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NOTE

From: EU co-Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs - Annual Report June 2015 - June 2016

Delegations will find in annex the above-mentioned document, to be adopted at the forthcoming XVIII High Level meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs to be held on 16-17 June 2016 in the Netherlands.

This report is the result of the regular analysis of the activities carried out and results achieved within the framework of the Mechanism in the period from June 2015 to June 2016. The information contained in this report is limited to inter-regional programmes and does not contain information on other funded EU programmes at regional and bilateral level in the field of drugs.

1. EU-CELAC Technical Committee Meetings

Three meetings of the Technical Committee took place during this period: on 10 July 2015 under the co-presidency of Luxembourg and Mexico, and on 12 May 2016 and 9 June 2016 under the co-presidency of the Netherlands and Mexico.

The meeting of 10 July 2015 was dedicated to discussing the results of the High Level Meeting in Montevideo. The delegations reported on the drug situation and policy developments in the EU and CELAC and were updated on the EU-CELAC cooperation activities, developed under the COPOLAD programme, as well as on EU cooperation activities with certain CELAC countries under the Cocaine Route Programme. The meeting also exchanged views on UNGASS 2016 on the World Drug Problem.

The meetings held on 12 May and 9 June dealt with preparations for the XVIIIth High Level Meeting to be held in the Netherlands on 16-17 June 2016, identifying two topics for the thematic debates during the High Level Meeting and discussing the draft political declaration. During the meeting on 12 May the delegations also exchanged views on the outcome of UNGASS 2016, reported on the development in drug situation and policies in the EU and CELAC and were updated on EU-CELAC cooperation activities.

2. EU-CELAC Cooperation

Cooperation Programme on drugs policies between Latin America and the European Union (COPOLAD)

The cooperation Programme between Latin American countries and the European Union on drugs Policies (COPOLAD) was conceived as a programme which aims to strengthen information exchange and coordination / cooperation between the national agencies and other actors responsible for drugs policies in both regions, as well as the policy dialogue in the framework of the EU-CELAC mechanism on drugs.

During the first phase, from January 2011 until June 2015, all countries and Institutions that have participated in COPOLAD have contributed to develop a broad range of evidence based activities aiming at strengthening the bi-regional dialogue on drugs policies; developing consensus processes for enhancing the role of National Drugs Observatories, to obtain quality information gathering useful for policy making and support for better sound policies; and a capacity building strategy tailored to professionals and decision maker's needs, both from the drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction sectors.

Many important results have been achieved in all four components of the programme – consolidation of the Mechanism, strengthening of national observatories, capacity building in demand reduction and in supply reduction – as seen in detail during the COPOLAD closing Conference held in Uruguay in February 2015.

Building on its success, COPOLAD II, with a budget of 10 million EUR, restarted in the beginning of 2016, for four more years. The kick off meeting took place in Brussels on 21 March 2016 with all the partners participants in the programme. COPOLAD II will continue supporting the comprehensive, balanced, evidence-based approach to drugs issues pursued by the first phase, based on international cooperation and dialogue, as well as on demand and supply reduction, in line with the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 and related Action Plan. The four components remain the same but are organised differently:

Component 1: Consolidation of the national observatories

Component 2: Capacity-building in reduction of demand

Component 3: Capacity-building in reduction of supply

Component 4: Policy support, dialogue and consolidation of the Mechanism

As regards Precursors activities, these activities will play a more dominant role in the programme, given that the PRELAC project (led by UNODC and financed by the EU under the Cocaine Route Programme, with the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)) since March 2009 ended in February 2016; under COPOLAD II, the EU will concentrate its support to fight against the diversion of precursors.

All the Caribbean countries are now part of COPOLAD II activities on an equal footing, without restriction on expenses as known before.

The "first" COPOLAD II Annual Conference will take place on 14 and 15 June 2016 in the Netherlands. As in the previous years, the Conference will include a debate, focused this year on evidence-based policies: "From evidence to practice: challenges in the field of drugs policies".

3. Other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives in which some CELAC countries participate

The Cocaine Route Programme

The multi-year Cocaine Route Programme (CRP) was launched in 2009, and since then the European Union has committed almost €50 million to over 40 countries along the cocaine route from the countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa, essentially West Africa.

The overall objective of this trans-regional action is to enhance the capacity for international cooperation of law enforcement and judicial services of the partner countries to contribute to the fight against international criminal networks, thereby encouraging South-South cooperation and exchanges of best practices. By providing support to partner countries' capacities, technical advice and encouraging cooperation via nine self-standing components, the CRP has been carrying out activities in four main domains, notably the interception of illicit flows of drugs, the fight against money laundering, the improvement of information sharing and criminal justice cooperation and investigations.

