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From:	EU co-Presidency
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs - Annual Report July 2016 to May 2017

Delegations will find annexed the above-mentioned draft document to be adopted at the forthcoming XIX High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs to be held from 18 to 19 May 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This report is the result of a regular analysis of the activities carried out and results of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) from July 2016 to May 2017. The information contained in this report is limited to inter-regional programmes and does not contain information on other funded EU programmes at the regional and bilateral levels in the field of drugs.

1. EU-CELAC Technical Committee Meetings

Three meetings of the EU-CELAC Technical Committee on Drugs took place during this period: on 12 October 2016 under the co-presidency of Slovakia and Argentina, and on 29 March 2017 and 4 May 2017 under the co-presidency of Malta and Argentina.

The meeting of 12 October 2016 was dedicated to discussing the results of the High Level Meeting in the Hague, the Netherlands. 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 Cooperation Programme on drugs policies between Latin America and the European Union (COPOLAD II), as well as on EU cooperation activities with certain CELAC countries under the Cocaine Route Programme. The meeting also exchanged views on implementation of the UNGASS outcome document towards a balanced, comprehensive and integrated approach to address the World Drug Problem in 2019.

The meetings held on 29 March 2017 and 4 May 2017 dealt with preparations for the XIX High Level Meeting to be held in Buenos Aires from 18 to 19 May 2017, identifying topics for the thematic debates during the High Level Meeting and discussing the draft political declaration. During the meeting on 29 March 2017 the delegations also exchanged views on the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document and preparation for the 2019 review process, reported on developments in the drug situation and policies in the EU and CELAC, and provided updates on EU-CELAC cooperation activities.

2. EU-CELAC Cooperation

Cooperation Programme on drugs policies between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union (COPOLAD)¹

COPOLAD is working in close cooperation with CELAC countries and EU Member States towards achieving the following goals: the reinforcement of National Observatories on drugs; the adoption of quality and evidence-based criteria, both in demand and supply reduction strategies; the adoption of sustainable approaches to capacity-building and bi-regional exchange of good practices and lessons learned; as well as providing as much support as possible to the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs - key instrument for dialogue and progress on public drugs policies in both regions.

In this framework, and during the first COPOLAD II Annual Conference (14-15 June 2016, The Netherlands), its *Annual Action Plan* was presented and enhanced by CELAC and EU countries. In the document, the production of tools which facilitate the consideration of evidence into decision-making in the field of drugs policies stand out due to its relevance. The following activities - included in the Action Plan 2016-2017 - were developed with a very high and motivated participation from countries:

COMPONENT 1: Consolidation of National Drug Observatories

- **An in-depth study on the situation of National Drug Observatories in the CELAC countries** was led by Argentina and Uruguay during 2016, achieving a high rate of participation from CELAC countries. The preliminary results were presented by the leading Observatories at the *first Annual Meeting of National Drugs Observatories* (Jamaica, 5-9 December 2016). The study will be published in 2017 (in English and Spanish).

¹ COPOLAD II (2016-2019) is a regional cooperation programme funded by the European Commission, with a total budget of EUR 10.000.000. The first phase (COPOLAD I) ended in June 2015.

- **First Annual Meeting of National Drugs Observatories** (Jamaica, 5-9 December 2016). The week included the implementation of the two training courses: a) *Research methods*; and b) *Essential concepts of the work of the Observatories*. It also gave the opportunity to define the Working Groups (WG) foreseen in Component 1 of COPOLAD, with the active participation of all the involved countries and organisations. The final proposal on the contents of each WG will be defined until March/April 2017, taking the exploratory exercise carried-out during the week into account, the identified needs, as well as the expressions of interest and leadership shown by each country to contribute to the advancement of the foreseen activities.

COMPONENT 2: Capacity building in Drug Demand Reduction (DDR)

- **Validation of the quality criteria in the field of DDR, agreed during the first phase of COPOLAD.** The validation plan and WGs have been set up according to the inclusion criteria for participation, defined during the inception phase. Each WG included a significant number of services selected by CELAC interested countries and bi-regional NGOs networks (RIOD and the IDPC). As agreed during the first phase of the Programme, the action will be implemented with the active leading role of the PAHO and the cooperation of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Initially, two working groups will be set up. This validation/piloting exercise aims at facilitating the endorsement of the agreed and validated criteria in the CELAC countries. WGs will focus in treatment and harm reduction. The first meeting of the two COPOLAD working groups in Latin American countries took place at the end of March in Chile.
- **Adaptation-validation of the COPOLAD criteria in Caribbean countries.** Caribbean countries considered highly useful and necessary to complement previous developments in this area. During the second semester of 2016, COPOLAD has explored the best option to start this activity, defining Trinidad and Tobago as the country which will be leading a WG in charge of reviewing, adapting and validating the quality criteria (basic and advanced) in the field of Drug Demand Reduction and build a reference framework for programme accreditation for the Caribbean countries.

