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JAI 118
CORDROGUE 19
SAN 60
USA 7

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 9 February 2018
To: Delegations
Subject: EU-US expert dialogue on drugs

1. Introduction and adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda set out in 15618/1/18 REV 1.

2. Update on the drug situation and policy developments in the EU and US

The Presidency gave an overview of the Presidency priorities and the Commission representative updated the US delegation on the adoption of EU legislation on new psychoactive substances and the developments regarding the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime for the period 2018-2021. The EMCDDA representative expressed concern about the appearance of powerful new synthetic opioids; however, only some EU Member States were affected by this trend. The speaker also presented the most recent EMCDDA publications, including the European guide on health and social responses to the problem of drugs, an analysis of drug consumption rooms, a paper on naloxone and a joint EMCDDA-Europol publication on drugs and the darknet. The Europol representative updated the meeting on the drug supply situation in the EU and reported on the recently organised conference on law enforcement response to drugs.

The US delegation gave an overview of the most recent data on overdose deaths, noting that fentanyl had played an important role in such deaths. The speaker informed the meeting about the enhanced cooperation with China to tackle this situation. The US delegation also expressed concern over the increase in coca crop cultivation in Colombia, and said that it was cooperating with the Colombian authorities and that the number of cocaine seizures in Colombia had increased.

3. Preparation for the 61st CND session

Delegations exchanged views as regards the substances proposed for international scheduling at the 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). The Presidency informed the US delegation that the EU would be adopting a common position as regards these substances.

The Presidency also informed the US delegation that the EU had tabled a resolution for the forthcoming CND session on laboratory support for the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The US delegation replied that it had also tabled a draft CND resolution on enhancing international cooperation to combat the synthetic opioid crisis.

Delegations exchanged information about the side-events they were organising at the 61st CND session.

4. UNGASS follow-up and preparation for the 2019 CND

The Commission representative noted that the UNGASS outcome document was a pivotal document for all future drug-related discussions and therefore no new political agreement was necessary as the outcome of the 2019 global drug policy review. The speaker also stressed that the priority for the EU was broad international implementation of the recommendations outlined in the UNGASS outcome document, and that the EU was also seeking progress beyond the UNGASS commitments. She also stressed the importance of linking the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The US delegation also expressed their appreciation and support for the UNGASS outcome document and stressed the need to focus on the practical implementation of the recommendations outlined in the UNGASS outcome document.

5. Data collection, including the revision of the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ)

The Presidency informed the US delegation that the EU welcomed the continued work on the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) and the organisation of the expert meeting in Vienna on 29-31 January 2018. The US delegation stressed the importance of data collection and felt that the CND should support capacity-building as well as quality of data. The delegation also believed that the ARQ should continue to collect data in line with the UNGASS outcome document.

6. Discussion on heroin and increased opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan

Delegations updated each other on anti-drug efforts to tackle opium poppy cultivation and heroin production in Afghanistan. The Commission representative explained that the EU was taking a comprehensive approach to supporting governance and development in Afghanistan and was therefore addressing the root causes of drugs in the country. The speaker also observed that, with support totalling EUR 5 billion for the period 2016-2020, the EU had become the largest development cooperation partner in Afghanistan.

7. AOB

- *Information by the Presidency on the XXth High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism on Drugs*

The Presidency provided the US delegation with information on the abovementioned meeting to be organised in Sofia on 21-22 June 2018.