Among the components of this programme, the following projects have been implemented in some CELAC countries over the last year.

1. Prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region (PRELAC)

Started in 2009, the project's purpose is to contribute to curtailing the manufacture of drugs and their trafficking by assisting partner countries in combatting the diversion of precursors from the licit trade in collaboration with private sector operators. It covers seventeen CELAC countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Implemented by UNODC the project came to an end in February 2016 after seven years of uninterrupted assistance to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, strengthening drug precursor chemicals control systems.

The specific objectives of the project were to strengthen the capacities of national administrative control authorities to prevent the diversion of precursors and to enhance the cooperation between partner countries as well as mutual exchange of information (via a precursor information sharing system at regional level).

In the second half of 2015, PRELAC in coordination with the Office of Organized Crime (PROCUNAR), conducted training sessions for prosecutors and judges in Argentina. It provided training for administrative officials in Guatemala and El Salvador to streamline the registration system and transactions module. It has also produced a comprehensive report on the situation regarding the IT registration and automated information processing systems. Its goals were multiple, including: building up consensus on a model of control, based on EU and CELAC experience; strengthening IT information management systems; promoting institutional/international collaboration; developing technical-scientific research/investigation to support policy and strategy making; and promoting voluntary collaboration with the private sector.

Thanks to the activities organised by PRELAC, more than 4000 people have been trained in preliminary identification of chemical precursors, the use and management of computer data systems, customs control, risk profiling, detection techniques and procedures for administrative control. Moreover, 128 international meetings and workshops were organised, often with the economic support of the beneficiary countries. The PRELAC project also developed, installed, started up and followed up 12 IT information systems that would connect the beneficiary countries to the PRELAC portal.

The project organized a final meeting with EU authorities, CORMS and COPOLAD in Brussels in mid February to provide an account of lessons learnt, achievements and future challenges that still need to be addressed by the EU and LAC countries in preventing the diversion of drug precursor chemicals.

Several challenges have been identified for the future regarding precursor control: the importance of the recognition and categorisation of non-scheduled substances, and how these, although considered legal in some countries, may be utilised in cocaine synthesis; the problem of the management of the seized substances (storage, control, and final disposal); the identification of precursors for new synthetic drugs; the strengthening of forensic labs and research centres not only for analysis and investigation of precursor chemicals but also for developing new technologies, as non-intrusive substance scanners.

In general, PRELAC has shown that law enforcement agencies have limited knowledge on precursor chemicals for the production of illegal drugs. This is why cooperation with other institutions, such as CICAD and the American DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), is vital, as well as finding a balance between free trade treaties and administrative controls.

2. *Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP)*

Implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, the Airport Communications Project (AIRCOP) was launched in 2010. AIRCOP aims at strengthening detection, interdiction and investigative capacities of participating international airports through the sharing of operational information and the establishment and training of inter-service Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) to better equip beneficiary countries to fight against illicit trafficking and various other forms of transnational crime. JAITFs are connected to international law enforcement databases and communication networks (Interpol I-24/7 and World Customs Organisation CENcomm) so as to encourage the real time transmission of information aimed at intercepting illicit shipments.

CELAC countries included in AIRCOP's geographical scope are: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Panama and Peru.

As of April 2016, 1803 officials have been trained over 95 training actions; 12 joint operations have taken place; 17 JAITFs are operational (Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon (Douala, Yaoundé), Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica (Kingston, Montego Bay), Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo, Punta Cana) and Panama); in 500 seizures made by the JAITFs, a total of 1149 kg cocaine, 780 kg cannabis, 128 kg heroin, 772 kg methamphetamine, 1.4 tons of counterfeit drugs, US\$ 3,096,906 and US\$ 240,000 counterfeit dollars have been seized.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic was the first country in the region to formally join the project, following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in October 2013.

The JAITF office at Las Americas International Airport in Santo Domingo was set up in February 2014 and shortly thereafter the JAITF personnel underwent the initial basic training led by the Dutch National Police and Royal Military and Border Police as well as the CENcomm training.

In November 2014, the Santo Domingo JAITF personnel received a second follow-up training by the Dutch National Police and Royal Military and Border Police as well as the I-24/7 training with the support of the INTERPOL Regional Office in El Salvador.

In 2015, after experiencing significant delays which hampered the efficiency and effectiveness of the units, a new approach to implementation in the Dominican Republic was taken. New Standard Operating Procedures were finalized and through collaboration with the National Steering Committee, more political commitment was developed, leading to a new impetus in project implementation in Punta Cana and Santo Domingo.

