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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 8 and 9 February 2018
To: Delegations
Subject: Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as outlined in CM 1364/1/18 REV 1 with the addition of the following points under AOB:

- Event on 2019 global drug policy review in Colombia;
- Meeting of the Brandenburg forum.

2. Preparation for the 61st CND session

- *International scheduling of new psychoactive substances*

Delegations examined the revised proposal for a Council decision on international substance scheduling at the forthcoming Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) session outlined in 5761/18 and some additional proposals were made. The Presidency informed the meeting that a revised draft Council decision would be issued after the meeting and would be subject to a silence procedure.

– ***Draft EU statements***

Delegations examined three draft EU statements on the UNGASS 2016 follow-up, preparation for the 2019 global drug policy review and UN inter-agency cooperation (WK 1047/18, WK 1048/18 and WK 1050/18), to be presented at the March CND session. A deadline of 15 February 2018 was set for providing comments on these statements.

– ***Discussion on the draft CND resolutions tabled by the Member States***

Delegations further examined the revised version of the Greek proposal for the draft CND resolution as regards drugs, migrants and refugees, outlined in WK 13837/2017 REV 2.

Emphasising the importance of the topic, delegations agreed to continue working on this resolution at a later stage.

– ***Information on the side events to be held at the 61st CND session***

Delegations exchanged information on the side events to be organised by the EU and Member States at the forthcoming CND session. Twelve EU and Member States events will be organised at the 61st CND session, including on the darknet and drugs, different EU drug-related programmes, human rights and drugs as well as on alternative development.

3. Discussion on implementation of the EU common position on the process towards the 2019 global drug policy review

– ***Presentation by EMCDDA and follow-up from the expert consultation on the improvement of the Annual Report Questionnaire***

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the main outcomes of the above-mentioned meeting held on 29 to 31 January 2018 in Vienna, in which 78 experts from 54 countries and representatives from the INCB, OHCHR, WHO and UNAIDS participated. The participants in the meeting observed that one of the major problems was the low response rate to the Annual Reporting Questionnaire (ARQ) and that the questionnaire had to be fit for all. The experts concluded that the improvement of data collection called for changes of the structure and content of the ARQ and that the UNODC should strengthen the ARQ as well as ensure interagency cooperation in the process. Also, this group of experts should revise the new ARQ prepared by the UNODC before the CND session.

– *Discussion on future EU actions*

The Presidency updated delegations on the ongoing discussions as regards the 2019 global drug policy review, noting that the CND Chair intended to launch discussions on the outcome of this review after the 61st CND session. Delegations further exchanged views on the preparation of the 2019 global drug policy review.

– *Exchange of views on the draft resolution submitted by the Chair on preparations for the 62nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019*

Delegations exchanged first comments on the draft modalities resolution, notably as regards the provisions on data collection and the Annual Report Questionnaire. Delegations agreed that this paragraph should be strengthened.

4. Alternatives to coercive sanctions

Delegations further examined the draft Council conclusions on promoting alternatives to coercive sanctions, outlined in WK 13479/2017 REV 2. A deadline of 15 February 2018 was set for providing written comments on the document.

5. Preparation for the EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting and XX High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

Delegations exchanged further comments on the revised draft Sofia declaration to be examined with CELAC delegations during the forthcoming EU-CELAC Technical Committee meetings and to be adopted at the EU-CELAC High Level meeting on 21 to 22 June 2018 in Sofia (WK 15037/2017 REV 1). A deadline of 15 February 2018 was set for providing written comments on the declaration.

6. Preparation for the EU-US videoconference on drugs

The Presidency reminded the meeting about the EU-US videoconference on drugs to be held on 9 February 2017, the agenda of which is contained in 15618/1/17 REV 1.

7. Preparation for the EU-Brazil dialogue on drugs

The Presidency informed the meeting that the EU-Brazil dialogue on drugs, the agenda of which is contained in 15945/17, would be held on 16 March 2018 in Vienna, in the margins of the 61st CND session.

8. Preparation for the EU-Western Balkans dialogue on drugs

The Presidency informed the meeting that the invitations to the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 18 April 2018, the agenda of which is contained in 5242/1/18 REV 1, have already been sent to the Western Balkans.

9. A.O.B.

– Update on new psychoactive substances

The Presidency informed the meeting that on 29 January 2018 the Council has requested the EMCDDA to complete a risk assessment report on two new fentanyl: cyclopropylfentanyl and methoxyacetylentanyl. The Presidency also said that on 8 February 2018 the consultation has been launched with the European Parliament as regards the proposals to schedule seven new psychoactive substances, which were related to a number of deaths and non-fatal intoxications in the EU: AB-CHMINACA, ADB-CHMINACA, 5F-MDMB-PINACA, CUMYL-4CN-BINACA, 4F-iBF, THF-F and carfentanil.

– Update by the European Commission on the evaluation of the legislation on precursors

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting about the forthcoming evaluation of the EU legislation on drug precursors.

- ***Update by the European Commission on the publication of an EU Risk Information Form (RIF) on fentanyl and their derivatives***

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting that the above-mentioned document providing instructions on dealing with fentanyls had been published for customs authorities. The speaker also noted that Europol had issued similar instructions addressed to law enforcement officers.

- ***Event on the 2019 global drug policy review in Colombia***

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting that Colombia was organising an event to prepare for the 2019 global drug policy review in which some EU Member States were also invited to participate.

- ***Meeting of the Brandenburg forum***

The DE delegation informed the meeting about the forthcoming Brandenburg forum gathering, where the 2019 global drug policy review would be discussed.
