



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



# **European Coalition Against Drugs (ECAD) High-Level International Meeting on Addiction Prevention and Recovery**

## **MEDIA HANDBOOK**

23 October 2026  
San Patrignano – Coriano (RN), Italy

## Contents

|                                                                      |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| European Coalition Against Drugs (ECAD) .....                        | 3  |
| Programme .....                                                      | 5  |
| Useful information.....                                              | 7  |
| • Accreditation procedures .....                                     | 7  |
| • Information for the foreign press.....                             | 7  |
| • Badges and access .....                                            | 7  |
| • Information about the Press Centre .....                           | 8  |
| • Doorstep area .....                                                | 8  |
| • Rules of filming and protection of the Community's residents ..... | 8  |
| • Safety rules .....                                                 | 8  |
| • Multimedia resources.....                                          | 9  |
| • Accommodation .....                                                | 9  |
| Contact Information .....                                            | 11 |

## **European Coalition Against Drugs (ECAD)**

The European Coalition Against Drugs (ECAD) is a cooperation platform established within the European Political Community (EPC), launched jointly by the Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, and the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, on the sidelines of the seventh EPC Summit, held in Copenhagen on 2 October 2025.

Italy and France have decided to jointly promote the Coalition in light of their specific experience in this field and the long-standing cooperation between their respective competent authorities.

The Italian-French initiative — which now includes 35 European countries, alongside the European Commission and the Council of Europe — aims to strengthen cooperation in practical terms on two fronts: combating drug trafficking, including new-generation synthetic drugs, and the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of people affected by addiction.

The ECAD members have adopted a founding declaration, which sets out the Coalition's operational priorities and includes, amongst other things, the full application of the 'follow the money' principle to target the proceeds of drug trafficking.

The Coalition's second meeting took place on the sidelines of the eighth EPC Summit in Yerevan, once again under Italian-French co-chairmanship: at that meeting, the Coalition's members discussed the cooperation initiatives proposed by Italy and France for 2026 and adopted a new joint declaration intended to guide their work in the coming months.

The San Patrignano International Meeting on Addiction Prevention and Recovery, jointly organised by Italy and France, represents one of the concrete outcomes of the commitments made in Yerevan regarding addiction prevention and recovery. The Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, and the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, have sent joint letters of invitation to the Heads of State and Government and to the Coalition's partners, as well as to the relevant European institutions. The initiative, which involves the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of the Interior, is coordinated by the Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with delegated authority for policies against drugs and other addictions, Alfredo Mantovano.

The proceedings will conclude with the adoption of the Final Declaration, which will set out the Coalition's strategic direction and operational commitments for the coming years. The choice of San Patrignano – an internationally recognised initiative in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of people with addictions – aims to illustrate, through the realities of everyday life, an example of the policies that the Coalition seeks to promote.

## **San Patrignano**

San Patrignano is a social organisation dedicated to addiction **recovery** and drug **prevention**.

The Community was founded in 1978 to support young people struggling with addiction. Since it was founded, it has welcomed **27,000 people**. Today there are around 850 young people there, to whom it provides a home, healthcare and legal support, the opportunity to study, to learn a trade and to reintegrate fully into society once they have completed their rehabilitation programme. The assistance provided is completely **free of charge**.

Respect for oneself and for others, an ethic of responsibility and a spirit of helping those most in need: these are the founding principles of the Community, upon which its educational and therapeutic work is based, whilst fully respecting all faiths and religions. In the Community's approach, addiction is not considered a chronic, incurable disease to be treated pharmacologically for an indefinite period. On the contrary, every person who comes to ask for help is welcomed for who they are, with potential to be rediscovered and nurtured. Personal care is essential both from a physical perspective – there is a health centre and a 50-bed medical centre specialising in infectious diseases – and from a psychological perspective.

The Community, which covers 240 hectares, also takes in people on **alternatives to incarceration**: those convicted of drug-related offences may have the opportunity to undertake a rehabilitation and recovery programme, as well as gain work skills, instead of serving their sentence in prison. Since 1980, for 3,950 people, over 4,000 years of imprisonment have been replaced by community-based rehabilitation programmes, resulting in an estimated saving for the State of around EUR 260 million. San Patrignano also runs **two centres for young people**, catering for those aged between 13 and 17 who have been referred by social services or the juvenile courts.

All residents of the Community can receive an **education**, resuming their studies at any level, as well as high-quality **vocational training** within the numerous workshops and departments available: weaving, wallpaper-making, leatherwork, cooking, dairy, bakery, farming, wine cellar, nursery, cattle farming, dog kennels, graphic design and printing.

## Programme

### Thursday 22 October

4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Press visit to San Patrignano (accreditation required via the portal <https://ecad2026.it/mediahome.aspx>)  
During the visit, a background briefing will be held and a press pack will be distributed.