After commencing activities in Santo Domingo, the JAITF in Punta Cana started operations in 2015. Training and mentoring actions delivered on 29 June - 10 July 2015 in Santo Domingo and 2 to 13 November 2015 in Punta Cana as well as equipment delivered by the project has increased operational efficiency of the JAITFs. A second mentoring session took place in March 2016 at both airports and a third session is planned for June 2016.

The units in both Punta Cana and Santo Domingo have already recorded seizures and increased collaboration in day to day work, leading to increasing and more sustainable success of AIRCOP in the Dominican Republic.

Panama

The Republic of Panama was the second country in the region to formally join the project, following the signing of the MoU in April 2014. In December 2014, the JAITF personnel underwent the initial basic training led by the Dutch National Police and Royal Military and Border Police, the I-24/7 training by the INTERPOL Regional Office in El Salvador and the CENcomm training by WCO.

In April 2015, the JAITF office was set up and officially inaugurated during the Annual AIRCOP Meeting. Shortly thereafter, operations formally began at Tocumen International Airport. As part of its continued support to counter drug trafficking efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean, AIRCOP organised on-site mentoring sessions for the Panama City JAITF at Tocumen International Airport on 15-26 June 2015, led by Brazilian Federal Police. A second mentoring session took place in April 2016 led also by Brazilian Federal Police, and a third session is planned for June 2016.

Jamaica

Jamaica was the third country in the region to formally join the project, with the signing of the MoU on 10 December 2014. JAITFs have been established at the airports in Kingston and Montego Bay. From 17-28 August 2015 initial training was delivered to the JAITF in Montego Bay, while the JAITF in Kingston underwent its first basic training from 24 November to 2 December 2015. Both JAITFs received a specialised training on the use of CENcomm and their workspace has been fully equipped. Mentoring sessions are planned for April, May and June 2016 at both airports.

The late start to operations in Jamaica has been counteracted by solid determination of JAITF officials, renewed political will from participating agencies and quick succession of cases and results since the initiation of activities in April 2016.

Barbados

On 3 February 2016, Barbados signed a MoU for the implementation of AIRCOP at the Grantley Adams International Airport. Subsequently initial training was organised from 8 to 12 February. After some delays due to lack of available space at the Grantley Adams Airport, the JAITF workspace was confirmed in mid-April and all equipment is expected to be delivered in the first weeks of May. Mentoring sessions are planned for May and June 2016.

Argentina

Despite the initial delay AIRCOP successfully approached Argentina in October 2015. Shortly thereafter, the first AIRCOP specialized training was delivered in Buenos Aires from 25 January to 5 February 2016, for officials from the Airport Security Police (PSA), Argentine Federal Police (PFA), Argentine Tax and Customs Authority (AFIP) and INTERPOL Argentina at Ezeiza International Airport. The two-week training covered methods to fight drug trafficking by air, targeting and risk profiling of passengers and luggage, collection and exchange of information, interview techniques, criminal network analysis and anti-corruption operations, with a strong emphasis on air cargo interdiction and forgery of documents. Specialized training on the use of the WCO CENcomm system was delivered as well. The JAITF is now fully formed awaiting dedicated workspace at the airport which is already identified at the airport. One mentoring session has already been delivered, while second and third session are planned for May and June 2016. The signing of the MoU is foreseen for May 2016 as well.

Colombia

Despite significant delays which hampered the inclusion of Colombia as an associate country, in February 2016, following a new round of negotiations with the relevant agencies, UNODC transmitted a letter of understanding to Colombia and subsequently a CENcomm training was held in Bogotá in March 2016.

The first positive response to this letter was transmitted by Colombian National Police on 26 April 2016, demonstrating agreement to join the AIRCOP project. Further positive communication is expected from Customs and Immigration in the coming weeks.

Joint Operations Latina America and the Caribbean – Africa - Europe

Joint Operation FOLOSA

Led by INTERPOL with the support of UNODC, WCO and Europol in the framework of AIRCOP, the Joint Operation FOLOSA targeting drug trafficking from Latin America to Europe via Africa recorded remarkable results with nearly 170 kg of drugs seized worth an estimated EUR 10 million (66 cases covering 64 seizures of which 38 cocaine seizures) and 50 people arrested. The operation was coordinated from the Sao Paulo Guarulhos International Airport in Brazil by their INTERCOPS Unit. During the operation, which ran from 19 to 28 September 2015, law enforcement and customs officials from 22 countries conducted enhanced controls on departing, transiting and arriving passengers at international airports on known smuggling routes, including via the Middle East. Spain was the first destination country in terms of cocaine seizures, while Colombia and Nigeria were the top nationalities of perpetrators.

