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Subject: Schengen evaluation of the new Member States
- Questionnaire - Additional questions presented by the Commission
Services concerning drugs – Reply from CYPRUS

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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SCH-EVAL 84
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NOTE

from : the delegation of Cyprus

to: the Schengen Evaluation Working Party

No. prev. doc. : 5144/06 ADD 1 SCHEVAL 8 COMIX 18

Subject : Schengen evaluation of the new Member States

- Questionnaire - Additional questions presented by the Commission Services concerning drugs – Reply from CYPRUS

General

- Please indicate whether Cyprus has a current national Drugs Strategy and/or Action Plan.
- Please indicate the number of personnel in the police and customs service involved in combating drug production and trafficking and please give a brief indication of how they are deployed, e.g., national drugs unit, regional drug units, mobile units, and surveillance units.

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Answer:

- National Drugs Strategy

The Republic of Cyprus has adopted a national Drugs Strategy as from November 2004. The tools for implementing it are the two Action Plans:

- Drug Demand Reduction Plan (DDR)** and
- Drug Supply Control Action Plan.**

The two Action Plans set concrete targets to be attained within specific timeframes. They are presented in the form of tables defining:

- The objectives to be attained
- The actions through which the objectives will be attained
- The agencies responsible for the execution of these actions
- The measures taken by these agencies in order to execute the actions
- Timetables
- The necessary financial and human resources
- A column is reserved for comments, in order to follow the implementation of the measures.

Both Action Plans are divided in “environments”. For the **Drug Demand Reduction** these are: the School Environment, the Family Environment, the Army Environment, the Working Environment, the Health Environment, the Communication Environment, the Recreational Environment, the Community Environment, other Environments (Legal Framework, Institutional Framework, Research and the promotion of scientific standards), Treatment and Social Reintegration. The **Drug Supply Reduction** is divided in the following domains: Coordination and Horizontal issues, Drug Trafficking, Chemical Precursors, Money Laundering, Training and International Co-operation.

Agencies from both the public and the private sector are responsible for implementing measures in order to attain the specific goals of the Action Plans.

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The monitoring of the implementation of the National Drug Strategy and the two Action Plans began at the end of 2004, by the Executive Secretariat of the Cyprus Anti Drugs Council (CAC). The monitoring takes place every six months through written correspondence and regular working groups. The working groups also ensure the coordination of all actors involved.

-Numbers and deployment of personnel involved in combating drugs production and trafficking:

Cyprus Police Drug Law Enforcement Unit (D.L.E.U.)

The personnel of the Cyprus Police Drug Law Enforcement Unit is deployed as follows:

Unit Command	4 persons
Drug Prevention Office	5 persons
International Co-operation Office	4 persons
Intelligence Research Office	6 persons
Operations Department (incl. surveillance teams)	25 persons
Head Investigation Officer	1 person
Technical Support Team	3 persons
Five District branches of the D.L.E.U.	103 persons
Two Sub-branches (airports, seaports)	<u>5 persons</u>
Total 156 persons	

Department of Customs and Excise

All investigations and intelligence officers posted at the Customs & Excise Headquarters and the District Customs Stations, the officers posted at the Flexible Anti-Smuggling Teams at the District Customs Stations and the officers posted at the Anti-Smuggling Enforcement Team in Lemesos (Limassol), amongst other duties, also deal with drug law enforcement.

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They are deployed as follows:

Customs Headquarters	16 officers
Nicosia District Customs House	7 officers
Lemesos District Customs House	13 officers
Larnaca District Customs House	8 officers
Paphos District Customs House	<u>2 officers</u>
Total	46 officers

Moreover, the officers that are assigned to work as examiners, both during office hours and after office hours at Larnaka and Pafos Airports, as well as at Lemesos Port, are also assigned drug law enforcement duties.

Question 125 (f)

- ❑ **Please indicate whether the police have any aircraft to assist them in combating drug trafficking.**

Answer

The Cyprus Police Airwing has two Helicopters (Bell 412) and one light aircraft (BN2T). When necessary, the Police air fleet is used for the prevention and combating of drug trafficking. It should be noted that two new helicopters are expected for the Airwing of Cyprus Police during the year 2007.

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Question 126

- ❑ Please provide brief details of any joint working teams or joint operations to combat drug production and trafficking established between the police and customs administration of Cyprus since 2003.
- ❑ Please provide brief details of any joint investigations and operations in relation to combating drug production and trafficking between law enforcement agencies of Cyprus and foreign law enforcement agencies since 2003.
- ❑ Please indicate whether both the police and customs services have liaison officers based in Europol.

Answers

Joint Working Teams/ Investigations/ Operations

Cyprus Police (DLEU) cooperates closely with the Customs & Excise Department in the fight against drug trafficking.

Between the two Services, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was concluded on the 29th of August 2001. This was effected in compliance with the Council Resolution of 29 November 1996 on the drawing up of police/customs agreements in the fight against drugs (OJ C 375 12.12.1996 p. 1). The MOU contains provisions in respect of the following matters:

- precise delineation of, and respect for, the competences of each of the said two services, including responsibility for drug seizure and related evidence, questioning and detention of suspects, investigation and, where applicable, prosecution,
- exchange and sharing of relevant intelligence information,
- exchange of descriptions of drug traffickers' modus operandi,
- exchange of information on the application of risk analysis techniques,
- putting in place close liaison arrangements at local level,
- joint agreed press statements,
- joint police-customs task forces, where appropriate, for intelligence and/or investigation purposes,

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- agreed Police-Customs procedures for operational matters involving both these agencies and, where appropriate:
- joint Police-Customs mobile patrol squads,
- joint Police-Customs training programmes,
- sharing of equipment by Police and Customs.

In the past three years the Cyprus Police (Drug Law Enforcement Unit) and the Customs and Excise Department cooperated on two occasions in the effort to combat drug trafficking:

- August 2003: A joint operation by members of the Cyprus Police (Drug Law Enforcement Unit) and the Customs and Excise Department, acting on information, involved raided a ship birthed at Lemesos Port. On-board the said vessel, coming from Brazil and headed to South Africa, there were 7 kg. 589 gr. of cocaine, probably destined for the latter.
- July 2005: A joint operation involving members of the Cyprus Police (Drug Law Enforcement Unit) and the Customs and Excise Department, acting on information, searched containers destined for South Africa and found 107 kg. of cannabis.

Joint Operations between law enforcement agencies of Cyprus and other countries since 2003

- Between 2003-2005 five controlled deliveries were carried out with the assistance of the respective police authorities of Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, South Africa, Greece and Lebanon. A total of seven individuals were apprehended and prosecuted for cannabis, cannabis resin, cocaine and heroin trafficking.

Liaison Officers at Europol

The Cyprus Police has seconded two liaison officers at Europol Headquarters at The Hague. The first one was seconded on 16/10/2003 and the second on 28/01/2006.