



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 2 July 2012**

**11836/12**

**CORDROGUE 50**

**OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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Of: Meeting of the Dublin Group

On: 24 May 2012

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Subject: Summary of discussions

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**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in document CM 2977/12.

**2. Discussion about the regional / local chairs of the Dublin Group**

The Chair announced a vacancy for the chair of the mini-Dublin Group on South West Asia and invited volunteers to come up with their candidatures by 16 July 2012, so that the regional report could be prepared for the next Dublin Group meeting to be held on 8 November 2012.

The Chair made a summary of the last Dublin group meeting, outlined in doc. 6579/12 CORDROGUE 5.

### **3. Presentation and/or update of regional reports: Asia, Europe, Iran**

#### South East Asia and China

The Japanese delegation reported that drug production, trafficking and consumption had increased in the region. There was a significant growth in domestic seizures of methamphetamine coming from Myanmar in China, Thailand and Laos and an increasing trend to extract precursor chemicals from licit pharmaceutical preparations was observed in Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. Heroin and opium were the most used drugs in China, Vietnam and Myanmar and the golden triangle continued to be the main area for poppy cultivation, besides, opium poppy cultivation increased both in Myanmar and Laos. The speaker explained that one of the issues concerning the borders of Myanmar was how to deal with armed ethnic minorities fighting among themselves (doc. 10179/12 CORDROGUE 36 ASIE 52)

#### South West Asia

The UK delegation informed the meeting that the UNODC estimated that the profit from Afghan drugs trade was approximately \$150 million per annum. Afghanistan continued to be the largest producer of opium and its derivatives and according UNODC was also the largest cultivator of cannabis. The speaker informed about the opium poppy eradication programme launched in March, 2012, during which 9398 hectares of opium poppy was eradicated compared to 3787 hectares last year (UNODC data). He concluded that progress was being made by the Government of Afghanistan, in partnership with the international community. As regards Pakistan, the country remained vulnerable to trafficking of opium and cannabis produced in Afghanistan, therefore it was important that Pakistan continued to receive international support in their antidrug efforts. Significant opiates seizures were made, however, most of those prosecuted tended to be lower level carriers (doc. 9762/12 CORDROGUE 26)

## Central Asia

The IT delegation stressed that there was a concern that withdrawal of the NATO troops from Afghanistan might badly affect the situation in Central Asia by leading to an increase in the drugs and terrorist threat. A new drug control programme was adopted in Kazakhstan, including prevention, law enforcement activities and strengthening the southern border. In Kyrgyzstan there were very few improvements in the national drug strategy and the progress towards national consolidation after the events in 2010 was slow. Since May 2011 a large-scale “Kuknor 2011” operation on destroying the crops of wild-growing cannabis had been launched in Tajikistan. The drug situation in Uzbekistan continued to be serious, with a significant increase in the amount of the seized opium being reported in 2011 (doc. 10291/12 CORDROGUE 39 ASIE 54).

The Australian delegation reminded about the resolution on new psychoactive substances adopted at the 55th CND session, which also received support from a number of South East Asian countries and noted that they would work through CND to tackle this problem and to build the UNODC capacity to address this issue. The Chair noted that Chinese laboratories had become masters of producing synthetic drugs, which were more problematic as they did not require any cultivation, could be transferred easier through borders and brought high profits.

## Western Balkans

The HU delegation informed the meeting that in Albania and Croatia the process of drafting a new drugs strategy was initiated. In Bosnia and Herzegovina the most frequent drug was skunk and the country was considered to be one of the regional hubs for narcotics shipment. However, without the establishment of the drug office, institutional capacity to implement the antidrug policy remained weak, but the establishment of such an office was foreseen under the new law, which was awaiting the approval by the parliament. In FYROM a new software was designed for data evaluation with a view to making an estimation of the drug use and treatment demand and last year the government doubled the funding available for health care of persons with drug addiction. In Serbia increased marihuana and synthetic drugs production was observed. The HU delegation concluded that Western Balkan countries put most of their efforts on drug supply reduction side, but that the drug demand reduction side had to be more strengthened (doc. 9311/12 CORDROGUE 22 COWEB 62)

## Eastern Europe and Caucasus

The RO delegation presented the report on Armenia and Azerbaijan (doc. 10258/12 CORDROGUE 38 COEST 164) informing the delegates that in Armenia there was a small decrease (3,8 %) of crimes related to illicit drug use compared to last year and that no requests for treatment services had been received during January-September 2011. In Azerbaijan there were no major differences in drug seizures, except for marihuana, comparing to the previous year. Azeri authorities continued their efforts to fight against drug trafficking and had the necessary legislation for that in place (10258/12 CORDROGUE 38 COEST 164).

## Iran

The DE delegation emphasised that the human rights situation in Iran was deteriorating as the number of drug related death penalties was increasing, which resulted in the reduction of technical cooperation. Nevertheless, the Dublin group proposed to continue the cooperation as much as the political atmosphere allowed and to support the UNODC country programme (doc. 10115/12 CORDROGUE 33). In response to a question from the EEAS, the DE delegation explained that the Iranian authorities were trying to link international community projects to the death penalties and the detained persons. He emphasised that they were putting all efforts to reject this allegation.

## **4. Thematic debate on corruption and its links to drug trafficking**

A representative of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) presented the activities of this organisation, which has around 700 members and around 40 chapters over the world, by stressing the role of the parliament in fighting corruption. He elaborated on the importance of corruption and its negative effects on policy processes, including the fight against drugs. The speaker reminded that necessary anti-corruption legislation had to be passed by the parliaments and also discussed the possible ways of cooperation as regards to the fight against drugs.

