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Washington, D.C. 20530

FEB 28 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL *[Signature]*
3/19/14

FROM: Lee J. Lofthus *[Signature]*
Assistant Attorney General
for Administration

SUBJECT: DEA-01004: Drug Enforcement Administration's 2014 International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) in Rome, Italy

PURPOSE: To obtain the Attorney General's waiver to incur net expenses not to exceed \$800,000 for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) International Drug Enforcement Conference

TIMETABLE: Response required by March 14, 2014 in accordance with DOJ Policy Statement 1400.01, or as soon as practicable.

SYNOPSIS: The DEA is requesting official approval to co-sponsor the 31st International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) in Rome, Italy, from June 17-19, 2014, and seeks approval from the Attorney General to spend up to \$800,000. The total estimated DOJ conference cost is \$795,132, with the remaining conference expenditures to be funded by the Government of Italy, co-host for IDEC. The DEA Administrator has certified that this event is compliant with all of the Departmental guidelines and controls on conferences and restrictions on non-essential spending. DEA indicates that the conference is in accordance with applicable policies, procedures, and sound financial management principles. The conference is essential to accomplishing the Department's core mission requirements.

The DEA Administrator indicates that exceptional circumstances exist that justify this conference as the most cost-effective option to build international capacity, cooperation, and partnerships in support of the President's National Drug Control Strategy, DOJ's strategic goals and objectives, and the DEA's Strategic Plan. By building cooperative platforms and networks incrementally, the United States will generate

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greater collective action, joint cases, and common strategic approaches with our international partners to combat transnational criminal threats.

The annual DEA-led IDEC, which has been held annually for the past 30 years, is a major contributor to international cooperation and capacity building. The IDEC brings the top drug law enforcement leaders and senior investigators from over 100 nations to a single venue where yearly agendas are set for cooperation, intelligence sharing, and case prioritization. IDEC-the world's largest international drug law enforcement conference-has produced concrete results year after year. During the conferences, DEA and partner nations jointly develop plans to build greater law enforcement and investigatory capacity. In addition, host nation personnel and U.S. law enforcement exchange information on priority investigatory targets.

Thirteen DEA headquarters staff will attend, as well as 75 DEA staff stationed overseas. DEA will also pay for travel, lodging, and other costs for 132 foreign delegates.

DEA's costs for 2014 IDEC can be summarized as follows:

Lodging, airfare and meals for 88 DEA agent staff	\$348,164
Travel for foreign attendees	\$413,868
Conference meeting space	\$13,300
<u>Other Costs (visas, exit taxes and transportation)</u>	<u>\$19,800</u>
Estimated Total	\$795,132

The Justice Management Division (JMD) has reviewed the request for approval of this conference and determined that the conference costs are reasonable and, are within the Department's policy guidelines.

DEA will be responsible for ensuring total DEA costs for this event do not exceed the estimate. No authority or approval is given for DOJ expenditures on partner or vendor events, receptions, or similar functions.

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's Memorandum, M-12-12, Promoting Efficient to Support Agency Operations, dated May 11, 2012, an agency shall not incur net expenses greater than \$500,000 from its own funds on a single conference, including conferences that are sponsored or hosted by the agency (or by other Federal or non-Federal entities). The agency head may provide a waiver from this policy if he or she determines that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on a single conference is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose. The grounds for any such waiver must be documented in writing by the agency head. The DEA Administrator requests the Attorney

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General's approval for the Department to incur expenditures over \$500,000 for this event.

RECOMMENDATION: JMD recommends that the Attorney General approve the waiver for the conference with signature for approval on the attachment.

Attachment

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE**

REQUESTER INFORMATION

Component:	DEA - Drug Enforcement Administration	JMD Tracking #:	DEA-01004
Name of Requester:	Candace Fleming	Date of Request:	2/7/2014
Component Head Certification:	Michele Leonard	Certification Date:	2/6/2014
Component Point of Contact:	Frank Kalder	POC Phone #:	202-307-7330

OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE

Title: International Drug Enforcement Conference			
Start Date:	6/17/2014	End Date:	6/19/2014
		# of Conference Days:	3
Facility Name:	Rome Cavalieri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Federal Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facility
City:	Rome	State:	N/A - Outside US
		Country:	Italy

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

Total:	363	220 *	DOJ:	88	Other Federal:	15	Other Non-Federal:	260
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* Travel costs paid for by DOJ

REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL	Requested	Within Threshold	Exceeds Threshold
Total Conference Cost	\$795,132.00		
Predominantly Internal Conference Held in Non-Federal Facility			
Refreshments			
Cost of Meals Provided at Conference			
Space and Audio-visual Equipment and Services	X	X	
Logistical Conference Planner			
Programmatic Conference Planner			

COMPONENT PURPOSE / JUSTIFICATION FOR APPROVAL

The DEA, is requesting official approval to co-sponsor the 31st International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC XXXI) in Rome, Italy, from June 17 - 19, 2014, and seeks approval from the Attorney General to spend up to \$800,000. The total estimated DOJ conference cost is \$795,132, with the remaining conference expenditures to be funded by the Government of Italy, co-host for IDEC XXXI. Exceptional circumstances exist that justify this conference as the most cost-effective option to build international capacity, cooperation, and partnerships in support of the President's National Drug Control Strategy, DOJ's strategic goals and objectives, and the DEA's Strategic Plan. By building cooperative platforms and networks incrementally, the United States will generate greater collective action, joint cases, and common strategic approaches with our international partners to combat transnational criminal threats. (See February 6th memorandum from DEA Administrator for additional information.)

ADDITIONAL EXPLANATORY NOTES / INSTRUCTIONS

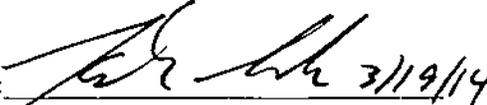
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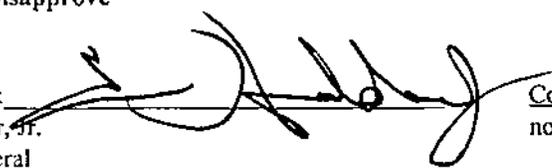
APPROVALS

JMD recommends that the Attorney General approve the waiver to incur net expenses not to exceed \$800,000 for the conference. The conference costs are reasonable and within DOJ policy guidelines.

CA 2/11/14
SIGNATURE:  2/28 Concurring Component:
Lee Lofthus DEA
Assistant Attorney General for Administration

SIGNATURE:  3/19/14 Concurring Component:
James M. Cole none
Deputy Attorney General

- Approve
- Disapprove

SIGNATURE:  Concurring Component: DATE: 4/11/14
Eric H. Holder, Jr. none
Attorney General

- Approve
- Disapprove