



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from:	Presidency
to:	Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
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Subject:	Brussels Declaration

The EU co-presidency forwards to delegations herewith the Brussels Declaration as adopted in Brussels on 5 June 2012 by the fourteenth High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC).

1. The delegations from the Community of Latin America and Caribbean states (CELAC), Member States of the European Union, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council, the European Commission, the European External Action Service met in Brussels on 4 and 5 June 2012, under the co-presidencies of Denmark and Dominican Republic, at the XIV High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and CELAC.
2. RECALLING the Summits of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, that were held in Rio de Janeiro (1999), Madrid (2002), Guadalajara (2004), Vienna (2006), Lima (2008) and Madrid (2010), where an Action Plan was adopted in which theme VI is dedicated to the World Drug Problem; as well as the commitments made in the bi-regional Declarations adopted at the High-level Meetings of the Mechanism.
3. RECOGNISING the importance of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between CELAC and the European Union, a bi-regional framework, carried out on the basis of dialogue, common and shared responsibility, coordination and cooperation, to tackle in an effective way the World Drug Problem that affects both regions.

MAKE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:

BI-REGIONAL COOPERATION

4. The World Drug Problem affects all States and, in order to confront it, WE AGREE that global strategies directed at each and every one of its underlying causes are required. WE REITERATE the value of further uniting efforts in multilateral fora dedicated to this matter.

5. WE AGREE to continue tackling the World Drug Problem in order to reduce the negative effect it has on individuals, society, societal structure and cohesion, democratic institutions, social inclusion, public health, the environment and on the security of citizens.
6. WE RECOGNISE that in order to address the drug problem efficiently, the efforts should follow an evidence-based, integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach combining drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction measures, in full respect of human rights, in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.
7. WE WILL CONTINUE to support bi-regional projects, based on criteria of effectiveness and efficiency, sustainability, relevance and impact, in the areas of both demand and supply reduction. WE WILL CONTINUE to undertake evaluations of all supported projects.
8. WE EMPHASISE that bi-regional cooperation should complements efforts undertaken at local, national, bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral levels and RECOGNISE the importance of ensuring that, where possible, such cooperation aligns with agreed priorities and objectives.
9. WE ENCOURAGE the sharing of experiences, knowledge and best practices, as well as capacity-building activities to reinforce national policies, including by exploring possibilities on how to make use of triangular and south-south cooperation initiatives for the implementation of institutional strengthening projects that include capacities, good experiences and lessons learned from some countries that may be shared with others.
10. WE RECOGNISE the importance of national and regional drug observatories in providing comparable data that can assist in the formulation of effective public policies, and the need to continue strengthening the capacities of the observatories, where appropriate.

11. WE REITERATE the value of promoting coordination in the framework of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other international fora focused on tackling the World Drug Problem. In this regard WE ENCOURAGE the development of bi-regional consultations on these matters.
12. WE TAKE NOTE of the developments in the activities undertaken within the Cooperation Programme on Drug Policies between Latin America and the European Union – COPOLAD, which aim to improve the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies in participating countries by strengthening the exchange of mutual experiences, bi-regional coordination and the promotion of multisectoral, comprehensive and coordinated responses and we see the potential of such initiatives in the future.
13. WE RECOGNISE the need to strengthen the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs. In this regard WE TAKE NOTE of the proposals made by the EU and CELAC delegations¹ and we will continue working in order to adopt measures to strengthen the Mechanism.

DEMAND REDUCTION

14. WE RECOGNISE the fundamental need to protect our societies from drug abuse by developing integrated prevention strategies combining universal prevention with programmes involving communities and addressing families, with particular focus being placed on vulnerable groups especially children and youth.
15. WE WILL IMPLEMENT strategies to address prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and the reduction of the negative health and social consequences of drugs abuse, as well as the continuous training of various professionals, technical experts and other actors involved in the implementation of initiatives aimed at reducing the demand for illicit drugs.

¹ We are referring to the documents DS 1825/11 and DS 1329/12, which were already discussed during the EU-LAC technical committee meetings and will be discussed during the forthcoming meetings.