### Friday 23 October

**All working sessions, including the introduction and opening remarks, will be broadcast via video at the Press Centre, where headphones will be available for the original audio (floor) and simultaneous interpretation into Italian, English and French.**

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. | <b>Welcome coffee</b><br>Arrival of the delegations ( <i>official media only</i> )                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:00 a.m.            | <b>Introduction</b><br>Opening remarks by the co-organisers, Italy and France, and by representatives of the European Union and international organisations.<br>( <i>pool of photographers and cameramen in the auditorium</i> ) |
| 10:30 a.m.            | <b>Opening session</b><br>Italy and France will present their respective approaches to prevention and rehabilitation.                                                                                                            |
| 11:00 a.m.            | <b>San Patrignano session</b><br>An introduction to San Patrignano.<br>This will be followed by a visit to the Community for Heads of Delegation ( <i>official photographers from the organisation only</i> )                    |
| 1:15 p.m. (TBC)       | <b>Group photo</b><br>( <i>official media; pool of photographers and cameramen</i> )                                                                                                                                             |
| 1:30 p.m.             | <b>Lunch</b><br>( <i>Lunch for the press will be served at the Press Centre</i> )                                                                                                                                                |
| 2:30 p.m.             | <b>National declarations on recovery and prevention</b><br>National statements (3 minutes per speech).                                                                                                                           |

|           |                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:30 p.m. | <b>Conclusions by the Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Alfredo Mantovano, and adoption of the Declaration</b> |
| 5:00 p.m. | <b>Closing of proceedings</b>                                                                                                                       |

## Useful information

- **Accreditation procedures**

Journalists, photographers and cameramen must register via the portal <https://ecad2026.it/mediahome.aspx> from **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday 7 October until midnight (Italian time) on Thursday 15 October 2026.**

When registering, you must enter the required details and upload scans of the following documents (in JPEG or PDF format only, max. 2 MB):

- A valid passport or identity document (compulsory);
- Passport-sized photograph (in JPEG format only);
- A formal letter of assignment from the newspaper of affiliation – compulsory (freelancers must also upload a letter of assignment from a news organisation);
- Professional identity card (optional);
- Mobile number (optional, for any press chats).

When registering, please specify whether you intend to take part in the visit to San Patrignano on 22 October and/or the event on 23 October. By applying to take part, you agree to abide by the filming rules set out in the relevant section.

- **Information for the foreign press**

It is recommended to check in advance whether a visa is required to enter Italy by consulting the following link: <https://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/home.aspx>.

Visa requirements must be fulfilled before arrival in Italy.

- **Badges and access**

Badges for journalists, photographers and cameramen who have received confirmation of their accreditation may be collected – upon presentation of the identity document specified at the time of registration – at the Press Accreditation Centre set up at the Palazzo del Turismo in Rimini (Parco Fellini, 3):

- Thursday 22 October, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.;
- Friday 23 October, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Access to San Patrignano will only be permitted via dedicated shuttle buses, which will depart from and return to Rimini. The shuttle bus timetables will be announced once accreditation has been confirmed.

Anyone wishing to attend the opening of the proceedings is advised to collect their badge on 22 October or in the early hours of 23 October, taking into account the time it takes to travel to San Patrignano.

For organisational and security reasons, and out of respect for the daily life of the Community, media representatives may move around San Patrignano outside the Press Centre only in groups accompanied by staff from the organisation or as part of the press pools specified in the programme.

The login details for the Wi-Fi network will be printed on the badge.

- **Information about the Press Centre**

The Press Centre is located at the San Patrignano Community Gym. It will be open:

- Thursday 22 October, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.;
- Friday 23 October, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Press Centre will provide accredited media representatives with workstations, power sockets (Italian standard) and Wi-Fi; lunch will be served on 23 October. All working sessions, including the introduction and opening remarks, will be broadcast via video at the Press Centre, where headphones will be available for the original audio (floor) and simultaneous interpretation into Italian, English and French.

- **Doorstep area**

A doorstep area will be set up where Heads of Delegation who wish to do so may make statements to the media. The venue and details of how to get there will be announced at the Press Centre.

- **Rules of filming and protection of the Community's residents**

San Patrignano is home to the people who are undertaking their rehabilitation programme there. In order to respect their privacy, participation in the visit on 22 October and the event on 23 October implies acceptance of the following rules:

- Filming, photography or recording are not permitted inside the centres for minors, in accordance with the Treviso Charter, or within the medical centre;
- Testimonies given during the proceedings may only be recorded and disseminated within the limits specified by the organisers;
- During the visit, please follow the instructions given by the accompanying staff;
- Failure to comply with these rules will result in the immediate withdrawal of accreditation.

- **Safety rules**

- The badge is personal and non-transferable, and must be worn in a visible manner for the entire duration of your stay in San Patrignano. If you lose your badge, you must contact the Press Centre immediately;
- Persons, bags and equipment are subject to security checks when boarding the shuttle buses and at the entrances: please arrive well in advance;
- It is not permitted to bring in weapons, objects capable of causing harm, flammable substances, alcoholic drinks, banners or any material not relevant to journalistic activities;
- The use of drones is prohibited throughout the event area;
- Any equipment left unattended may be removed by security staff;
- You must follow the instructions of the organisation's staff and the police at all times.

- **Multimedia resources**

A selection of the photos and videos produced by the official media, including the group photo, will be available in a gallery on the website of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

- **Accommodation**

Media representatives are responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation.



*The Press Centre is located at the Gym (see map).*

## **Contact Information**

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## **San Patrignano**

via San Patrignano 53 – 47852 Coriano, Rimini – Italy

[www.sanpatrignano.org](http://www.sanpatrignano.org)