



Brussels, 22 April 2016
(OR. en)

8005/16

JAI 297
CORDROGUE 18
SAN 138

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 7 and 8 April 2016
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcomes of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as outlined in doc. CM 2110/16 with the addition of an AOB point on the update on the National Drug Coordinators' Meeting.

2. Information from other Council bodies

The chairs of the COTRA and COLAC working parties informed the meeting about their activities, motivation for scheduling a meeting to discuss UNGASS 2016 and presented the main outcomes of this meeting. Delegations called for increased cooperation between the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs and geographical working groups of the Council.

3. Presentation of the EU Drug Market Report by the EMCDDA and Europol

The representatives of the EMCDDA and Europol presented the second EU Drugs Market Report, noting that drug markets continued to be one of the most profitable areas for organised crime groups. The speakers informed the meeting that for the first time the report estimated the size of the EU drugs market and calculated it to be over 24 billion euro (range between 21 and 31 billion euro) and that cannabis remained the most widely consumed drug in the EU and was estimated to account for around 38% of the retail market for illicit drugs in the EU. Heroin was the second largest illicit drug market in the EU with an estimated value of 6.8 billion euro annually (range between 6.00 and 7.8 billion euro).

As regards new psychoactive substances, there were no signs of a slowdown in the development of these substances with 100 new substances being reported for the first time in 2015 and the EU Early Warning System already monitoring over 560 of such substances. Delegations welcomed the report and discussed its findings, especially as concerns new psychoactive substances, drug sales through darknet and links between drugs and terrorism.

4. Preparation for UNGASS 2016

The Presidency reported on the outcomes of the special UNGASS segment at the 59th CND session held on 14-16 March 2016, especially as regards the UNGASS outcome document. They expressed their satisfaction with the outcome document, but regretted that no reference to the abolition of the death penalty for drug-related offences was included in the document and that the document contained many safeguards. The representative of the Commission shared this assessment and considered this document to represent progress compared to previous drug-related documents at international level.

Delegations examined the draft EU statement to be delivered at UNGASS 2016 in New York as well as the EU interventions at the UNGASS roundtable debates. Delegations agreed on the text of the EU statement, to be endorsed by COREPER on 13 April 2016.

The Presidency and the representative of the Commission also updated the delegations on the EU side events on evidence-basis and on the abolition of the death penalty for drug-related offences. A number of delegations also updated on their side events to be organised at UNGASS 2016.

Delegations also exchanged information as regards the level of participation at UNGASS, noting that a number of Ministers will be present on this occasion.

5. Report of the 59th CND session

The Presidency reported on the 59th CND session held on 17-22 March 2016 in Vienna, especially as regards the adopted resolutions, international scheduling of substances and the EU side event to present the COPOLAD II programme.

6. Draft legislation on new psychoactive substances

The Presidency informed the meeting that COREPER on 6 April 2016 agreed to the approach proposed by the Presidency for the legislation on new psychoactive substances after bilateral meetings held in early 2016 and invited the Commission to present a proposal on amending the EMCDDA Regulation. Some delegations stressed the important role of Europol as regards data collection and analysis of new psychoactive substances and inquired on DROIPEN involvement in the further process.

7. Preparation for the EU-CELAC High Level meeting

The Presidency presented the draft agenda of the above-mentioned High Level meeting to be held on 16-17 June 2016 in the Netherlands, proposing the topics of health-based approach to drugs policies, new psychoactive substances and proportionality in sentencing as possible topics for thematic debates during the High Level meeting. The Presidency also informed delegations that the first draft of the political declaration would be available soon and should follow the structure of the UNGASS outcome document.

8. Report of the EU-Brazil dialogue on drugs

The representative of the EEAS reported on the above-mentioned meeting held on 17 March 2016, in Vienna, in the margins of the 59th CND session (doc. WK 185/16).

9. AOB: update on the National Drug Coordinators' Meeting

The Presidency updated delegations on the forthcoming National Drug Coordinators' Meeting, also informing them about the visits to be organised during the meeting.