges such as Ecuador and Brazil.

This phenomenon, which is accompanied by an increase in violence and related crime, has a strong impact on our overseas populations given the associated violence, and the serious consequences in terms of health. *"Drugs kill"*, and *"addiction can be a never-ending struggle for users"*, as the UNODC reminds us², which specifies that 39.5 million people worldwide suffered from substance use disorders in 2021³, an increase of 45% in ten years⁴.

The international seminar organized at the initiative of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Fort-de-France on December 10 and 12 on the fight against drug trafficking in the Caribbean and the treatment of addictions is part of this context and will be structured around two parts, with the aim of getting to know each other better in order to facilitate cooperation and share good practices:

- 1 - Fight against drug trafficking in the Caribbean (presentation of the different judicial systems, the state of the threat and the responses provided);
- 2 - Shared assessment of addiction phenomena (consumption tendencies, treatment methods, focus on problem-solving justice).

An international meeting that will combine conferences, round tables and field visits.

The geographical areas of interest are those mentioned above, the expected participants are the judicial authorities of the various States, liaison magistrates, internal security attachés, French ambassadors and experts in the health sector, for a total of about 140 people.

Simultaneous translation of the discussions will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

¹Report No. 588 drawn up on behalf of the Senate Commission of Inquiry on the impact of drug trafficking in France and the measures to be taken to remedy it

²World Drug Report 2022, foreword:

https://www.unodc.org/res/wdr2022/MS/WDR22_Booklet_1_french.pdf

³https://www.unodc.org/res/WDR-2023/WDR23_ExSum_French.pdf

⁴<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/fr/press/releases/2023/June/unodc-world-drug-report-2023-warns-of-converging-crises-as-illicit-drug-markets-continue-to-expand.html>