16. WE RECOGNISE that the responsibility for addressing the World Drug Problem rests within States, WE ENCOURAGE States to ensure that civil society plays a participatory role, where appropriate, in prevention and rehabilitation through consultation, in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, in particular with regard to aspects of demand reduction.
17. WE TAKE NOTE of drug use among prisoners and WE WILL TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT while developing our drugs policies, including through the provision of treatment for drug users in prisons.
18. WE ENCOURAGE work within respective legal frameworks and in compliance with applicable international law, to consider cooperation related to drug dependence treatment and other options for offenders, in particular and when appropriate, providing treatment as an alternative to incarceration, in order to help strengthen drug demand reduction policies while promoting both public health and public safety. In addressing the World Drug Problem the main objective is to ensure the health and welfare of individuals.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

19. WE WILL PROMOTE, when appropriate, joint actions in order to identify and dismantle organised crime groups involved in any illicit activities relating to drugs, working together to develop comprehensive capacities to counter the challenges posed by new and existing drug trafficking routes.
20. WE WELCOME the progress made in the implementation of the Cocaine Route Programme, which contributes to the efficient fight against cocaine trafficking from South America through the Caribbean, Central America and West Africa to Europe. In this regard, we encourage additional cooperation initiatives to address the World Drugs Problem, which may also be extended to include other regions.

21. WE EMPHASISE the need to strengthen bi-regional cooperation to prevent the diversion of drug precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants, and RECOGNISE that active cooperation under existing bilateral agreements on drug precursors is essential in this regard, as these provide a strong platform for coordinating policies and exchanging information on drug precursors in the framework of mutual administrative assistance.
22. WE NOTE THE PROGRESS achieved to revitalise most of the existing bilateral agreements on drug precursors and WE WILL EXPLORE the possibilities for negotiating new agreements.
23. WE WELCOME initiatives aimed at ensuring the availability of evidence, including the development of any project aimed to set up a traceability system of chemical precursors through an analysis of seized drugs, which, among other data, will assist in the determination of the purity, the elements used in their manufacture, the processing methods and the geographical origin. This scientific evidence is essential to the decision making process at political, operational and intelligence levels, as well as providing information to institutions that control drugs and criminal prosecution authorities. The development of such project will require the common action of participating States particularly their access to the studies and results obtained.
24. WE WILL FOCUS our efforts in addressing the new challenge of pre-precursors and WE WILL CONTINUE to take steps to develop mechanisms to detect and tackle new methods of diversion as well as to improve the exchange of information on this issue.
25. WE RECOGNISE that synthetic drugs pose a significant worldwide problem affecting the EU and increasingly also the CELAC. At the same time, noting the challenges posed by the involvement of organised crime groups in the production and distribution of synthetic drugs, WE WELCOME new initiatives focusing on combating illegal trafficking of synthetic drugs.

26. WE WILL PROMOTE, where appropriate, joint actions that contribute to the development and success of investigations on money laundering related to drug trafficking, on the means used to carry out illicit activities of this kind and on the economic benefits produced by them as an indispensable element for tackling the problem of illicit trafficking of drugs.
27. WE ARE COMMITTED to strengthening judicial cooperation between both regions and WE TAKE NOTE of the concrete efforts undertaken in this field, such as the study financed by the European Commission on judicial cooperation between the EU and CELAC countries.
28. WE STRESS the importance of cooperation on alternative development aiming to place the foundations for sustainable development and new economic opportunities in coca cultivation areas, under a climate of peace and dialogue. WE DECIDE to engage in dialogue and share experiences and proposals on special marketing strategies and instruments in the field of alternative development, including preventive alternative development, in cooperation with private sector, such as a global stamp for products stemming from alternative development programmes, in full respect of international obligations, in particular multilateral trade rules¹.
29. WE AGREE to promote initiatives to tackle the negative consequences of the world drug problem on the environment, in accordance with national policies.
30. WE APPROVE the 2011-2012 Annual Report of Activities.
31. WE AGREE to present this Brussels Declaration to the First EU-CELAC Summit that will take place at Santiago de Chile on 26-27 January 2013, following previous six EU-LAC summits organised from 1999 to 2010.
32. WE AGREE to convene the XV High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and CELAC in 2013, under the co-presidencies of Ireland and Ecuador.

¹ The resolution 55/12 of the CND "Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem", OP 5.