- **Sustainable capacity-building strategy.** During 2016, COPOLAD has revised and updated the two on-line courses developed and implemented during the first phase of COPOLAD and a new on-line course has been developed. The courses are the following:
 - Evidence-based prevention on alcohol and other drugs;
 - Coordination of social and health services at primary care level to manage drug related problems;
 - The Public Health approach in drug policy.

All courses are available in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

COMPONENT 3: Capacity building in Drug Supply Reduction (DSR)

- The **First Annual Week on Precursors** (8-11 November 2016, Spain) obtained an excellent evaluation from participating countries. It consisted of a workshop followed by a field visit, aiming at promoting the exchange of information, experiences and good practices, especially highlighting the importance of voluntary collaboration agreements between the chemical/pharmaceutical industry and the competent authorities in charge of drug precursors in both regions. Sixty-six representatives of national drugs inspection organisms and police anti-narcotics Units, together with representatives from the private sector as well as the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD-OAS), the European Commission (DGs DEVCO, TAXUD and OLAF), the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the EU agencies EUROPOL and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) participated in this event.

A **COPOLAD online survey** was launched in October 2016 in order to prepare the Annual Week on Precursors, gathering key information from CELAC countries in the field of precursors, especially about existing legislation, information systems and collaboration agreements with the private sector.

- The ***First Intra-regional Dialogue Forum on Alternative Development*** (12-14 December 2016, Colombia), promoted a decentralised dialogue among key actors in the field of Alternative Development in countries affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of crops and other illicit drug-related activities, in order to identify strategies for addressing them. The purpose was to provide countries a general view of the current trends and the way forward according to the conclusions obtained in the UNGASS. One of the key aspects was the role of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the specific objectives, the formulation and monitoring of relevant indicators, as well as the possibilities of a wider socio-economic development in the context of the illicit drugs economy. Considering the increasing interest of many countries in the concept of Alternative Development, the Forum helped in the analysis experiences and the current reforms of Alternative Development Programmes in Latin American and Caribbean countries, bringing together State representatives, farmers and representatives of farmers associations as well as other members of civil society.

COMPONENT 4: Policy Support, dialogue and consolidation of the Mechanism

- The **Second COPOLAD Annual Conference**, organised in close coordination with the Argentinian Co-Presidency of CELAC and the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU to the EU-CELAC Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation on Drugs, was held in 16 and 17 May 2017 in Buenos Aires (Argentina). The Conference focused in tackling two important challenges for drugs policy: "Internet illegal drug markets" and "Synthetic drugs", and an assessment of COPOLAD activities was made, both for its first year of implementation as well as for the activities planned in the second year.
- A new **COPOLAD on-line course** is currently under development: "***The Public Health model: operational implications***". The course will be available during the second semester of 2017, together with the updated versions of both the "***Evidence-based prevention course***" and the "***Coordination of health and social services at the primary care level course***". All courses will have Spanish, Portuguese and English versions. Countries have been invited to proceed with the selection of fellowships' candidates for the regional edition of each course.

COMPONENT 0: Cross-cutting issues, quality and coherence

- In occasion of the 60th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) of the United Nations, the European Union organised a **Side event about COPOLAD: "Building support tools for evidence-based policy making on drugs"** (15 March, Austria). Tools developed during the first year of the Programme were presented, aiming at contributing to the strengthening of public policies on drugs, which are comprehensive and effective, evidence-based, respectful for Human Rights and with a sensitiveness Gender approach.
- **The Steering Committee of COPOLAD**, advisory body organised and led by the European Commission which defines the strategic orientation of the Programme, held its meeting on 15 May 2017 in Argentina. As a reminder, the criteria for countries to become members of the Steering Committee are the following:
 - o **Countries already having a drug observatory:** commit to strengthen it, ensuring the availability of a competent/technical Focal Point for COPOLAD;
 - o **Countries not having a drug observatory:** commit to establishing one, ensuring the availability of a competent/technical Focal Point for COPOLAD;
 - o **Countries without an Early Warning System:** commit to establish one;
 - o **Countries committed to actively participate in the COPOLAD activities.**
- **The Permanent Council of COPOLAD²**, also met on 15 May 2017 in Buenos Aires, with an active participation from countries. The Council holds advisory and follow-up functions, especially the following:
 - o Participation in designing/implementing the action, including definition of sub-objectives/final contents for Working Groups;
 - o Advise on programme implementation and suggest adjustments, when required;
 - o Contribution to define the Annual Action Plan, and suggest adjustments when needed. Proposals and commitments on leaderships;
 - o Contribute actively to the visibility of COPOLAD among stakeholders, both internationally and inside each participating country.

