



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 November 2012**

**16283/12**

**CORDROGUE 89**

**OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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Of: Meeting of the Dublin Group

On: 8 November 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 doc. CM 5149/12 with deletion of the following item on the agenda:

- Thematic debate on money laundering/ seizure and confiscation of criminal assets

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

The Chair reminded the delegations about the vacancy of the mini-Dublin Group on South West Asia and also asked for volunteers to take over the chairing of the central Dublin Group as well as of the Near East mini-Dublin group.

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

#### South East Asia and China

The Japanese delegation reported that ATS continued to be prevalent in the region with Myanmar being a very important country of production. The amount of seizures in neighbouring countries imply that production in Myanmar is maintained at a prominent level and the use of ATS is becoming more widespread. Involvement of criminals from West Africa is increasing. The governments of the region have been strongly committed to fight the drugs: Thailand approved a new drug strategy and Vietnamese Prime Minister signed the national antidrug programmes. During the Asian Summit held in April, the leaders adopted a declaration with a roadmap on wiping up the drug production and consumption in the region by 2015 (doc. 15842/12 CORDROGUE 78 ASIE 99).

#### Western Balkans

The HU delegation informed the meeting that the Western Balkans remained a transit region, where significant storage activities also took place. Drug consumption continues to rise, but is still at comparably low level and Western Balkans nationals are active in trafficking of skunk, heroin and cocaine. Croatian police report on a new challenge posed by the so-called Balkan cartel, which is very active both in the region and in the EU countries. Production of synthetic drugs in Serbia, with professional chemists being involved in the process, has been increasing not only to fulfil the national needs, but also to export. Cultivation of skunk is characteristic to Albania and to a smaller extent to Serbia while in Kosovo a shortage of heroin has been registered (doc. 15828/12 CORDROGUE 77 COWEB 171).

#### Eastern Europe and Caucasus

The RO delegation gave an overview of the situation in the countries monitored by Romania saying that the number of drug-related convictions decreased in Armenia, that Moldova was not an important drug transit point, that in Azerbaijan the seizures of drugs could be presented as an example and that Georgia was an illustration of successful drug policy reform.

All four countries have developed drug policy documents and adapted measures in providing treatment and rehabilitation for drug users, implemented with support of state institutions and in some cases by NGOs. The speaker mentioned a necessity to appoint a single entity to report on drugs (15812/12 CORDROGUE 76 COEST 375).

#### **4. Thematic debate on trends of illicit drugs consumption**

The representative of the EMCDDA presented the findings of the EMCDDA report on the drug situation in Europe 2012 noting that there were signs of a possible shift from the old drugs to the new ones, as there were indications of the consumption of old drugs decreasing or stabilising. He emphasised that heroin was still the source of many of Europe's drug-related problems.

Nevertheless, indicators point to a decline in the overall use of heroin and in the number of new heroin users. Injecting heroin use is also declining, however, drug injecting remains a major cause of deaths among young Europeans. Market indicators suggest that heroin has become less available in Europe in recent years, probably thanks to successful interdiction efforts and a dramatic increase in treatment availability, among other factors.

The speaker noted that the stimulant drugs market was very divided with cocaine prevailing in the south of Europe and amphetamine in the north and east. Cocaine remains the most widely used illicit stimulant in Europe with 4 million European adults (1.2 %) having used it in 2011, however, the latest data suggest that the trend may be downward and that cocaine may be losing its image as a high status drug. New psychoactive substances still pose a challenge with more than 50 new substances being reported already in 2012. The report demonstrates that cannabis remains the most popular illicit drug in Europe, and lately increasing domestic cannabis production has been reported in the EU. The speaker also reported on harm reduction measures implemented recently and on drugs in prisons, stressing that the majority of people incarcerated get into prisons because of possession of drugs, and not for trafficking offences. He also reminded that drug consumption in prison settings was higher than that in the general society and that the risk of overdoses was much higher, especially for the first two weeks after release from prison.

The Norwegian delegation noted that they also experienced problems with so-called legal highs and were currently reviewing their antidrug laws. Delegates shared their experience in dealing with these new substances and discussed on the best ways to regulate them.

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

### 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 noted that there were no significant developments on the drug situation in the region compared to the previous report. He also noted that most countries of the region were mainly used for trafficking drugs to Europe, North America and the Persian gulf states and that the major problem in the region was security and not drugs. In Yemen the main issue is qat cultivation, which accounts for a large amount of the country's income and is responsible for environmental damage. Iraq remains the transit corridor for drugs due to the geographic position, while the situation in Palestine is getting worse and officials ask for assistance in fighting against drugs. In Kuwait there is a trend to use psychotropic substances rather than traditional drugs and in Israel a growing consumption of cannabis and heroin among youth is reported (doc. 15013/12 CORDROGUE 68).

