



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 17 February 2012

6579/12

CORDROGUE 5

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

Of: Meeting of the Dublin Group

On: 6 December 2011

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in document CM 5676/11.

2. Summary of the last Dublin Group meeting

The President reported on the issues discussed during the last Dublin Group meeting held on 20 June 2011 (doc. 15925/11 CORDROGUE 69).

3. Report of the mission of the Dublin Group to West Africa

The FR delegation reported on the above-mentioned mission, outlined in doc. 17573/11 CORDROGUE 85 COAFR 335 COSI 100 GENVAL 128 + COR 1, informing the delegates about the meetings held and different request for assistance received from the officials of Senegal and Cape Verde. The speaker noted that the Senegalese Directorate-General of Customs already sent a list of specific equipment needed for their activities, which could be shared with the delegates.

He emphasised that there was a political will in the countries to combat drug trafficking and money laundering. Some delegations welcomed the mission saying that they found it very useful and also named it as a good example of connecting the central Dublin Group with regional Dublin Groups.

4. Presentation and/or update of regional reports: Africa, America, Eurasia

North Africa

The ES delegation informed the meeting that in the early months of 2011 in Algeria there was a marked increase in drug seizures (compared with the final months of 2010) and that trafficking in psychotropic substances recently had increased significantly in Egypt. There is inconsistency in Egyptian legislation concerning the penalty for trafficking in psychotropic substances, therefore an interministerial committee is currently working to rectify this situation. Morocco has considerably reduced the number of hectares devoted to cannabis cultivation with the official estimation being around 44 500 hectares, however, this reduction does not mean that production has fallen very much. Mauritania continues to be a transit country for cocaine heading for Europe and for large quantities of cannabis resin destined for the Arabian Peninsula and the Eastern Mediterranean, but the presence of cocaine in transit could boost consumption in certain circles. Tunisia seems to be neither a producing nor a transit country (doc. 17149/11 CORDROGUE 79 COAFR 326).

West Africa

The FR delegation explained that although West Africa was emerging as a major player in international cocaine trafficking, seizures in the region remained low and that domestic demand and local consumption remained marginal, although they were on a constant rise. There is a very strong suspicion that countries such as Nigeria and Mali are producing ever-increasing quantities of synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine and a new "Southern route" from the production zones to Southern Africa is emerging. The speaker emphasised that as a result of coordinated action over the last three years, much progress had been made in law enforcement, seizures, arrests and transmission of operational information and this had positive effects in Ghana, Togo and Sierra Leone, but the balloon effect had been detectible with a shifting of traffic towards other countries of the region. He also stressed that the fight against drugs was only possible where political will to do so existed and that the lack of involvement of ECOWAS and other regional organisations was an issue undermining efforts to combat drugs (doc. 17536/11 CORDROGUE 84 COAFR 334).

Mozambique

The UK delegation stressed that Mozambique was a growing concern for international counter-narcotics agencies as with its long and porous land and sea borders, and lack of control over its ports of entry, it was an attractive transit route for hashish, heroin, other opiates and also cocaine trafficking. Although recently there has been marked increase in cocaine seizures, evidence of a determined government commitment to combat trafficking is limited (doc. 18064/11 CORDROGUE 100 COAFR 349).

The US delegate gave an overview of programmes and projects they were funding and implementing in the continent and informed the meeting about their new West Africa Community Security Initiative (WACSI).

The Caribbean

The Canadian delegation informed the delegates that some of the common problematic issues appearing from the mini-Dublin reports included the resurgence of the Caribbean as a transit region, the role of Venezuela as a transit country, the growing sophistication of modes of trafficking and weaponry (e.g. the use of submersibles by drug traffickers), money laundering, corruption and impunity, insufficient resources hampering enforcement efforts, and lax security at ports. The speaker noted the progress made in the region such as the Government of the Dominican Republic's program of rewards for officers reporting on corruption as well as financial incentives for cocaine seizures (doc. 18034/11 CORDROGUE 99).

Noting that the role of corruption plays a significant role not only in the Caribbean but throughout other Dublin Group regional reports, the Canadian delegation proposed corruption as a thematic debate for an upcoming central Dublin Group meeting. The Presidency welcomed her suggestion including to invite a representative of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) to deliver a presentation on the issue.

South America

The ES delegation informed the meeting that in 2011 the volume of international drug trafficking through Argentina increased, as did the size of the domestic drugs market and the extent of domestic drug use.