² Same membership criteria as the ones established for the Steering Committee.

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 EU has committed over EUR 50 million to more than 40 countries along the cocaine route(s) from the countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa.

The overall objective of this trans-regional action is to enhance the capacity for international cooperation by 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 through 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. Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP)

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

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

Globally, as of March 2017, 2426 participants have been trained through 143 training and mentoring activities; 15 joint operations have taken place; and 412 officials have been employed across 23 established JAIFs. The JAIFs have made 788 seizures including 2,897 kg of cocaine, 1,156 kg of cannabis and 326 kg of heroin, as well as counterfeit medicines, ivory, currency, weapons and explosives.

In the CELAC region 8 JAIFs are currently established and operational in Argentina, Barbados, Dominican Republic (Punta Cana and Santo Domingo), El Salvador, Jamaica (Montego Bay, Kingston) and Panama. In addition cooperation has been established with Brazil, Colombia and Peru as associate countries. A joint assessment mission to Bolivia is planned for May 2017 under the upcoming phase IV of Aircop, to evaluate the possibility of establishing a JAIF there.

Argentina

Argentina officially became an Aircop beneficiary country on 24 May 2016, when the Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNODC. Three mentoring sessions took place in 2016: 29 Feb – 11 March; 16 – 27 May; and 27 – 30 June. The JAIF office was fully equipped in June 2016 and became fully operational in January 2017 and currently counts a total of 13 officials from the Federal Police INTERPOL National Bureau, Airport Security Police and the Federal Administration of Public Revenue.

Barbados

After the MoU for implementation of AIRCOP in Barbados was signed in February 2016, initial training and follow up mentoring sessions were organised for the JAITF throughout 2016.

Equipment was delivered in late October and the JAITF became fully operational in December 2016. The Barbados JAITF currently counts a total of 9 officials from the Royal Barbados Police Force, Customs and Excise Department, and the Barbados Immigration Department. To ensure a coordinated response to the identification and detection of high risk passengers from air carriers travelling through the region, close cooperation has been established with the CARICOM IMPACS Joint Regional Communication Centre.

Brazil

In October 2014, the Brazilian Federal Police announced the creation of INTERCOPS (International Cooperation in Airports), based at Guarulhos International Airport in Sao Paulo. INTERCOPS' function is similar to that of AIRCOP, and close collaboration has been established since its launch in 2015. Through INTERCOPS, the Brazilian Federal Police and Customs Agency have supported AIRCOP in best practice exchange programmes for JAITF officers and provided training and mentoring sessions to JAITF officials in both LAC and WA.

On 2 September 2016, UNODC and the Brazilian Federal Police signed an inter-institutional cooperation agreement, formalising their collaborative partnership and commitment for cooperation between AIRCOP and INTERCOPS, to work together to combat transnational organised crime at international airports in Latin America and the Caribbean. INTERCOPS has already proved successful in intercepting illicit cargo, with 880kg of seizures registered on the CENcomm system between December 2015 and December 2016.

In addition, the 5th AIRCOP Global Meeting will take place from 4th- 6th April 2017 in Sao Paulo, with the support of the Brazilian Federal Police. Law enforcement officials from 34 AIRCOP countries will be present at the meeting, as well as key national and international partners, law enforcement agencies, donors and airline companies.

Colombia

After several assessment missions and a lengthy process of negotiating which led to a delay of implementing the project in the country, a letter of agreement with the National Police was signed in April 2016 and cooperation with Colombia as an associate country under AIRCOP was established. Colombian LEA officials have since received specialised training on CENcomm (April 2016) and the Colombian National Police participated in a best practice exchange programme with the Spanish National Police in Madrid (June 2016).

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. Two JAITFs are currently operational, at the airports in Santo Domingo and Punta Cana with 19 and 11 officials respectively. Mentoring sessions were held between 28 March and 8 April (both airports), 20 – 24 June (Santo Domingo) and 27 – 30 June (Punta Cana).

