



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**CORDROGUE 95  
COLAC 12**

## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 12 September 2013  
To: Meeting of Technical Committee of the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 3900/13.

### **2. Follow-up to the XVth High Level meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs**

The Ecuadorian delegation gave an overview of the above-mentioned meeting held in Quito on 13-14 June 2013 under the co-presidency of Ireland and Ecuador reminding that the thematic debates during the meeting focused on drug demand and supply reduction, and alternative development, drug prevention programmes for vulnerable groups, effectiveness of drug policies and possible links between drug trafficking and other criminal activities were discussed. During the meeting 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.

It was recalled that the meeting endorsed the Quito declaration and the annual report of the EU-CELAC cooperation activities (contained in doc. 11340/13 CORDROGUE 56 COLAT 22 AMLAT 12 and doc. 11346/13 CORDROGUE 57 COLAT 23 AMLAT 13)

### **3. Presentation of the outcomes of the Third Annual COPOLAD Conference**

The COPOLAD representative presented the proceedings and the results of the above-mentioned conference held on 11-12 June 2013 in Quito, which focused on women and drug use and during which the concept, current situation and challenges as regards this issue were examined and various examples of good practice from both EU and CELAC countries were presented. The meeting took stock of the current and forthcoming COPOLAD activities and it was announced that the final COPOLAD conference could possibly be organised in June 2014, back to back with the EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Drugs.

### **4. Overview of EU-CELAC cooperation activities**

#### ***a) Cocaine Route programme***

The representative of the Commission gave an update on the progress achieved within different components of the above-mentioned programme, dealing with interdiction of illicit flows, information exchange and fighting against money laundering. The speaker reminded that the programme covered 36 countries, including 21 CELAC countries, which were involved in the activities of 5 out of 8 components of the programme.

The speaker reported that consolidation of national Ameripol units was achieved in some countries, that about 240 officers were trained in different trainings within the framework of GAFISUD, that a discussion was on-going on involving CELAC countries in the Aircop programme, the joined interdiction task forces of which were primarily operational in West Africa. Also, it was announced that a new project on criminal investigation and justice cooperation under the Cocaine Route Programme would be presented.

One CELAC delegation expressed a wish to be involved in the Aircop and Seacop programme, another one repeated the wish to become a part of the Aircop programme.

## **b) COPOLAD**

The COPOLAD representative gave an overview of the COPOLAD activities, including plans to draft proposals for protocols on direct and indirect mortality linked to drug abuse, to work towards developing drug demand indicators and to organise a number of workshops, including on data collection on patients in treatment and on alternative development. The speaker also informed the meeting about a workshop to be held in Lisbon on interpreting and disseminating data collected by national drug observatories. The representative of the EMCDDA stressed the importance of transforming the available data into knowledge, which can then feed the decision-making process.

The representative of the Commission presented the process of conducting the evaluation of the COPOLAD programme, explaining that once the results of the evaluation would be available, a meeting with EU and CELAC experts would be convened to present the results of the evaluation and to discuss the future follow up programme. The speaker explained that this meeting would also aim to collect input from all stakeholders on the future scope and other elements of the follow up programme.

The CELAC co-presidency shared the CELAC delegations' opinion about the need to strengthen the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs and proposed during the next meeting to discuss the work to be done within the Mechanism for the next half a year.

## **5. Misuse of prescribed medicines**

The representative of the EMCDDA noted the lack of studies and the inexistence of systematic EU monitoring on the misuse of prescribed medicines. National data in Member States was available, but no uniform method of its collection existed. The expert explained that in the EU mainly opioids were misused, including fentanyl, the fatal overdoses of which were reported in several Member States and Tramadol, the misuse of which was a rising phenomenon in the UK and that some drug users might start to misuse opioids as alternatives to heroin. Also, he noted that the misuse of prescribed drugs was an unintended consequence of the rapid expansion of the substitution treatment over the last ten years in the EU. The speaker stressed the need to ensure better regulation and supervision of the provision of the substitution treatment and warned to be conscious about the role of internet as regards the sale of fake medicines.

The representative of the Presidency noted that the prevalence of misuse was increasing across the world and also in Europe and insisted on the need to strike a balance between the availability of prescribed medicines and their abuse, noting that the access to medicines should not be restricted by “the fear of enabling” misuse. The expert elaborated on the necessity to prepare policy responses to the misuse of prescribed medicines at EU level, the first step towards which was the correct definition of the problem. In this respect, the Presidency prepared the Policy review and the Glossary of Key Terms on the misuse of prescribed medicines (also available as an application for Android, iOS smartphones and tablets and therefore serving as the first step towards an interactive forum on the issue), which defines the most commonly used terms, when referring to misuse of prescribed medicines, and which aims to provide a basis for improved understanding of this issue.

The Costa Rican delegation noted that misuse of prescribed medicines was an emerging problem requiring more investigation and gave an overview of the results of the national study on the misuse of tranquilizers, stimulants and opioids, explaining that that there were different trends in misuse between men and women, that tranquilizers were the most popular drugs to be misused and that there was a slight increase in their misuse in 2010.

## **6. Any other business**

The meeting briefly discussed the state of play concerning drug precursors agreements with CELAC countries.