According to the UNODC report, total coca-growing area in 2010 in Bolivia was 31 000 ha, representing a 0,3 % increase compared with 2009 and 8 200 ha of coca crops were eradicated which is a 29 % increase comparing with 2009. UNODC has reported the recent discovery of coca-growing areas in the Peruvian Amazon, near the border with Brazil, where it was unusually growing in more humid and lower regions. Cocaine in Brazil was processed in small laboratories scattered throughout the country rather than in a structured network. The speaker stressed that Chile was a great cause of concern as large quantities of cocaine and cannabis had been seized compared to 2010. Drug use in Colombia is becoming a serious problem. While Colombia continues to be the world's biggest coca leaf producer, the area under coca is decreasing, whereas in Peru, the next most significant producing country, it has increased in recent years. Different international organised crime networks are settling in Ecuador, especially those related to drug trafficking, and Paraguay is the second largest cannabis producer in the region and is a key transit country especially for cocaine and recently for ephedrine. Uruguay is increasingly a consumer country and no longer just a transit country and 17 clandestine cocaine-processing laboratories were destroyed during 2011 in Venezuela (17859/11 CORDROGUE 93 AMLAT 106).

Central America

The US delegation presented the US strategy for the region noting that drug trafficking was still the main problem in the region, however, drug consumption and production was also increasing. There has been an explosive growth of criminality in Central America and political will in the region is uneven. The speaker emphasised that the international donor community must provide capacity building in the region, but at the same time governments of the region should improve their own investments in their security (17970/11 CORDROGUE 96 AMLAT 107).

A representative of the EEAS informed the meeting about their plans concerning the Caribbean including launching a process for a major programme for security issues, extending the Cocaine route programme to the Caribbean and relaunching the existing agreements on precursors. The speaker added that they were also proposing to launch a regional programme to support the Central American Security Strategy.

5. Debate on maritime trafficking and containers control

A representative of the WCO presented the AIRCOP project and COCAIR operations explaining that AIRCOP aimed at creating anti-trafficking units at airports, involving police, customs and other authorities, dedicated to fight against drugs, arms trafficking and money laundering. The speaker informed the meeting that COCAIR anti-cocaine trafficking operations in West Africa were implemented in cooperation with Interpol and UNODC and that the first operation was organised in 2008, the second one resulted in a confiscation of 3 tons of chemical precursors destined to Benin and Guinea and the third operation COCAIR3 had just finished.

A representative of the UNODC presented the UNODC-WCO Container control programme, noting that in 2011 there were over 500 million of container movements, however, in general less than 2 percent of containers are physically inspected, which opens opportunities for trafficking. The speaker explained that the idea of the programme was to establish new container profiling units at sea and land ports, where the representatives of different agencies would work together to deliver a more targeted response. Once established, such new units were trained to detect containers which might carry illicit goods by using risk indicators and were given some equipment to do that. She enumerated the tools used for controlling containers, including information sharing system ContainerComm, container intelligence system C-Hawk, noting that information from open sources was also used. As a result, 12 new units have been already established and more than 45 tons of cocaine, more than 40 tons of cannabis and more than 780 tons of precursor chemicals were seized.

In an answer to the delegations, the representative of the WCO explained that its secure communication tool CENcomm could be translated into additional languages if funding was provided for that and invited the interested countries to do so. The representative of the UNODC noted that in some countries, there was no tradition of cooperation among different national authorities, which hampered their participation in the Container control programme. She also added that they were extending the programme by inviting new countries to join it, but this was also subject to the funding available.

6. Presentation and/or update of regional reports: Asia

Western Balkans

The AT delegation informed the delegations that in 2012 the Western Balkans mini-Dublin group would be chaired by HU and co-chaired by AT. The speaker shortly updated on the situation in the region, explaining that in some countries like Albania major efforts had been put in place, however, in others, like Bosnia and Herzegovina, there were only some developments as the political situation was difficult there (doc. 18180/11 CORDROGUE 102 COWEB 277).

Eastern Europe

The RO delegation informed the meeting that they would present the above-mentioned regional report during the forthcoming Dublin Group meeting.

Iran

The DE delegation emphasised that Iran continued its good efforts to fight against drug supply and demand, however, illicit production, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants had become a new challenge for the country. The level of bilateral relations, sanctions and the worsening human rights situation in Iran hamper the establishment of new bilateral contacts and technical cooperation. In addition, the current discussion about rising international pressure on Iran, following the release of the new IAEO report, give - for the time being- a difficult outlook on a future increase of cooperation with the Iranian authorities. The speaker also informed the meeting that 7 million euro were still needed to cover the UNODC's country programme for Iran and noted that the additional funding of the mini-Dublin Group members should be considered (doc. 18024/11 CORDROGUE 97).

