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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	12 May 2016
To:	Delegations
Subject:	EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting on 12 May 2016

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### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda outlined in doc. CM 2257/1/16 REV 1.

### 2. Exchange of views on the outcome of UNGASS 2016

Delegations exchanged views on the outcome of UNGASS 2016 on drugs. Some CELAC delegations stressed the importance of UNGASS in turning global drug policy towards a more health and human rights based approach as well as a more integrated approach, and also appreciated the recognition of the flexibility within the UN Drug control conventions. However, they noted that UNGASS 2016 was only the starting point and hoped that further progress could be made towards the target date of 2019, including as regards the abolition of death penalty for drug-related offences and decriminalisation of drug consumption. Some delegations also pointed out the need to set a roadmap towards the target date of 2019 and determine appropriate mechanisms to have inclusive discussions. It was also noted that there was more common understanding gained between the EU and CELAC in the process of UNGASS.

The EU co-Presidency reported on the successful side events held at UNGASS 2016 on the abolition of the death penalty for drug-related offences, the importance of evidence-based approaches and the COPOLAD II programme. The speaker noted that the outcome of UNGASS 2016 was quite positive and progress was made in a number of areas, but regretted that the concept of risk and harm reduction as such was not included in the UNGASS outcome document, and that the document did not make any reference to the abolition of the death penalty for drug-related offences. The EU co-Presidency also shared the view that UNGASS 2016 was just a starting point and hoped that the concept of risk and harm reduction and the reference to the abolition of the death penalty could be included by the target date of 2019.

### **3. Update on the drug situation and policy developments in the EU and CELAC**

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting about the latest developments in drug policies in the EU, including the evaluation of the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 and Action Plan 2013-2016 and the forthcoming major meeting on internet and drugs, which would involve a wide range of stakeholders.

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the main results of the recently published EU drugs market report, which included for the first time the estimate of the size of the illicit drug market in the EU, the estimated value of this market being at least EUR 24 billion per annum (range: EUR 21 to 31 billion). He also noted that cannabis market constituted 38 % (EUR 9.3 billion), heroin 28 % (EUR 6.8 billion) and cocaine 24 % of the market share (EUR 5.7 billion). However, no estimate was yet available for new psychoactive substances.

The speaker also informed the meeting that 100 new psychoactive substances were reported to the EMCDDA for the first time in 2015 and that the EU Early Warning System currently monitored more than 560 substances, of which 78 % appeared over the last five years. He explained that the number, type and availability of new psychoactive substances were showing no signs of slowing down. Also, the expert noted on the important role the internet, including the darknet, played in drug business acting both as a sales point and communication facilitator for drug traffickers. The report also concluded that effective drug prevention, treatment and harm reduction interventions were as important as interventions aimed at reducing supply.

The representatives of the Dominican Republic reported on the results of the III Ministerial Meeting on the world drug problem of the CELAC held on 3-4 March 2016 in Dominican Republic, during which the Santo Domingo Declaration was adopted outlining the commitment to continue developing human-centered drug policies and to treat drugs as a public health problem. The Declaration also stressed the importance of applying the principle of proportionality and commitment to implement alternative measures to sentencing.

#### **4. Outcome of the EU-CELAC cooperation activities**

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the developments within the different components of the Cocaine Route programme. She noted that the SEACOP project was one of the success stories and informed the meeting that the AIRCOP project was extended to the end of this year. She also explained that the PRELAC project was finalised and a meeting was held in mid February 2016 to sum up the lessons learnt, achievements and future challenges that still needed to be addressed by the EU and CELAC countries in preventing the diversion of drug precursor chemicals.

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the main outcomes of the COPOLAD I programme and introduced the COPOLAD II programme, informing the meeting that COPOLAD II would include the same components as well as an additional component on drug precursors. She also gave an overview of the COPOLAD II side events held at the 59th CND session in Vienna and UNGASS 2016 in New York.

#### **5. XVIII High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs**

The EU co-Presidency outlined the practicalities as regards the forthcoming EU-CELAC High Level meeting to be held on 16-17 June 2016 in the Hague and introduced the draft Hague declaration, centered around the five UNGASS topics. As regards the agenda of the meeting, the EU co-Presidency proposed that for each thematic debate one presentation from CELAC and one from the EU side, not exceeding 15 minutes, was made. The Spanish delegation proposed to make an additional presentation on the Iberoamerican Network of Antidrug Prosecutors (*Red Iberoamericana de Fiscales Antidroga*) on the second day of the meeting. The EU co-Presidency also noted that the draft EU-CELAC annual report would be made available to CELAC delegations shortly.

## 6. AOB

### – *Information on the annual COPOLAD II meeting*

The representative of the COPOLAD II programme gave an update on the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 14-15 June 2016 in the Hague and informed the meeting that the deadline for hotel booking was extended to 16 May 2016.

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