



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 1 March 2013**

**7015/13**

**JAI 171  
COSI 21  
ENFOPOL 64  
CORDROGUE 24  
COLAT 5  
AMLAT 5**

**NOTE**

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| From:    | Spanish delegation                                                                                         |
| To:      | Council                                                                                                    |
| Subject: | Establishment of a Platform in Bogotá for the exchange of information on Transatlantic cocaine trafficking |

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Following the example of the Platforms in Accra and Dakar, both established in the wake of the June 2009 Council Conclusions and in line with the spirit of the EU Drug Strategy (2013-2020), Spain would like to invite the Commission and those Member States with Liaison Officers in Colombia to participate in a similar Platform in Bogotá. The objective of this “Bogotá Platform” would be to exchange strategic and operative information on cocaine trafficking from the Andean Region to Europe.

Spain is concerned both by the sharp increase in the European demand for cocaine in the last decade and the decrease in our cocaine seizures since 2006<sup>1</sup>. The relative stable prices of pure cocaine suggest that cocaine traffickers continue to be successful at introducing cocaine into the European Union despite our best efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> UNODC, *Research Paper - Transatlantic Cocaine Market*, 2011.

The available analysis of the cocaine supply in the world shows that production is almost exclusively concentrated in the Andean Region. Indeed, all the identified cocaine routes leading to Europe start there: 86% of the cocaine comes directly to Europe and approximately 13% transits through West Africa.<sup>2</sup>

In order to counter this trend of greater quantities of cocaine available in the EU market, there is a need to strengthen further our current international mechanisms. In the current budgetary context, rather than establishing new and costly mechanisms, we would replicate those with a proven record.

Replicating in Bogotá the two Platforms established in 2009 in Western Africa is perfectly consistent with the aim of the June 2009 Council Conclusions to “*support concrete mutual use of Liaisons Officers of the Member States posted in third countries and promote guidelines for the creation of new Platforms of Liaisons Officers in the targeted regions or third countries*” and the emphasis on fully exploiting these platforms to reduce drug supply as recalled by the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020.

The two existing precedents in Accra and Dakar have shown that the “*platform*” model is a good tool to improve both the collective gathering of greater and better intelligence and the support provided to the host country. As in Accra and Dakar, the exchange of intelligence will not be mandatory and the participation in the Platform will not affect the principles of intelligence ownership.

The new platform will be inexpensive. Meetings will take place in the facilities of the leading nation with virtually no added costs. The main actors will be the Liaison Officers already deployed by Member States in the host country, with no additional personnel required.

The choice of Bogotá is particularly pertinent since actions in the region where cocaine is produced will have a more disruptive impact in the cocaine traffic. Finally, our collective action will better support the commendable efforts of the Colombian government.

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<sup>2</sup> UNODC, *Research Paper - Transatlantic Cocaine Market*, page 17, 2011.