



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 July 2012

12916/12

CORDROGUE 56

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of:	Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
on:	3 July 2012
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 3656/12.

The Chair presented the priorities of the CY Presidency in the field of drugs, informing the meeting that the main priority was the adoption of the new EU drugs strategy.

2. Information concerning the proceedings of other EU bodies

The Presidency informed the delegates about the state of play concerning drug related funding foreseen for the next financial period, reminding the delegates that as soon as drug issues would be dealt with under the Health for Growth programme and Internal Security Fund, the Presidency would explore which other aspects of drugs remained to be covered by the Justice programme.

The representative of the Commission repeated their concerns about the possible gaps in drug related funding, especially concerning drug demand reduction, as the Health for Growth programme covered only a very narrow aspect of demand reduction. She also recalled, that the Commission was keeping its original position to have the drug issues addressed in the Justice programme.

Delegations echoed the concerns about the possible gaps and questioned when the discussion could be reopened on the Justice programme with a view to addressing these gaps. The representative of the Commission noted that this discussion should be started as early as possible. One delegation regretted that drug issues could not be funded under a single programme. The representative of the Commission explained that this was due to a different legal basis for health and law enforcement.

The Chair of the COSI support group gave an overview of the state of play of the European Drugs Pact and its main achievements (see doc. 17302/11 COSI 91 JAIEX 121 CORDROGUE 80 CRIMORG 211 COAFR 327, doc. 7933/2/12 REV2 COSI 11 JAIEX 14 CORDROGUE 13 CRIMORG 32 COAFR 82 and doc. 17622/11 COSI 99 JAIEX 129 CORDROGUE 88 CRIMORG 217 COAFR 341). The speaker added that currently actions on drug issues were developed under two Operational Action Plans within the EU policy cycle: the "Synthetic drugs" and "West Africa" priorities. Other priorities had a potential connection with drugs, but did not develop specific drug related actions yet.

As all the Project Groups have been closed and their leaders have been requested to prepare an evaluation report on the results, the DE delegation requested to present the final report on the Heroin Project Group during the forthcoming HDG meeting.

3. Discussion on the new EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020

The Presidency presented the draft EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 set out in doc. DS 1480/12 and gave an overview of the timetable for discussing the draft Strategy, aiming for its adoption at the European Council by the end of the year. The majority of delegations welcomed the draft Strategy and its continuity as regards the current Strategy. The meeting discussed the Preface, Introduction and Coordination chapters. Other chapters would be examined during forthcoming HDG meetings.

The representative of the Commission, supported by a number of delegations, noted that the level of ambition had to be defined in the Strategy by demonstrating what should be achieved by 2020 and by reflecting on current challenges and the drug related debate taking place outside the EU. The delegations proposed different challenges which should also be included into the Strategy or on which more emphasis should be put.

Some delegations expressed their concerns about the EU funding for drug related activities, noting that they should be aware of how much funding would be available when discussing the draft Strategy, so as to know where to use the available money. The representative of the Commission stressed that the drug funding from the EU budget was only complementary funding and was likely to remain relatively small, as generally a number of actions foreseen in the Action Plans fell under the competence of Member States and local governments.

The delegations discussed how the implementation of the priorities of the Strategy and Action Plans should be monitored on an on-going basis by the Presidencies and it was agreed that there should be no burdensome procedures established for this exercise so that not to increase the already heavy workload for national focal points. The representative of the EMCDDA also stressed that because of the current workload they could not create any new reporting mechanism. Some delegations noted that reporting and debates on a few priorities selected by the Presidency would be very useful.

A few delegations asked the Presidency to move the coordination chapter of the Strategy before the chapters on drug demand and supply reduction, while others advocated the proposed structure of the Strategy. Some delegations pointed out that a reference to the cooperation with the Council working groups dealing with demand reduction should be made, as a similar reference in the field of supply reduction to coordination with COSI was already made.

The DE delegation inquired why the Commission would no longer provide the first draft of the Action plans for the discussion at the HDG and were explained that as the document covered a number of actions going beyond the competence of the EU, the Commission believed that the EU Presidencies were better placed for drafting the initial proposal.

