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Interinstitutional File:
2017/0026 (NLE)

CORDROGUE 21
SAN 64

'A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
No. prev. doc.:	6504/1/17 REV 1 + ADD 1
Subject:	Draft Council decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the scheduling of substances under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 = Adoption

1. The market for new psychoactive substances (NPS) has changed dramatically in the past few years and NPS are appearing at unprecedented pace, posing a risk to public health and safety. The WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence evaluates the risk posed by these substances and therefore can recommend to schedule the dangerous substances under the UN Drugs Conventions.
2. On 2 December 2016, the WHO recommended to the Secretary-General of the UN to add two new substances (opiates) to Schedule I of the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and eight new psychoactive substances to Schedule II of the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) should, during its 60th session of 13 to 17 March 2017 in Vienna, take decisions on the addition of these new substances to the Schedules of the Conventions.

3. In this context, on 6 February 2017, Commission tabled the proposal for a Council decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the 60th CND session on the scheduling of substances under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (doc. 5912/17 + ADD1 CORDROGUE 11 SAN 52 RELEX 93).
4. The Commission proposal was analysed at the meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) on 9-10 February 2017 and drafting amendments were requested by 17 February 2017. The revised version of the proposal was issued as doc. 6504/17 + ADD 1 and was further discussed at the JHA counsellors meeting on 22 February 2017, where further amendments to the proposal were discussed.
5. The draft Council decision was further discussed and endorsed at the COREPER meeting on 2 March 2017 (doc. 6504/1/17 REV 1 + ADD 1).
6. **As a consequence, the Council is requested:**
 - **to adopt the draft Council decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the scheduling of substances under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, as outlined in doc. 6451/17 CORDROGUE 22 SAN 66.**
 - **to order publication of the decision in the Official Journal.**
