



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

Subject: EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs
- Annual Report June 2012 - May 2013

Delegations will find in annex the above-mentioned document, adopted at the fifteenth High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean region held in Quito, Ecuador, on 13-14 June 2013.

This report is the result of the regular analysis of the activities carried out and results achieved within the framework of the Mechanism in the period from June 2012 to May 2013. The information contained in this report is limited to inter-regional programmes and does not contain information on other funded EU programmes at regional and bilateral level in the field of drugs.

1. XIV High Level Meeting of the Mechanism

The XIV High Level Meeting of the Mechanism was held on 4-5 June 2012 in Brussels, under the co-presidency of Denmark, with significant support from Poland (and Poland chairing the meeting), and the Dominican Republic.

The thematic discussions during the meeting focused on drug demand and supply reduction under the topics "Comprehensive approach to face the problem of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances", "Alternative justice" and "Judicial cooperation". The EU and the CELAC also updated each other on recent developments of the drug situation in their respective regions and discussed the state of play of bi-regional cooperation.

Chile proposed conducting a project aimed at setting up a traceability system of chemical precursors through an analysis of seized drugs and Ecuador proposed the creation of a Stamp for Alternative Development, including preventive alternative development, as a voluntary instrument for the commercialisation of products stemming from alternative, integral and sustainable development programmes and from programmes and projects that prevent vulnerable populations from getting involved in illicit activities linked to the illicit drugs offer.

The High Level Meeting approved the Brussels Declaration, tackling the drug problem from various angles and, among other topics, welcoming the progress made in the implementation of the Cocaine Route Programme and in the revitalisation of most existing bilateral agreements on drug precursors, and calling for the strengthening of judicial cooperation between both regions as well as cooperation aimed at preventing the diversion of drug precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs. It also mentioned the need to strengthen the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs, to take into account drug use among prisoners while developing drugs policies, to consider providing treatment as an alternative to incarceration and it drew attention to the challenges posed by synthetic drugs.

The meeting also adopted the Annual Report of the Mechanism for the period July 2011-May 2012.

2. EU-CELAC Technical Committee Meetings

Three meetings of the Technical Committee took place during this period: on 4 July 2012 under the co-presidency of Cyprus and Ecuador, and on 17 April 2013 and 23 May 2013 under the co-presidency of Ireland and Ecuador.

The meeting of 4 July was dedicated to discussing the results of the High Level Meeting in Brussels. The delegations further talked about ways to improve the efficient functioning of the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs and the Chilean and Ecuadorian delegations respectively informed the meeting about the status of the drug precursors traceability project and the project concerning the Stamp for Alternative Development, including preventive alternative development.

The other two meetings dealt with preparations for the XV High Level Meeting to be held in Quito on 13-14 June 2013, identifying a number of topics for the thematic debates during the High Level Meeting and discussing the draft Quito Declaration. Delegations shared the latest information on the drug situation in their respective regions and ongoing cooperation activities and projects.

3. EU-CELAC Cooperation

Cooperation Program on drug policies between Latin America and the European Union (COPOLAD)

COPOLAD (2010-2014) is a partnership cooperation programme between the European Union and Latin America, funded by the European Commission, and aiming to improve the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies, in the participating countries, through the exchange of mutual experiences, bi-regional coordination and the promotion of multisectoral, comprehensive and coordinated responses.

The current reporting period started with the Second Annual Conference of COPOLAD which took place in Brussels on 6-7 June 2012, just after the High Level Meeting of the Mechanism.

This Conference allowed reporting on the activities carried out within the first period of the programme, as well as presenting and discussing various subjects related to all four components of COPOLAD:

- (1.) Strengthening the opportunities and spaces for information exchange, coordination and cooperation among the competent authorities at the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs;
- (2.) Consolidation of national drug observatories;
- (3.) Capacity-building on demand reduction; and
- (4.) Capacity-building on supply reduction.

During this period, all activities developed under each of these components were implemented as expected in the work plan, with high involvement of beneficiaries. The initiative under component 1 was further advanced. It consists of an e-room for the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, making available all the work developed by the Mechanism, as well as contributing to better communication and coordination among the countries from both regions.

It also gathers a significant amount of documents and information produced by the Mechanism since 1999.

In March 2013 the COPOLAD budget (originally €6 million) was increased by more than half a million, with a view to additional activities in direct support of the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs, paying special attention to increasing the participation of all beneficiary countries in COPOLAD (participation in seminars; studies; translation costs).

Synergies were also developed in the area of supply reduction between COPOLAD and the relevant components of the Cocaine Route Programme with a view to ensuring the coherence and complementarity of the various EU-funded programmes in CELAC countries.

4. Other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives

We take note of some initiatives in which some CELAC countries take part.

The Cocaine Route Programme

The multi-year Cocaine Route programme was adopted in 2009, and the European Union has committed almost €30 million to over 36 countries along the cocaine route from the production countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and West Africa.

The overall objective of this global action is to enhance the capacity for international cooperation of law enforcement and judicial services of the partner countries to contribute to the fight against international criminal networks. The project consists of eight components with the aim of creating trans-regional synergies to tackle organised crime along the cocaine route.

Among the components of this programme, the following programmes are open to the participation of CELAC countries:

1. Prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region (PRELAC)

The project's general objective is to contribute to the fight against the manufacture of drugs and their trafficking by assisting the region to tackle the diversion of precursors from the licit trade in collaboration with private sector operators.

The project is already operational in seventeen CELAC countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, , Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

2. *Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP)*

The main objective of this programme is to strengthen the anti-drug capacities at selected airports in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in order to intercept cocaine shipments by air.

3. *AMERIPOL project*

This project supports AMERIPOL, consisting of 20 member states and 11 permanent observers. The main aim of the project is to contribute to strengthening cooperation of law enforcement, judicial and prosecuting authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean countries and the EU in tackling trans-regional organised crime. Direct beneficiaries of the project include AMERIPOL Member States, such as Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, as well as Martinique, Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago.

4. *GAFISUD project*

The Financial Action Task Force of South America (GAFISUD) project started in 2009 for a period of 36 months with the main objective to support the fight against money laundering and financial crime in Latin America and the Caribbean countries. The funds are directly awarded to GAFISUD.

In order to give a greater coherence and wider complementarity effect to this trans-regional action, the Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS) component was established. Its mandate is to liaise and create synergies among the different components of the Cocaine Route Programme.