### West Africa

The FR delegation noted that the region was still a major hub for global trafficking of cocaine and that trafficking was increasing steadily with around 80 % of cocaine coming to Europe being trafficked through West Africa. The number of drug seizures remain very low comparing with the scale of trafficking. Guinea is a major point of entry for cocaine even if some authorities claim the opposite and Guinea-Bissau remains at the hub of trafficking in the subregion, against a background of general inaction and impunity. Benin and Togo continue to play a key role in the transit of drugs, in particular through seaports and airports, while Côte d'Ivoire is emerging as an increasingly important drug transit country. The changing situation in the Sahel, which has been deeply affected by the crisis in Mali, is encouraging the trafficking boom. The speaker informed the meeting that the UNODC had elaborated a strategy to fight against drug trafficking in the Sahel region and therefore would probably ask for funding for its implementation and that France had launched a regional programme ALCAO with a budget of 1,6 million euro aimed at strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and anti-money laundering officers (14683/1/12 REV1 CORDROGUE 66 COAFR 312 COSI 84 GENVAL 72).

The FR delegation also informed the meeting that the long ago planned meeting with ECOWAS finally took place to discuss the implementation of the 2008 Praia drugs action plan and that the results of this meeting were positive as due to the change of Presidency and commissioners there was more political commitment from ECOWAS to implement this action plan. The Plan should be renewed and could be implemented as from 2013 with the same funds (19,5 million euro) being used.

### North Africa

The ES delegation informed the meeting that the situation with drug production remained the same since the last report and that big seizures were only registered for cannabis. Lately around 500 tons of cannabis were seized in Morocco, while other seizures were much smaller in size. Cannabis seizures were up in Algeria and Egypt. The speaker noted that Moroccan authorities claimed to have succeeded to reduce the territory planted with cannabis, however, it seemed that production remained the same (doc. 15355/12 CORDROGUE 71 COAFR 336).

### Mozambique

The UK delegation noted that Mozambique continued to be a major concern as its porous borders made Mozambique an attractive trafficking point. Evidence of the authorities' commitment to deal with the problem are limited. Seizures are very low (despite the intelligence showing big flows of drug trafficking) and law enforcement officers do not have the capacity to fight efficiently against trafficking. Mozambique has a national drugs strategy, however, investigation is needed to see if it is properly implemented. The speaker informed the meeting that the UNODC recently introduced the container control programme in the country (doc. 15457/12 CORDROGUE 72 COAFR 338).

### South America

The ES delegation informed the meeting that the UNODC had published their monitoring report on Colombia, Peru and Bolivia demonstrating a decrease in surface covered by coca bushes in Colombia and Bolivia and some increase in Peru, decrease of the production of coca leafs in Bolivia and increase in Peru and decrease of cocaine seizures in Colombia.

Clandestine laboratories are established in new countries and were recently detected also in Bolivia and Peru, and it seems that cocaine production is going from Colombia to other countries with recent reports from Argentina and Ecuador. Drugs are mostly consumed in Argentina and Brazil, while consumption is also rising in Colombia. Cannabis produced in Paraguay is used in the whole region, but hardly leaves the region. Colombia and some other countries have reported poppy cultivation in their countries. Concerning the debate on drug policy reform, the delegate informed the meeting that Uruguay decided to legalise cannabis and that Ecuador and Argentina were seeking to decriminalise the use of all drugs (doc. 15549/12 CORDROGUE 73 AMLAT 62)

### Central America

The US delegation gave an oral presentation on the developments in Central America, informing the delegates that a comprehensive written report would be provided for the next Dublin Group meeting. He noted that the major concerns in the region were drug trafficking and citizen security, as well as the emergence of synthetic drugs production in Central America and Mexico. He also noted that the political will to fight against drugs and violence was present in the region and explained that they were working together with the region to assist them in implementing the adopted laws. Concerning the ongoing debate on the drug policy reform in Central America, the speaker stressed that the international community had the necessary legal framework to fight against drug trafficking, which was still relevant and called for improving the implementation of the framework. He also informed the meeting that Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia submitted to the UN a request to make a profound reflection on all options for drug policies. Also, a request was made to convene a special UN session on drugs to review the global drug policy.

### The Caribbean

The Canadian delegate informed the meeting that the region remained an important and growing transshipment hub for illicit drugs trafficked to North America and Europe, however, since the last report some progress addressing the impact of illicit drugs had been achieved in a number of countries. The need for capacity-building remains a common theme and recurring issues include corruption, infiltration by drug traffickers into governments at varying levels, political influence over the police, stalled or inadequate legislative measures and, in some cases, a perceived lack of political will to address the drug problem. In several countries, the problem of employees and police officers colluding with drug traffickers was highlighted.

No significant use of or trafficking in synthetic drugs is reported: marihuana and cocaine, and to a much lesser extent heroin, remain the drugs of choice. Anti-drug efforts are concentrated on fighting against drug supply reduction, while demand reduction efforts continue to lag and many countries are without or have not renewed their national antidrug plan (doc. 15791/12 CORDROGUE 75).

Delegations also exchanged their experience in implementing successful alternative development programmes in Asia and Latin America.

## **7. AOB**

No issues were discussed under AOB.

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