Joint Operation COCAIR V

Led by WCO, in close co-operation with the UNODC and INTERPOL in the framework of AIRCOP, the Joint Operation COCAIR V recorded remarkable results with 578 kg of drugs seized (79 seizures of which 40 seizures of cocaine for 411 kg), 750 ammunitions, several falsified documents as well as US\$ 1,721,325. Operation COCAIR V, which covered 26 countries and 28 airports, took place from 5 to 13 December 2015. Operation COCAIR V can be considered a major success with over 70 people involved in trafficking arrested, 12 hits in the INTERPOL databases were identified and followed up and over 8,000 messages were exchanged through CENcomm during the 10-day operation. Brazil recorded the highest number of cocaine seizures, followed by Dominican Republic.

Negotiations with national authorities are on-going in El Salvador, Brazil, and Peru and activities are expected to be launched during 2016.

3. *AMERIPOL - EU project*

Started in 2011 and implemented by FIIAPP the project came to an end in December 2015. It was aimed at enhancing the capacity for international cooperation of law enforcement, judicial and prosecuting authorities of partner countries by strengthening the exchange of information and of intelligence and improving prosecutors and law enforcement agencies' capability to carry out complex investigations at regional and trans-regional levels, mainly via the AMERIPOL Community.

Countries covered included: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela.

Until the end of the project over 400 officials have been trained during 22 training actions; 10 joint operations have been supported by the project leading to seizures of over 850 kg of cocaine, over 11 million euros in cash, boats, vehicles, property; 6 AMERIPOL units are now operational ((Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru) and the pilot information system Sistema de Información Policial de AMERIPOL (SIPA) is in place. The project has also delivered 3 publications.

The project had consolidated itself as a useful and effective tool in the region by also giving it a trans-regional dimension that is reflected in the creation of preliminary cooperation channels between West Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

In the last 6 months of implementation of the project AMERIPOL-EU organized several activities including:

- Training course on combating cybercrime from 1 to 9 June, with participation of 15 Latin American police officials and prosecutors in Spain
- International Course on Combating the Falsification of Travel Documents and Human Trafficking by Land, Sea and Air took place from 6 to 17 July 2015 in Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Seminar on fighting drug trafficking along the African Route during the last week of October 2015 in Praia, Cape Verde

The closing event of the project was held in Bogota, Colombia on 2 December 2015 at the AMERIPOL Headquarters. Activities of the AMERIPOL-EU project will continue under the DCI upcoming regional programme on Citizen Security and Rule of Law.

4. GAFILAT - EU project

Started in 2010 and directly implemented by the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT, formerly GAFISUD), the projects covers all GAFILAT Member States and aims at supporting their coordinated action to fight organised crime and financial crimes. In particular, it supports compliance with the new FATF international standards, improves the preventive and repressive systems in the areas where mutual evaluations show greater weaknesses; strengthens existing capacities and procedures in the field of combat asset laundering as well as administrative, judicial and law enforcement cooperation.

Outputs achieved so far (March 2016) include: 1548 officials trained during 44 training courses; 12 joint operations and 12 publications.

Currently in its third and final phase which will finish in December 2016, the GAFILAT-EU project has been supporting activities which commenced under the previous phases to ensure continuity of its actions.

A number of capacity building workshops, were organised in several Latin American countries (GAFILAT Member States) for, inter alia, police officers, prosecutors, officials from the GAFILAT Member States' Financial Intelligence Units or from any other institution in charge of fighting against money laundering, as well as from European Member States (Spain, France), other donors and regional organisations (FATF, OAS-CICAD, UNODC, IMF, World Bank, IDB, UN-CTED). Topics discussed were process of money laundering and asset investigation, international/inter-institutional cooperation, asset recovery, cross-border cash and value transport, corruption, national risk assessment, risk-based approach, FATF Recommendations and mutual evaluations.

Activities carried out or planned are:

- 28-30 July 2015 - "Laundering proceeds of Corruption. Primary Challenges in the Context of the 40 Recommendations and the Fourth Round of Mutual Evaluation" Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- 24 Aug - 4 Sep 2015 - "Intensive Course on Asset Investigation and Money Laundering" Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- 31 Aug - 4 Sep 2015 - Training Seminar for Evaluators, Lima (Peru)
- 28 Sept- 2 Oct 2015 - Module III: Workshop on Asset Investigation in the fight against money laundering, Montevideo (Uruguay)
- 26-29 Oct 2015 - Meeting of the contact points of the GAFILAT Asset Recovery Network (RRAG), Santiago (Chile)
- 8-10 March 2016 - Coordination Workshop on Cross-Border Transportation of Cash and Bearer Negotiable Instruments for the Next Intensified Monitored in-situ Exercise, Managua (Nicaragua)
- 11-15 April 2016 - 14th Global Programme on Anti-Corruption, Financial Crimes and Asset Recovery in the Environmental Sector, Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- 3-5 May 2016 - XIII Meeting of Contact Points of the GAFILAT Asset Recovery Network (RRAG), Guatemala City (Guatemala)
- 18-20 May 2016 - Biannual Regional Meeting on Typologies, La Paz (Bolivia)