In addition to relevant seizures of cocaine and cannabis averaging about 10 kilos a month, the units have made arrests related to terrorism, which shows the importance and value of the JAITFs in tackling transnational organised crime more broadly. Increased collaboration between the two teams has contributed to the ongoing success of AIRCOP in the Dominican Republic.

El Salvador

El Salvador is the most recent AIRCOP beneficiary country. After an assessment mission in June 2014, which considered the possibilities for implementing AIRCOP at Monseñor Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez International Airport, in August 2016 the MoU was signed. In September 2016 the first training in drug interdiction (air cargo and passengers) to the JAITF was provided. In October 2016 the JAITF received training on the use of I-24/7 tools and databases and the CENcomm platform. The first mentoring session was subsequently delivered in November 2016 and further training and mentoring activities are planned for 2017.

Jamaica

Jamaica was the third country in the region to formally join the project, with two JAITFs established and operational at the airports in Kingston and Montego Bay since April 2016. The teams are staffed by a total of 9 (Kingston) and 8 (Montego Bay) officials from the Constabulary Force, Customs Agency (JCA) and Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency. Mentoring sessions took place on 25-29 April 2016 (both airports), 6-10 June (Kingston) and 13-17 June 2016 (Montego Bay).

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

Panama

Panama was the second country in the region to formally join the project, following the signing of the MoU in April 2014. The JAITF at Tocumen International Airport has been operational since April 2015. Mentoring sessions took place in April and June 2016, followed by specialized training on profiling high risk passengers. The JAITF is currently staffed by a total of 16 officials from five national law enforcement agencies

Peru

A Special Group for Anti-Drug Work in Airports (GETAA) is already established at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima. Peru therefore participates in AIRCOP as an associate country, with the MoU signed on 28 November 2016. AIRCOP has already supported the GETAA with connection to and training on CENcomm (May 2016) which has offered better connectivity to the team. In addition specialised training on fraudulent documents, was delivered in November 2016 with further training and mentoring activities planned for 2017.

Joint Operation Westerlies 4

In May 2016, officials from the Dominican Republic and Panama took part in joint operation “Westerlies 4” coordinated by the World Customs Organization, with officials from West African JAITFs. The purpose of the operation was to enhance Customs controls on passengers suspected of trafficking methamphetamine by air from African countries via Europe to East Asia.

2. GAFILAT - EU project

Started in 2010 and implemented by the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT, formerly GAFISUD), the project covers all GAFILAT Member States (17 by August 2016) and aims at supporting their coordinated action to fight organised crime and financial crimes. In particular, it supports compliance with FATF international standards, improves the preventive and repressive systems in the areas where mutual evaluations show greater weaknesses; strengthens existing capacities and procedures to combat asset laundering as well as administrative, judicial and law enforcement cooperation. Initially planned to end in December 2016 the third phase of the project was extended for additional 6 months and is now nearing a close, with completion due in late June 2017.

Until March 2017, over 1700 officials have participated in 60 training courses, conferences and workshops; 11 Intensified Control on Cross Border Transportation of Valuables and Bearer Negotiable Items have taken place, and 14 publications have been produced.

A number of capacity building activities have been organised in several GAFILAT Member States for police officers, prosecutors, officials from the Financial Intelligence Units or from other institutions in charge of fighting against money laundering, with participation from European Member States (Spain, France), and other donors and regional organisations (FATF, OAS-CICAD, UNODC, IMF, World Bank, IDB, UN-CTED, INTERPOL, the US, the Egmont Group).

The following activities have taken place in the past year (March 2016 – March 2017) under the framework of the GAFILAT-EU project.

- 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)
- 3-5 May 2016 - XIII Meeting of Contact Points of the GAFILAT Asset Recovery Network (RRAG), Guatemala City (Guatemala)
- 9 May 2016 – Pre-evaluation visit to Managua (Nicaragua), formally launching the Mutual Evaluation process
- 11-15 May 2016 - 14th INTERPOL Global Programme on Anti-Corruption, Financial Crimes and Asset Recovery in the Environmental Sector, Buenos Aires (Argentina)

- 18-20 May 2016 - Biennial Regional Meeting on Typologies, La Paz (Bolivia)
- 28-30 September 2016 – National Risk Assessment Workshop, San Jose (Costa Rica)
- 7 October 2016 – Pre-evaluation visit to Panama, formally launching the Mutual Evaluation process
- 10-11 October 2016 – Train the Trainers Workshop, Lima (Peru)
- 14-18 November 2016 – Seminar for Evaluators, Panama

In addition, the following GAFILAT-EU activities are planned for 2017:

- 25-27 April 2017 – Sub-regional Workshop on Transparency, Final Beneficiary and De-Risking, Guatemala City (Guatemala)
- 2-4 May 2017 – Sub-regional Workshop on Risk-Based Supervision for Financial and Non-Financial Subject Matters, Peru
- 30-31 May 2017 – XIV Meeting of Contact Points of the GAFILAT Asset Recovery Network (RRAG)
- 6-8 June 2017 – Sub-regional Workshop on Adequate Management and Protection of Financial Intelligence, Paraguay

3. *Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP)*

Started in 2010 the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) is currently in Phase IV, which will run until December 2018. In addition to the 11 countries in the Eastern Caribbean from Phase III, seven priority countries in the CELAC region have been included in Phase IV to include Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and Panama.

