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NOTE

From: EEAS
To: Delegations
Subject: Report of the EU-Brazil dialogue on drugs

Delegations will find below the report of the EU-Brazil dialogue on drugs, held on 17 March 2017 in Vienna, in the margins of the 60th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

EU-BRAZIL Expert meeting on Drugs

The EU-BRAZIL Expert meeting on Drugs was held in Vienna in the margins of the 60th session of the CND on 16 March 2017. The EU delegation was led by Herman Mula (MT Presidency) and composed of officials of the Presidency (MT), the Council Secretariat, the European Commission, the EEAS, EUROPOL, the EMCDDA, the EU Delegation UN Vienna and the EU MS. The Brazilian delegation was led by Gabriel Boff Moreira, Brazilian Foreign Ministry, and was composed of experts from the Brazilian Ministry of Justice and Health, the National Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA), the Federal Public Defender's Office, the Federal Police and the Brazilian Representation to UN Agencies in Vienna.

The EU and Brazil exchanged views on post-UNGASS developments and the road to the 2019 global drug policy review, developments in drug situations and policies, cooperation (COPOLAD II, Cocaine Route Programme, EUROSOCIAL+ and the upcoming programme EL PAcCTO). As a follow-up to the meeting a new working arrangement can be established between the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and ANVISA/ SENAD.

Relevant developments of drug policy and update on the drug situation in the EU and Brazil

Brazil informed that as of March 2017 a new Minister of Justice has been appointed. The new Secretary of State for Drugs is not appointed yet, but will be nominated soon.

In Brazil, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) cause a growing problem and the country has established a very fast scheduling system of these substances: the whole decision cycle after notification till scheduling is done by the Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA) within three months. The process does not require changes in Brazilian laws. A symposium on NPS will be organised on 22 May 2017 in Brazil, to which the EU was invited.

Brazil asked whether a working arrangement with EMCDDA could be set up to exchange information and statistical data on NPS. Brazil informed that they will sign the cooperation agreement with Europol in April 2017.

Brazil provided an update on the drugs situation in the country and also on regional cooperation. Brazil has established police cooperation with Paraguay in fighting drugs harvesting and trafficking (mainly marijuana), where Brazilian Federal Police helps Paraguay in eradicating marijuana fields. Brazil asked about the possibility of EU support in the frame of triangular cooperation to these efforts.

The other direction of regional cooperation involves southern countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina). Since Uruguay legalized marijuana - which is still illegal in Brazil – a study is conducted in provinces on both sides of the Uruguay-Brazil border on the effects of legalization (consumption, health issues etc).

The EU side informed about the current developments in EU drug policies. The Presidency informed that the EU is currently working on revising its legislative text on the scheduling of NPS. EMCDDA informed that there are exchanges with Brazil under the framework of the COPOLAD programme on NPS. EMCDDA presented its Annual EU Drugs Market Report and its finding regarding drug trafficking, consumption and health aspects, including the growing number of NPS appearing in the EU market.

Europol updated about its Serious and Organized Crime threat Assessment (SOCTA) issued at the beginning of March 2017, which estimates that around 5000 Organised Crime Groups (OCG) operating on international level are currently under investigation in the EU. About a third of these 5000 groups operate in drug trafficking and production. On cannabis, Europol informed that it remained the largest market in the EU. Europol confirmed the increase in coca production in Colombia, which will intensify cocaine trafficking to the EU. Europol informed that as of 1 May 2017, the Europol Regulation will be in force.

The Commission informed about the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 which promotes an evidence-based and balanced approach to drug issues. The EU Drug Action plan for 2013-2016 expired and now the EU is working on the new Action plan for 2017-2020. The Commission also informed that the EU is working on alternatives to coercive sanctions (ACS). An EU expert meeting was organised on 1 March 2017. Prior to that, a study had been mapping the existence and use of ACS in all EU Member States. The Commission also informed about its actions regarding the issue of internet and drugs.

The EMCDDA informed about the emergency of very potent Fentanyl which cause severe health risks due to their high toxicity. Reference was also made to new trends in cannabis production and opioids the use of which is still associated with much harm. The EMCDDA informed also about their estimation of the EU retail drugs market at about €24 billion in 2013.

Exchange of views on post-UNGASS and 2019 review of a political declaration

The EU Presidency and Brazil had an exchange of views on post-UNGASS, which confirmed that both sides shared the same views that upholding the UNGASS outcome document focused upon the safeguard of human rights is paramount. Both sides are committed to the implementation of the UNGASS recommendations and look forward to have a clear political outcome of the 2019 event.

International cooperation in the field of drugs and the prospects for the future

The Commission presented the Cooperation programmes COPOLAD, Cocaine Route Programme and EUROsociAL+, highlighting the involvement of Brazil. The High Level meeting of the EU-CELAC Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism on Drugs and the COPOLAD II annual conference will be held in Argentina in May 2017.

The Cocaine Route programme - AIRCOP component - organises the 5th AIRCOP Global Meeting from 4 to 6 April 2017 in Sao Paulo, event supported by the Brazilian Federal Police.

Regarding EUROsociAL+, the programme will carry out a mission in Brazil to identify policy priorities and areas of support where the EU can provide an added value to Brazil public policies' reforms. The mission is expected to take place in the week of 10 April. As long as working with reintegration of incarcerated women remains a priority for the Brazilian Government, EUROsociAL+ would be able to continue its support in this area.

A new cooperation programme, "EL PAcCTO", will be launched this summer. The program will work on the penal chain (Police, Justice and Prisons), contributing to the fight against transnational organised crime.

Brazil presented its projects in the social reintegration of women after release from prison, which have similar elements to EUROsociAL+ actions.