5. *Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP)*

Started in 2010 and implemented so far in selected countries in Western Africa, the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) has been extended as of January 2015 to 11 countries in the Eastern Caribbean, namely Barbados, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Trinidad and Tobago.

The overall objective of SEACOP is to support the fight against maritime illicit trafficking and associated criminal networks in the targeted countries and regions. Against this, its purpose is to provide the means (equipment, IT tools, and the related skills) to targeted countries and regions to:

1. Reinforce their seaport control and intelligence capacities by setting up, consolidating and equipping dedicated Units in seaports or sensitive coastal areas;
2. Improve or set up local maritime information and control systems;
3. Enhance the operational delivery and cooperation at national, regional and transregional levels.

Created to strengthen capacities to combat maritime trafficking along the cocaine route SEACOP aims to set up Joint Maritime Control Units (JMCU) and Maritime Intelligence Units (MIU) in key ports. During 2015 and 2016 JMCUs and MIUs have been established in the Eastern Caribbean, staff selected, trained and vetted, forming a real network in the main ports. With support from the WCO all the intelligence units are linked to CENcomm. In addition to the initial training courses, further mentoring by trainers will be delivered during visits in November 2016 and during 2017. Equipment will be delivered to both MIUs and JMCUs within the coming months.

Support is being provided to CCLEC (Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council) and the 11 countries to make more effective use of the RCS (Regional Clearance System) a regional maritime information system. Additional computer stations and IT equipment is being provided, along with additional training for RCS users.

Draft MOUs have been sent to all of the 11 beneficiary countries, signed with Antigua, British Virgin Islands, Grenada and St Vincent in addition to CCLEC, and the others are awaiting formal signature. All MOUs should be finalized within the next 2 months.

SEACOP has been extended until December 2018, with seven top priority countries selected in Latin America to include Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Brazil, Panama, Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

6. Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS)

The Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS) project was created to assist the EC in managing the integration of the different CRP components into a coherent, mutually reinforcing programme as well as ensuring coordination with other relevant initiatives, regardless of whether they are planned or carried out by the EU, EU member states or other international and regional actors. Currently ending its second phase the project will continue into a third one which will run until May 2020.

The “Stakeholder Information meeting on the EU Cocaine Route Programme” organised by CORMS took place on 4 November 2015 in Brussels. Dedicated to increasing synergies in the fight against transnational organised crime, the event was an opportunity for the different CRP projects to exchange experience and update on achievements. The audience included a variety of stakeholders including members from the permanent representations of EU member states and beneficiary countries as well as officials from the EC and the European External Action Service (EEAS) and other international organisations.

Under its monitoring and evaluation mandate CORMS visited Peru for a field mission at the end of February 2016.

CORMS will also participate in the upcoming GAFILAT-EU meeting of the Asset recovery Network (RRAG) which will take place from 2 to 5 May in Guatemala.

7. *Strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the Cocaine Route (CRIMJUST)*

On 24 December 2015, the EU and UNODC signed an agreement for the implementation of this four-year project with a geographical scope on selected countries in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Implementation will be carried out by UNODC, jointly with INTERPOL and Transparency International.

The CRIMJUST project is expected to build synergies and complementarity with other projects developed under the Cocaine Route Programme (i.e. AIRCOP, SEACOP, GAFILAT-EU, CORMS), and support the Programme in its strategic approach against organised crime and drugs trafficking. To do this, the CRIMJUST project will carry out work in the following main domains:

- Complementary and coordinated action with other projects of the Cocaine Route Programme
- Capacity building of criminal justice entities in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (law enforcement and the judiciary) to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate organised crime and drug trafficking cases
- Effective inter-regional criminal justice action to tackle organised crime and drug trafficking (including South-South cooperation and the exchange of relevant experience with EU countries)
- Re-enforcement of institutional integrity, accountability and anti-corruption related practices of criminal justice entities when dealing with organised crime and drug trafficking cases.

Regarding CELAC countries, the CRIMJUST project is expected to work with (but not limited to) national authorities in Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.