4. Drug Supply Indicators Conference

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the process of developing the drug supply indicators and hoped that each Member State could send their delegate to the second and last Drug supply indicators conference. The representative of the EMCDDA informed the meeting that the conference would deal with drug markets, drug related crime and supply reduction and asked the delegates to nominate three experts in these fields, once they receive a letter of invitation.

5. Summary of the Danish Presidency

The DK delegation gave an overview of the meetings held and issues discussed during their Presidency and reported on the National drug coordinators meeting held in Copenhagen on 14-15 June 2012.

6. Information on the National Drugs Coordinators meeting

The Presidency informed the delegates about the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 18 September 2012 in Nicosia, during which women and drug treatment would be discussed and detailed information on the progress with the new EU Drugs Strategy would be provided.

7. Report on the EU-USA expert dialogue on drugs

The PL delegation reported on the above-mentioned meeting held on 23 May 2012 (see doc. 11834/12 CORDROGUE 49 USA 14).

8. Report on the XIVth High Level meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

The PL delegation gave an overview of the above-mentioned meeting held in Brussels on 4-5 June 2012 reminding that the thematic debates during the meeting focused on drug demand and supply reduction under the topics "Comprehensive approach to face the problem of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances", "Alternative justice" and "Judicial cooperation". The meeting approved the Brussels Declaration (doc. 10719/12 CORDROGUE 42 COLAT 22 AMLAT 32) and the Annual Report of the Mechanism for the period of July 2011 - May 2012 (doc. 10610/1/12 REV 1 CORDROGUE 40 COLAT 21 AMLAT 31).

The speaker also added that the XVth High Level meeting would be held under the Irish and Ecuadorian co-presidencies and appealed to the delegates to send high level representatives to this meeting.

9. Report on the Second Annual COPOLAD Conference

The ES delegation presented the above-mentioned conference, held on 6-7 June 2012 in Brussels, noting that there was wide and high level participation and that the results of the conference were very positive. He also informed the meeting that more information on the conference as well as the results of the evaluation done by the participants of the conference were available on the COPOLAD website.

10. Preparation for the Technical Committee of the EU/CELAC Mechanism on Drugs

The Chair of the dialogues on drugs presented the agenda of the above-mentioned meeting, to be held on 4 July 2012, contained in doc. CM 3658/12.

11. Preparation for the meeting between the EU and the Andean Community in view of the XIth High Level Meeting of the EU-Andean Community Specialised Dialogue on Drugs

The Chair of the dialogues on drugs presented the agenda of the above-mentioned meeting, to be held on 4 July 2012, contained in doc. CM 3659/12. The delegations discussed the topics proposed for the High Level meeting and suggested a few modifications, including merging some topics and not discussing the judicial cooperation topic as it was recently discussed during the EU-CELAC High Level meeting.

12. EU-Brazil expert dialogue on drugs

The EEAS representative informed the meeting that during the preparations of the EU-Brazil Joint Action Plan 2012-2014 adopted at the 5th Summit in Brussels in October 2011, several EU Member States requested the EEAS to discuss with Brazil the inclusion in the text of a bilateral drugs dialogue complementary to the bi-regional one. Therefore the current Joint Action Plan foresees that the EU and Brazil agree to “Establish a bilateral dialogue meeting on an annual basis”. He explained that Brazil had requested to launch the dialogue and hold the first meeting and that due to the already planned agenda and lack of resources of the current and forthcoming Presidencies, a temporary arrangement was made that the EEAS would organise this meeting with Brazil with the full involvement of Member States, Commission and General Secretariat of the Council. The representative mentioned that the meeting with Brazil could be organised in November 2012.

13. Report on the Dublin Group meeting

The FR delegation reported on the above-mentioned meeting held on 24 May 2012 (see doc. 11836/12 CORDROGUE 50).

14. Any other business

The DE delegation inquired about the state of play of various drug-related Commission initiatives and the representative of the Commission promised to give an overview during the forthcoming HDG meeting.
