



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 22 October 2013
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**CORDROGUE 107
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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	COREPER/Council
No. prev. doc.:	14539/13
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on improving the monitoring of drug supply in the European Union

1. The EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020) sets as a priority the development of effective policies in the field of drug supply reduction, by reinforcing policy evaluation and analysis to improve the understanding of drug-markets, drug-related crimes and the effectiveness of drug-related law enforcement responses. The EU Action Plan on Drugs (2013-2016) includes as Action 16 to "Develop and progressively implement key indicators on drug supply by standardising, improving and streamlining data collection in this field, building on currently available data".
2. Following the 2010 Commission Staff Working Document on improving the collection of data on drug markets, drug-related crime and drug-supply reduction measures in the EU, two expert conferences, in 2010 and 2012, on drug supply indicators and subsequent discussions at the HDG, Council Conclusions were drafted to address this issue.

3. The draft Council Conclusions were presented and examined during the HDG meetings on 11-12 September and on 16-17 October 2013, where the amended text was endorsed by the working party.
4. Consequently, COREPER is invited to confirm the agreement on the text of the draft Conclusions as set out in annex and to submit it to the Council for approval.

DRAFT

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON IMPROVING THE MONITORING OF DRUG SUPPLY
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING that, while much progress was made in the EU to improve the monitoring of drug demand, including through the development of the key epidemiological indicators, drug supply is still not sufficiently understood and this situation needs to be remedied,

TAKING NOTE that the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 sets as a priority for the EU to “work towards more effective policies in the field of drug supply reduction, by reinforcing policy evaluation and analysis to improve the understanding of drug-markets, drug-related crimes and the effectiveness of drug-related law enforcement responses”,

RECALLING that that the EU Action Plan on Drugs (2013-2016) calls on the parties concerned "to develop and progressively implement key indicators on drug supply by standardising, improving and streamlining data collection in this field, building on currently available data", in its Action 16,

RECALLING the Council Conclusions of May 2009 on the implementation of the EU Drugs Action Plan (2009-2012) regarding supply reduction key indicators and instruments to analyse effectiveness and impacts of drug policy, which stress the need for "timely action",

TAKING NOTE of the Commission Staff Working Document of 8 October 2010 on improving the collection of data on drug markets, drug related crime and drug-supply reduction measures in the European Union¹,

¹ SEC (2010) 1216 final

RECALLING the expert discussions and conclusions of the two European Conferences on drug supply indicators, which took place on 20-22 October 2010 in Brussels and on 22-23 November 2012 in Lisbon,

TAKING NOTE of the joint European Commission/EMCDDA non-paper of 11 April 2013 and of the Presidency note of 11 July 2013 on improving the monitoring drug supply in the EU² as well as of Member States' contributions³ to discussions in the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs,

RECOGNISING that the development of comparable key indicators in the areas of drug markets, drug-related crime and drug-supply reduction measures will help to better assess trends in the drug market and to better measure the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of supply-reduction measures,

TAKING NOTE of the "EU drug markets report: strategic analysis" which states that the standardisation and comparability of data on supply are of critical importance and that the timeliness of data availability and the coverage of data sets of the EU as a whole is frequently inadequate,

ACKNOWLEDGING the budgetary constraints that the EU and its Member States are facing and the need to prioritise efforts in drug supply,

RECALLING the cost-saving and other potential benefits for policy decisions and the allocation of available resources, which will be based on such improved data,

UNDERLINING that most relevant data are already being collected by the Member States, the EMCDDA, Europol or the Commission and that the main immediate task will be to improve the comparability and quality of those data,

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² Doc. DS 1249/13 and 11436/1/13

³ NL, DE, CY, ES, DK, LV, HU, PL, SK, FI, UK, PT, BE, FR, and EE sent written contributions.

STRESSES that accurate, reliable, comparable and high-quality data on drug supply would help assess the drug situation, the dynamics of the illicit drug market, the burden of drug-related crime and the effectiveness of supply-oriented policies.

UNDERLINES that such accurate, reliable, comparable and high-quality data on drug supply would respond to these main needs at EU level:

- Provide a common basis for mutual understanding and discussion;
- Inform the formulation and implementation of EU strategies to disrupt and prevent drug production and trafficking and help ensure that they remain on target;
- Foster operational cooperation;
- Support the measuring of the impact of actions taken to reduce drug supply.

ACKNOWLEDGES that in order to obtain such data, it is necessary to develop indicators at EU level. These indicators have to be developed around core data sets (sub-indicators) which are sufficient for EU-level analysis as well as reliable, valid, relevant at supranational and useful at national level and suitable for development over time.

STRESSES that the following principles shall govern efforts to improve the quality and comparability of supply data:

- A developmental approach is required that builds on existing data collection and reporting practices and structures, in the Member States and at EU level, in particular the Reitox network and relevant EMCDDA, Europol and Commission activities.
- Progress is achieved incrementally, recognising the differences that exist between Member States as regards needs, priorities, capacities and policies. Not all Member States must necessarily participate in all data collecting activities.

- Activities must be cost-effective, realistic, feasible and deliver clear value at EU level through the production of relevant, timely and useful outputs.
- The indicators are based on a set of core data that are routinely collected by many Member States.
- Synergy and complementarity with related reporting obligations and activities at national, European and international level, shall be actively pursued.

CONSIDERS that in the short and medium-term, experts should work towards the improvement of quality and on the assessment of relevance of the following data sets (sub-indicators):

- Drug seizures (data set relevant to drug market and supply reduction indicators);
- Purity and content (data set relevant to drug market indicator);
- Drug prices (data set relevant to drug market indicator);
- Drug production facilities dismantled (data set relevant to drug market and supply reduction indicators);
- Drug law offences (data set relevant to drug market, drug-related crime and supply reduction indicators);
- Drug availability in population surveys (data set relevant to drug market indicator);
- Market size estimates, which will be developed based on already existing data sets such as epidemiological and drug demand data.

STRESSES that in the period 2013-2016, activities will focus around improving the comparability and quality of the data available.

INVITES Member States:

- To work, with the Commission, the EMCDDA and Europol, towards improving the comparability and quality of data collected in the area of drug supply, as well as towards timely submission of available data sets to relevant agencies, in particular EMCDDA and Europol, using the existing reporting tools and channels,
- To prioritise at national level the improvement of the comparability and quality of data;
- To ensure an appropriate participation of the Drug Supply Correspondents in the EMCDDA reference group on drug supply indicators;
- To share expertise on data collection on drug supply;
- To better use the existing EU financial support instruments.

INVITES the Commission to support the sharing of expertise between the Member States, to help improve the comparability and quality of the data collected.

INVITES the EMCDDA:

- To work in close cooperation with its network of national focal points (REITOX), and other relevant EU networks on improving the methodology of data collection in the area of drug supply, with a view to improving the accuracy, reliability, comparability and quality of the data;
- To support this process by organising meetings of the reference group on drug supply indicators and to ensure its continuity;
- To inform annually the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs about the progress made.

INVITES Europol to work, in close cooperation with Member States, the EMCDDA and the Commission to improve the methodology and quality of relevant data collection.

REQUESTS that work is reviewed in time for the adoption of the second EU Action Plan on Drugs (2017-2020) under the current EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020).