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CORDROGUE 47
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 29 March 2017
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcomes of the EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting held on
29 March 2017

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda outlined in doc. CM 1912/17.

2. Exchange of views on implementation of the UNGASS outcome document and preparation for the 2019 review process

The EU co-Presidency emphasised that UNGASS was a milestone in drugs policy and insisted on the importance of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document. The speaker also noted that the EU priority was to ensure that any new political commitment reinforced and represented progress compared to the UNGASS commitments.

The Mexican delegation gave an overview of the ongoing broad national public consultation on the implementation of the UNGASS recommendations. The speaker also explained that they had updated national policy following UNGASS recommendations.

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

The EU co-Presidency and representatives of the Commission informed the meeting about the EU drug policy developments, including negotiations on the draft legislation on new psychoactive substances and discussions on the new EU action plans on drugs. The representatives of the EMCDDA and Europol gave an overview of the EU drug situation, noting that it was rather stable and that the prevalence of major drugs was also stable. At the same time, the drug market remained the largest criminal market in the EU. Emergence of the internet drug market was mentioned as one of the main challenges for the EU, as this currently small market had a substantial potential for development.

The CELAC co-Presidency reported on the drug policy developments in Latin America, explaining that a new regional action plan on drugs had been approved unanimously and that in April 2017 the meeting of the UNASUR drug commission would be held. A number of CELAC countries described their national efforts to tackle drugs. Delegations stressed the importance of the principle of shared responsibility in addressing drugs.

4. Outcome of the EU-CELAC cooperation activities

The representative of the Commission updated delegations on the latest developments as regards the Cocaine Route programme and COPOLAD II programme. The speaker as well as the Directors of the programme presented a new EU programme for Latin America to be launched in the forthcoming months - the EL PAcCTO Programme.

The speakers explained that the general objective of the programme was to contribute to the reinforcement of rule of law and citizen security in Latin America, while the specific objectives were to support the development of security structures and forces of the Latin-American States; to improve judicial and prosecutorial co-operation; to support the development of more modern, efficient and human rights' respectful penitentiary systems as well as to promote cross-border, regional and international co-operation in the area of organised crime.

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

The CELAC co-Presidency gave an overview of the organisational aspects of the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 18-19 May 2017 in Buenos Aires. The speaker also informed the meeting that the draft Buenos Aires declaration was under preparation and would be available to the EU side before the forthcoming EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting in May.

The EU co-Presidency put forward some proposals for the thematic debates to be held at the High Level meeting.

6. AOB:

– Information on the annual COPOLAD II meeting

The representative of the COPOLAD programme gave an overview of the forthcoming annual COPOLAD meeting to be held on 16-17 May 2017 in Buenos Aires.

– EU-CELAC Foreign Ministers meeting

The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the above-mentioned meeting held on 25-26 October in Santo Domingo, during which drugs were discussed among other issues.
