



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 11 April 2012

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**CORDROGUE 19
COLAT 12
AMLAT 15**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

Of: Meeting of Technical Committee of the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs

On: 6 March 2012

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 1566/12.

2. Preparation of the XIVth High Level meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (Brussels, 4-5 June 2012)

a) Organisational aspects

The EU co-presidency informed the delegations that the meeting would be held in the Council building and would be chaired by the Polish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in the name of the Trio Presidency. The CELAC co-presidency replied that they were waiting for the confirmation concerning the CELAC Chair and asked for a meeting room to be provided for the CELAC delegations during the meeting.

b) *Draft agenda*

The EU co-presidency informed the meeting that they were working on a draft agenda of the meeting and that the agenda will be structured similarly to that of the last year meeting.

c) *Thematic debates*

The EU co-presidency explained that a similar model for organising the thematic debates employed during last year's meeting, would also be applied this year. Also, some key questions might be prepared to stimulate the debate. He informed the meeting that PL was discussing about the possibility to have thematic debates on synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances.

A representative of the COM proposed organising thematic debates on judicial cooperation, reminding that the COM had launched a study on this topic. However, the results of the study will be available only after the High Level meeting. The speaker explained that Eurojust could be invited to give a presentation on judicial cooperation and that it had good cooperation with a relevant network in the CELAC countries. Inviting the representatives of this network could also be considered. She also suggested another topic for thematic debates: the three-year long city partnership project – CICAD, which was financed by the COM and aimed at fostering the cooperation on the local level (between the cities) by exchanging experience in drug demand reduction. Although the project has finished, Göteborg city was looking for possibilities to establish this exchange of experience as a constant practice, therefore they could be invited to share their ideas during the High Level meeting.

One CELAC delegation noted that judicial cooperation was an increasingly important topic and also emphasised the importance of alternative development. The CELAC co-presidency promised to come with the CELAC proposals on thematic debates.

The EU co-presidency asked both the EU and CELAC delegations to send proposals for the topics for thematic debates by 16 March 2012 at the latest.

d) *Draft political declaration*

The EU co-presidency presented the draft proposal for the Brussels declaration (doc. DS 1088/1/12) explaining that the drafting process would continue until the High Level meeting. Delegations proposed further changes to the document and some CELAC delegations promised to come later with drafting suggestions concerning some paragraphs. It was agreed that the CELAC delegations would send their written contributions on the declaration by 30 March 2012 at the latest.

A representative of the EEAS drew delegations' attention to the fact that there had been no progress in the environmental aspects of the world drug problem, which are included into the declaration, and called on the delegations to think of ways to promote the implementation of this specific point.

e) *Document on improving the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs*

The CELAC co-presidency informed that they were preparing a counter-proposal for the above-mentioned document (DS 1825/11).

2. Overview of EU-CELAC cooperation activities

a) *COPOLAD: presentation of forthcoming activities - presentation by the Implementation and Coordination Entity of COPOLAD*

A representative of the COPOLAD reported on the activities foreseen in the immediate future in the framework of COPOLAD, including a side event during the CND session in Vienna, a workshop on drug policies in Santiago de Chilli, a seminar on decentralising drug policies in Buenos Aires and the second annual COPOLAD conference to be held on 6-7 June 2012.

b) Cocaine Route programme and PRELAC programme

The representative of the COM presented the developments in implementing the Cocaine Route programme, consisting of seven components, including airport and seaport cooperation, money laundering, precursors and CORMS component, aimed at creating synergies among different components of the programme. He informed the meeting that Brazil was included into the Aircop programme and that subsequently Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Dominican Republic and Jamaica would also be included, that Ameripol would organise a seminar in Argentina in May for law enforcement and judicial staff on undercover agencies and controlled deliveries and that a large stakeholders' conference on the Cocaine Route would be held in May 2012. He also added that a second contract had been signed with GAFISUD aiming at strengthening the prosecution of money laundering, especially in the non-banking sector.

c) EU agreements on drug precursors with Latin American countries - update by the Commission

The representative of the COM reminded the delegations that in 1995-1998 the EU concluded a number of agreements dedicated to monitor the legal trade in drugs precursors in order to prevent their diversion for illegal trade, which provide for a joint follow up group between the signing parties. The speaker explained that normally this group met once a year, but it had been some years already since the last meeting was held, therefore the EU was proposing to organise such a meeting, for which the invitation would be sent soon and a rapid response to it would be appreciated.

4. Developments in antidrug policies in the EU and CELAC

a) Presentation of the evaluation of the EU Drugs strategy and development of EU consensus on quality standards and benchmarks of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and rehabilitation

The representative of the COM presented the results of the above mentioned evaluation emphasising that the outcomes of the evaluation had demonstrated that the EU Drugs Strategy had a crucial significance, that it added value to the national drug strategies and created a certain European model in drug policy. She also briefly presented the EU work done in setting quality standards in drug demand reduction.

b) *Presentation of the developments in the CELAC*

- *EU-Andean community High Level meeting*

The Colombian delegation informed the delegates that the next EU-CAN community High Level meeting was planned for October 2012 in Ecuador and emphasised the importance of this mechanism. The representative of the EEAS welcomed this initiative to revitalise this dialogue.

- *Fight against drugs in Dominican Republic*

The Dominican Republic delegation informed the delegates that cocaine seizures in 2011 increased by 47 percent comparing with 2010, that important networks of drug trafficking were dismantled and that drug trafficking by air was completely suppressed. However, much was left to be done to avoid corruption. She also noted that due to the law enforcement efforts undertaken in different countries of the region, the flow of cocaine had moved towards new areas and emphasised the importance of international cooperation in successful fight against drugs.

- *The meeting of the CSPMD*

The Paraguayan delegation informed the delegates that the last meeting of the South American Council on the World Drug Problem (Consejo Suramericano sobre el Problema Mundial de las Drogas - CSPMD), a UNASUR body aimed at proposing strategies and plans to tackle drugs and building confidence among the relevant actors in the region, was held on 17-18 November 2011. The speaker explained that during this meeting the future actions were defined and a number of working groups established, notably one on demand reduction, supply reduction, alternative development and money laundering, and emphasised the necessity to strengthen this mechanism.

- *Alternative justice*

The Mexican delegation announced that they would present a draft resolution on alternative justice at the 55th CND session as this was a cause of concern in Mexico and as they were implementing some pilot projects to address this issue. He explained that the idea of the resolution was to create alternative treatments in order to avoid imprisonment and that they were seeking to identify and design such alternative treatments. The speaker also suggested this topic for thematic debates during the EU-CELAC High Level meeting, as there was a lot of room for experience sharing in this field.

5. *Any other business:*

- *presentation of the CELAC*

The Chilean delegation gave an overview of the functioning of the recently established Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (CELAC), which is a successor of the Rio Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development and acts as a representative of and the speaker for the LAC region on the international arena. He explained that CELAC was supposed to take over all the dialogues with other regions, except for the dialogue on drugs with the EU. The delegate informed the meeting that a CELAC constitution and an action plan were adopted and presented the future activities of the CELAC, including plans to update the Madrid action plan.