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:

- Reinforce their seaport control and intelligence capacities by setting up, consolidating and equipping dedicated Units in seaports or sensitive coastal areas;
- Improve or set up local maritime information and control systems;
- 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.

Phase III

During 2016, JMCUs and MIUs were consolidated in 11 countries in the Eastern Caribbean. With support from the WCO all the intelligence units are linked to CENcomm. Initial training courses were completed in June 2016, followed by practical mentoring activities in November 2016. The courses focused on the profiling and search of vessels and involved classroom training as well as practical search exercises in ports and marinas. In the Eastern Caribbean MoUs have now been signed with all 11 countries plus CCLEC (Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council).

On 13-14 June 2016 a SEACOP Caribbean Regional Maritime Intelligence Workshop took place in St Lucia. 34 staff from the MIUs in the 11 Eastern Caribbean beneficiary countries attended. The workshop included the analysis of recent maritime seizures, updates on trans-Atlantic trafficking trends, and discussions on how to work more closely together and share information effectively.

From 31 October to 2 November 2016, staff from all SEACOP MIUs joined maritime intelligence staff from South America, Caribbean, West Africa and Europe for a trans-regional maritime intelligence conference in Barbados.

Phase IV

Throughout 2016 scoping missions were carried out to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and Panama which participate in Phase IV of SEACOP since January 2017.

MoUs have been drafted for all Phase IV countries, one has already been signed with Guyana and agreed with Jamaica which expected to be signed shortly. The MoUs with the rest of the countries are currently under discussion.

The equipment requirements for all Phase IV countries have been assessed for MIUs and JMCUs and will be put out to tender shortly with equipment planned to be delivered by September 2017.

The JMCU search training for Guyana as well as MIU training for Jamaica and Guyana took place in March 2017. In the rest of the countries MIU training is planned for May and June and JMCU training is planned for the second semester of 2017 (October and November).

4. 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 implemented by the EU, EU member states or other international and regional actors. CORMS is currently in its third phase, which will run until May 2020.

CORMS has carried out 3 field missions to four CELAC countries since March 2016:

- *St. Lucia*: From 12 to 17 June 2016, CORMS conducted a mission to St. Lucia to collect critical information on SEACOP project performance, as well as engage with implementing partners, regional project managers and the host country teams.
- *Dominican Republic*: From 2 to 8 October 2016, the CORMS team visited Dominican Republic to monitor the achievements of all active CRP projects on the ground, and to meet with relevant stakeholders and other third parties. In addition the project team participated in the 6th Latin American and 1st Caribbean Conference on Drug Policy.
- *Barbados/Trinidad & Tobago*: From 30 October to 8 November 2016, CORMS conducted a mission to Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago, the purpose of which was to participate in the SEACOP regional conference, visit the SEACOP search and intelligence teams in both countries, and the AIRCOP team at Grantley Adams International Airport. CORMS consulted with other relevant stakeholders to include national and regional law enforcement agencies and civil society.

5. 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 the CRIMJUST four-year project with a geographical scope on selected countries in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Implementation will be carried out by the UNODC in conjunction 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.

In August 2016, 31 officials from Panama's criminal justice institutions attended a workshop on diagnosing the flow of information in drug-related cases.

On 14 December 2016 a specialized training course for law enforcement officers in Latin America focused on enhancing skills in combating financial crime and money-laundering investigations was held in Bogota (Colombia) with participation from 40 senior investigators, judges and prosecutors from 11 countries in Latin America.

In addition, from 31 January to 1 February 2017, an inter-regional workshop on the importance of institutional integrity took place in Panama. Highlighting the inter-regional dimension of the workshop and topics discussed, a total of 50 participants from Latin American and West African countries benefited from exchange of good practices and experience.

The inclusion of Argentina in the project was recommended in December 2016 and an Argentinean delegation already attended the project's Kick-off and Annual Meeting in February 2017.