The US delegation also emphasised the destroying power of corruption reminding the delegates that the main tool of functioning of Medellin and Cali cartels was corruption and as dealers generated a lot of profit they had means to corrupt people. The DE delegate noted that corruption could be not only a problem of political process, but also of society culture. Therefore it was very difficult to fight corruption in the parliament without fighting the corruption culture in society.

## **5. Presentation and/or update of regional reports: Africa, America, Middle and Near East**

### West Africa

The FR delegation confirmed the appearance of the South route, going through Angola and on which growing seizures of fake medicines and also synthetic drugs were observed. While seizures in West Africa appeared to be falling, however, the countries in the region remained very active in the transit of drugs, in particular cocaine but also synthetic drugs (methamphetamines). Benin and Togo continued to play a key role in the transit of drugs, while Côte d'Ivoire was emerging as an increasingly important drug transit country. The drug situation had deteriorated in the Sahel region, where the complex political situation and lack of State authority control were stimulating the boom in trafficking. While seizures remained very low in comparison to the scale of trafficking, the Beninese, Togolese and Ghanaian offices fighting against drugs had obtained encouraging results (doc. 9778/12 CORDROGUE 28 COAFR 127 COSI 27 GENVAL 35)

### North Africa

The ES delegation informed the meeting that the drug production situation remained the same as some time ago with the main producer being Morocco and the main product cannabis. Both cocaine and cannabis trafficking went through Mauritania and Egypt had seized 3 tonnes of Pakistani hashish, therefore cannabis coming from the East and not from the West was a novelty. In Algeria almost the double amount of cannabis resin was seized in 2011 compared to the previous year. In Libya as a result of the recent conflict there was no institutional anti-drugs policy, since the current authorities had not seen this as a priority, therefore the general drug situation had worsened dramatically over the last year (doc. 9366/12 CORDROGUE 24 COAFR 119).

## Central America

The US delegation explained that the main findings from their last report were still valid, informing the meeting that precursors were becoming a major issue in the region and that precursor trafficking indicated that synthetic drugs were also produced in the region. The speaker also reported on a unique operation in Honduras where based on Colombian intelligence and using helicopters from Guatemala conducted by Guatemalan pilots around 1000 kg of drugs were interdicted in a few weeks. He emphasised that a lot of activities were implemented in the region, however, the major issue remained building government capacity.

## South America

The ES delegation informed the meeting that some laboratories were found in countries like Ecuador, Venezuela, Argentina, which were not so known before as drug processors. She noted that some countries in the region including Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Chile had problems with precursors. Paraguay reported to have detected a new trend for ephedrine destined to Mexico being trafficked through Paraguay, which might be a sign of a new route for precursors. There was a concern about the increased synthetic drugs consumption in South America as well as about their production in Argentina. The speaker emphasised that they were trying to reinforce borders in the region as it might help to avoid drug trafficking. Also, she noted that the triangular cooperation should be given more importance and there should be more such agreements to prevent drug trafficking. (doc. 10119/12 CORDROGUE 34 AMLAT 28).

## Near East

The EL delegation explained that there was no report drafted on Syria as the political situation made the data collection impossible. The speaker also noted that there were no significant developments on drug demand or supply in the region compared to the previous report. In Kuwait there was a clear trend towards the use of psychotropic substances instead of classic ones and in Israel there was a growing demand for ecstasy and cannabis among the young population. In Palestine the drug situation was deteriorating and police did not have a specialised laboratory for analysing the seized substances (doc. 8728/12 CORDROGUE 20).

## **6. Fight against precursors diversion: new trends and international cooperation**

A representative of the INCB stressed the importance of the control mechanism for monitoring trade in precursors in order to avoid their diversion. He explained an emerging trend that criminals were using sophisticated chemical production techniques, had much more resources at their disposal than before and their organisations were getting bigger in size. The speaker reminded that control of drug precursors was put in place by the 1988 United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and that currently hundreds of tons of chemicals were being seized. However, there were thousands of derivatives and it was not possible to put everything under control, also, by the time a new precursor was put under control, new ones appeared to replace it, which called for the need to be proactive. Nevertheless, not all countries were willing to share information and intelligence.

He also emphasised the importance of real time communication, which was not used enough, and enumerated different tools developed for that goal, including the PEN Online system which was a free export notification system, uniting around 130 countries and allowing one country to inform another about big amounts of precursors being sent, and a very new Precursor Information Communication System (PICS), permitting to send alerts when a country was involved in an incident. The representative of the INCB encouraged the countries to put in place a requirement to inform about the shipments through the PEN Online system. The speaker also mentioned a special surveillance list, containing precursors not placed under international control, but used for illegal drugs production, which the delegates could share with their industry.

A representative of the French National Mission on Precursors Control (MNCPC) gave an overview of their activities in training companies and law enforcement agencies with a view to improving the cooperation to prevent the diversion of precursors. Among the main tools developed he mentioned guidelines, e-learning, posters, DVD, handbooks and also presented a new tool, called Telescope, placed on a French secure website in order to inform the responsible officers about all documents, new guidelines, which they might need.

The US delegation encouraged the countries to use the PEN online system and stressed the need to work with relevant governments to highlight the issue of precursors. They also expressed their interest in the extension of the PEN system, which would enable a follow-up after the notification, as currently no way for further communication was available after notifications. However, there was no funding for this.

## **7. AOB**

No issues were discussed under AOB.

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