



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 March 2013

7025/13

CORDROGUE 25

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
on: 25 February 2013
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda set out in document CM 1676/13 was approved with addition of an information point on "laughing gas" under AOB.

2. Information concerning the proceedings of other EU bodies

The HDG was updated about some recent events of relevance to antidrug policy, including the compromise proposal on drug-related funding under the Justice programme, progress achieved in examination of proposed amendments to drug precursor legislation and drug policy developments in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Discussion on the draft EU Drugs Action Plan 2013-2016

– *Consideration of revised draft*

A number of delegations welcomed the improvement of the draft Action Plan, contained in doc. 5418/1/13 REV 1 CORDROGUE 5 SAN 18 ENFOPOL 12 RELEX 42, and in particular the work done on indicators. However, it was noted that the "International cooperation" part of the Action Plan could be further streamlined by combining actions dealing with the same topic. The delegations asked for further clarifications on the reporting mechanisms foreseen in the document. The deadline for sending written comments was set at 7 March 2013.

The delegations agreed to correct a typing error made in paragraph 13, page 6 of the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020, contained in doc. 17547/12 JAI 901 CORDROGUE 101 SAN 324 JAIEX 124, to say: "The Commission, taking into account information provided by the Member States, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and available from the EMCDDA, Europol and other EU bodies, as well as from the civil society, shall provide **biennial** ~~biannual~~ progress reports, with the purpose of assessing the implementation of objectives and priorities of the EU Drugs Strategy and its Action Plan(s)."

– *Presentation by the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs*

Representatives of the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSF) presented possible actions to be included into the new Action Plan, contained in doc. DS 1160/13, and also suggested to organise a joint meeting between the CSF and HDG. Several delegations noted that the draft Action Plan already covered the majority of the actions proposed and the representatives of the CSF promised to provide their final comments on the Action Plan after the HDG meeting.

4. Preparation for the 56th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

– Update on developments in Vienna

The representative of the EEAS updated the delegations on the organisation of the side event on the new EU Drugs Strategy and other side events, in which the EU delegations would be involved. The Presidency suggested to the future Presidencies to consider becoming Members of the CND during their Presidency, as this would guarantee more smooth preparation for the CND session.

– Resolutions

The Presidency recalled that five resolutions were tabled as EU resolutions for the forthcoming CND session and two resolutions were tabled by EU Member States in their national capacity. The UK delegation hoped that the EU delegations would also agree to table their resolution as an EU resolution in Vienna. The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the resolutions tabled by third countries and informed the delegations about the preparation for the high-level review of the implementation of the Political Declaration to be organised in 2014. One delegation noted that the decision to co-sponsor resolutions of third countries should be taken only at the end of the process.

5. Preparation for EU-Western Balkans dialogue on drugs

The Presidency reminded the delegations about the forthcoming meeting with Western Balkans to be held on the following day (doc. CM 1201/13) which would focus on updating the EU-Western Balkans commitment to fight against drugs and discuss which form this update should take. The representative of the Commission indicated their satisfaction with the results of the stocktaking exercise on the implementation of the current EU-Western Balkans Action Plan on Drugs. She also noted that as this Action Plan was a comprehensive one, the commitment to fight against drugs could be updated by adopting a declaration at the forthcoming EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on JHA affairs. The Presidency and the UK delegation also noted that drafting a new action plan might not be the best option.

6. Preparation for Technical Committee of the EU/CELAC Mechanism on Drugs

The Presidency reminded the delegations that the next meeting would be held on 17 April 2013 and noted that there was no agreement yet on the final agenda with the CELAC co-Presidency. The delegations were invited to participate actively both in the forthcoming Technical Committee meeting and also in the High Level meeting to be held on 13-14 June in Quito.

7. AOB

- *Update concerning the proposal for a Council decision on submitting 4-methylamphetamine to control measures*

The Presidency informed the delegations that the above-mentioned point would be submitted to the COREPER meeting as "I item" on 27 February 2013 and to the Council meeting as "A item" on 7-8 March 2013.

- *National Drugs Coordinators meeting*

The Presidency asked the delegations who had not yet done so to register by 6 March 2013 for the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 8-9 April 2013 in Dublin and reminded that two delegates per delegation were invited to attend the meeting.

- *Study "Further insights into aspects of the EU illicit drugs market"*

The representative of the Commission informed the delegates that the above-mentioned study should be completed soon and presented during the forthcoming CND session in Vienna.

– *"Laughing gas"*

The FI delegation informed the meeting about the problems experienced with so-called "laughing gas", legally used as a pain-killer and also in the food industry, explaining that the use of this substance could have side effects, including addiction. He inquired if other delegations experienced similar problems with this substance. The representative of the EMCDDA responded that this substance was not placed on the European early warning system and proposed that FI report this substance to the system, so as to start data collection on it.