Near East

The EL delegation explained that the main findings of country reports remained unchanged and that most countries of the region continued to be used as transit countries for drug trafficking. There are a few particular problems concern qat growing in Yemen which covers up to 30 percent of the fertile land and authorities tried to limit this by offering alternative cultivations, but with little success. Drug trafficking is facilitated by the fact that the government does not have effective control over the biggest part of the country and also does not give a big priority to the fight against drugs.

Saudi Arabia faces a serious problem of drug consumption with a number of drug addicts increasing to very high rates, and especially affecting the youth. The authorities have recently started to acknowledge the severity of the problem while demonstrating determination to take serious action to remedy the situation. In Syria police corruption limits the effectiveness of the fight against drugs and it is not clear if the government has conducted any survey on corruption (doc. 18355/11 CORDROGUE 104).

South East Asia and China

The Australian delegation informed the meeting that some countries in the above-mentioned region had never conducted national general surveys on drug use. Concerns in the region exist on the increasing opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar and on increased manufacture of methamphetamine in Myanmar and China, with China still remaining one of the main global producers of precursor chemicals. There is evidence of new transnational trafficking routes for amphetamine-type stimulants along Myanmar's western border with Bangladesh and India. In Cambodia polydrug use is another emerging concern and an increase in the injecting drug use raises a fear that Cambodia could experience a resurgence of HIV infections. In 2011 Vietnam approved its National antidrug strategy, Cambodia signed the new Law on the Control of Drugs, to be adopted by the National Assembly, and Thailand has amended its legislation on the classification of medicine containing pseudoephedrine and has also developed stricter compliance guidelines on the sale of the medicine. The speaker summarised that there was some progress in the region, however, a lot was left to be done (doc. 16969/11 CORDROGUE 76 ASIE 62).

Central Asia

The IT delegation emphasised that the situation in Afghanistan still posed a considerable threat to the stability in Central Asia. Vulnerability of states in the region and their inability to take adequate actions as well as the lack of regional cooperation among these countries continue to be the major problems. In Turkmenistan an overall decrease in drug seizures was recorded in 2011 compared to the same period of 2010 and in June 2011 the country adopted the new national multi-year plan for counter-narcotics activities. The number of drug users in Kazakhstan has been increasing and is the biggest in the region; the total number of drugs seized in Kazakhstan in nine months of 2011 increased by 33.1 % in comparison with the same period of 2010.

In Kyrgyzstan the establishment of the state drug control service improved the situation (in nine months of 2011, 4 times more drugs were seized than in the same period of 2010), but the process of national political stabilisation is challenging. In September 2011 the President of Uzbekistan signed the law concerning the ratification of CARICC agreement, thereby completing this process in Central Asia (18026/11 CORDROGUE 98 ASIE 66).

Afghanistan

The UK delegation noticed that the recent trend of declining poppy cultivation levels in Afghanistan had not lasted and that drugs trade continued to pose a critical threat to the stability of Afghanistan. However, there are positive steps - in Helmand province, which accounts for 48 percent of total opium cultivation in Afghanistan, the alternative production programme brought good results and the Government of Afghanistan places greater emphasis on eradication (doc. 18105/11 CORDROGUE 101)

7. New trends and regional cooperation in Asia

The Japanese delegation presented the trends in drug related crimes in Japan and initiatives to tackle them explaining that more than 3/4 of such crimes involved amphetamine and methamphetamine (the smuggling of which presented a big concern for Japan), followed by cannabis and that the number of cases was generally stable over the years. The majority of drugs are smuggled to Japan by using "mules" through the air, increasingly using local airports, and the number of arrested drug traffickers older than 60 years grew over the years.

The representative of the UNODC made a presentation on drug trafficking trends in Asia noting that cannabis production was reported in a number of Asian countries, however, it was less important for the Asian market. China has continued to report the largest opium seizures in the region and still constitutes an important consumer market for heroin. Global heroin seizures increased little, whereas that of amphetamine-type stimulants increased more significantly in 2009. As for cocaine, the seizures account for less than 1 percent of total seizures.

The speaker also identified the needs of the region in the fight against drugs, including the need for increased cross-border cooperation, joint investigations and operations, operational and real time information exchange, capacity training for the criminal justice system, models for drug treatment as well as a comprehensive package for HIV prevention and treatment.

8. AOB

No issues were discussed under AOB.
