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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 9 June 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 CM 2988/16 with the addition of the following points under AOB:

- HDG and related meetings in July 2016;
- Annual report on the results achieved by the Italian law enforcement agencies in tackling drug trafficking;
- Mid-term evaluation of the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020;
- Internet and drugs expert meeting;
- Draft Council implementing decision on subjecting 1-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one (α -pyrrolidinovalerophenone, α -PVP) to control measures;
- Forthcoming meeting of the Dublin Group.

2. Information from the Presidency on the outcomes of the 69th World Health Assembly

The Presidency reported on the outcomes of the above-mentioned meeting held on 23-28 May 2016 in Geneva, noting that certain results of UNGASS had been challenged at this meeting. Some delegations expressed their regrets as regards this situation.

3. Outcomes of UNGASS 2016 and the way forward

Delegations further discussed the outcomes of the UNGASS on drugs held on 19-21 April 2016 in New York and the preparation for the global drug policy review in 2019, agreeing on the importance of the early preparation for this event. Delegations also welcomed the idea to establish an informal expert group for this purpose, which would make expert proposals for the further consideration of the HDG. Some delegations emphasised the importance of implementing the recommendations outlined in the UNGASS outcome document and monitoring the progress. The recommendations from the Civil Society Forum on Drugs as regards the results of UNGASS and the process forward were shared with the delegations (WK 452/2016).

4. Presentation of the European Drug Report 2016

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the main findings of the above-mentioned report, explaining that a significant resurgence of MDMA was observed, that 98 new psychoactive substances were notified in 2015 by the Member States for the first time and currently over 560 substances were monitored by the European Early Warning System, and that while heroin remained the most commonly used opioid, a number of synthetic opioids were being increasingly misused.

Also, the expert stressed that an important cross-cutting issue was the growing presence of online drug marketplaces and the potential for further rapid expansion and growth of online drug trading, even if at present, these markets were believed to account for a small share of the trade in illicit drugs, and many of the transactions were at consumer level.

5. Preparation for the EU-CELAC High Level meeting

Delegations further prepared for the forthcoming High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism on Drugs to be held on 16-17 June 2016 in the Hague. Delegations urged to have a concise political declaration.

6. Preparation of the EU-US dialogue on drugs

The Presidency presented the agenda of the above-mentioned videoconference to be held on 22 June 2016 (WK 405/2016).

7. AOB

– HDG and related meetings in July 2016

The incoming Slovak Presidency informed the delegates about the forthcoming HDG and related meetings.

– Annual report on the results achieved by the Italian law enforcement agencies in tackling drug trafficking

The IT delegation gave an overview of the main outcomes of the above-mentioned report.

– Mid-term evaluation of the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting about the practicalities related with the above-mentioned evaluation.

– Internet and drugs expert meeting

The representative of the Commission reported on the above-mentioned meeting held on 7-8 June 2016, noting that the report would be produced and shared with participants.

– Draft Council implementing decision on subjecting 1-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one (α -pyrrolidinovalerophenone, α -PVP) to control measures

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting that the European Parliament agreed to the proposal to subject the above-mentioned new psychoactive substance to control measures.

– **Forthcoming meeting of the Dublin Group**

The FR delegation gave an overview of the forthcoming above-mentioned meeting and encouraged delegations to participate in it.
