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REPORT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 12 October 2016
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcomes of the EU-CELAC technical committee meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as outlined in doc. CM 3928/16.

2. Update on the drug situation and policy developments in the EU and CELAC:

The CELAC co-Presidency gave an overview of development as regards the work of CICAD and the preparation of the action plan on drugs for the period 2016-2020. The speaker noted that new psychoactive substances caused a lot of concern and collaboration with industry was important in tackling them. He also emphasized the necessity to tackle the root causes of the world drug problem in order to address this drugs phenomenon in an efficient manner.

The representative of the EMCDDA and Commission gave an overview of the latest trends in the EU drugs situation and policy developments. They also stressed the challenge caused by new psychoactive substances, as for the last two years two new psychoactive substances have been appearing on the European market every week, mainly imitating the effects of cannabis and cocaine. The representative of the Commission also informed delegations about the ongoing evaluation of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2013-2016, to which some of the CELAC countries also contributed.

3. Report on the XVIIIth High Level Meeting of the CELAC – EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

The Dutch delegation gave an overview of the above-mentioned meeting held on 16-17 June 2016 in the Hague under the Dutch and Mexican co-Presidencies, during which the Hague declaration was adopted outlining the basis for the further EU and CELAC cooperation in the field of drugs. The Mexican delegation stressed the importance of the EU-CELAC Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism on Drugs for advancing bi-regional cooperation in this field and recalled that EU and CELAC had many common priorities. The speaker also expressed commitment to promote further cooperation with the EU including towards the 2019 global drug policy review.

4. Outcome of the EU-CELAC cooperation activities

The representatives of the Commission and the COPOLAD II programme updated delegations on the forthcoming activities to be held by the end of this year in the framework of the COPOLAD II programme: drug precursor-related activities to be held in Spain in November, an annual meeting of national drug observatories in Jamaica and an event on alternative development in Colombia. The speakers also mentioned some activities foreseen in the beginning of 2017, including activities on alternatives to coercive sanctions.

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the latest developments in different components of the Cocaine Route Programme. The speaker informed the meeting that the AIRCOP programme would be launched in a few new CELAC countries, that a number of activities had been organised under the GAFILAD programme, including an exercise on regional typologies in Bolivia and a workshop on national risk assessment in Costa Rica and that seven training courses were organized in nine countries of Eastern Caribbean under the SEACOP programme. He also explained that the CRIMJUST programme had been launched recently and included two beneficiaries and a number of associated countries from CELAC.

5. Exchange of views on implementation of the UNGASS outcome document towards a balanced, comprehensive and integrated approach to address the World Drug Problem in 2019

The EU co-Presidency expressed satisfaction with the results of UNGASS 2016 on drugs and the UNGASS outcome document, which included new language on many important topics and provided a more comprehensive structure, away from the traditional three pillars of the 2009 Political Declaration, which allowed for more holistic discussions on the world drug problem in the future. The Presidency, however, regretted that no reference to the abolition of the death penalty for drug-related offences was made in the outcome document and that the concept of "risk and harm reduction" did not appear. The EU side also stressed the importance of the implementation of recommendations foreseen in the UNGASS outcome document.

The delegations of Peru, Colombia and El Salvador shared the views on the UNGASS results and process towards 2019. The delegation of Peru welcomed the UNGASS outcome, encouraged to exchange views on its implementations and also emphasized the importance of the practical implementation of the UNGASS outcome document. The delegation of Colombia observed that new indicators were needed to allow for measuring the progress achieved in the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document. The delegation of El Salvador explained their efforts to include certain recommendations of the UNGASS outcome document in national legislation.

6. AOB

- EU-CELAC Senior Officials Meeting

The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the above-mentioned meeting held on 14-16 July 2016 in Brussels.