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CORDROGUE 28
SAN 74
USA 11

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	10 February 2017
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Outcome of the EU-US videoconference on drugs of 10 February 2017

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. 5629/1/17 REV 1.

2. Developments in the drugs situation and policies in the EU and in the U.S., including on new psychoactive substances

The representatives of the Presidency, Commission, EMCDDA and Europol updated the US delegation on the latest trends in drug production, trafficking and consumption in the EU and on policy developments, including the progress with the draft EU legislation aimed at tackling new psychoactive substances.

The US delegation gave an overview of drug consumption trends among different populations in the US. Marihuana was still the most widely consumed drug, while the second most commonly used drug was prescribed medicines. The speaker informed the meeting that an incremental increase was observed in the use of heroin, but, there was a sharp increase in fatalities. The representative explained that transition from prescription opioids to heroin was also taking place. He also explained that the number of overdose deaths was high.

3. Information from the U.S. on the situation with fentanyl

The US delegation gave an overview of the situation in the US with fentanyl, explaining that they associated the increasing number of overdose deaths with injection of fentanyl. The speaker recalled the initiative to bring two fentanyl precursors - ANPP and NPP under international control and asked the EU to support this initiative at the vote at the forthcoming Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) session in Vienna in March 2017.

The representative of the Commission informed the US delegation that the EU was coordinating its position as regards the proposed international control of ANPP and NPP and explained the procedure for scheduling precursors under the EU law. The representative of the EMCDDA noted that in the EU fentanyl was geographically limited and consumed in limited populations, however, there were signs that the situation might be changing.

4. Preparation for the 60th CND session, including presentation of plans to table draft CND resolutions and hold side events

The US presented the draft proposals for the resolutions to be tabled at the forthcoming CND session on interagency cooperation and on precursors as well as side events to be organised at the session. The Presidency informed the US delegation about the EU side event on alternatives to coercive sanctions to be organised on at the CND session. The delegations also discussed the proposed international scheduling of ten new psychoactive substances. The Presidency informed the meeting that the EU will take the EU-wide decision on one of these substances on the list - MDMB-CHMICA by the end of February 2017.

5. Exchange of views on the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document and 2019 global drug policy review

Delegations exchanged views on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document. There was an agreement that the focus should now be on UNGASS implementation, given that UNGASS was a milestone in drugs policy. The importance of strengthening the interagency cooperation between different UN bodies as an outcome of UNGASS was also emphasised.

6. U.S.-European Collaboration in Educating the Global Drug Prevention and Treatment Workforce

The representative of the US presented various initiatives aimed at strengthening drug treatment professionals, one of which was developing a university curriculum on drugs in US and other countries. The delegations shared their ideas on the possible cooperation with the EU in this respect.

The speaker also presented another initiative - the recently established International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR), led by one university in the Czech Republic and another university in the US. He informed the delegations that the next meeting of this Consortium would be held in Prague in June 2017.

The US delegation also presented the recently established International Society of Substance Use Professionals, launched at the global conference hosted in Thailand by the INCB, the aim of which was to connect treatment and prevention workforce with scientific community. The speaker informed the meeting that the next conference of this Society would be hosted in Mexico. The speaker invited the EU side to look at possible ways of cooperation.

7. Any other business

No issues were discussed under this agenda item.
