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CORDROGUE 102
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 20 and 21 June 2017
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcomes of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as outlined in doc. CM 3217/17.

2. Information from other Council working parties

The representative of the COSI updated delegations on the preparation of the new EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime for 2018-2021 and informed the meeting that the next step would be drafting the multiannual strategic plans (MAPs). The representative of the Commission noted that one of the novelties of the new policy cycle was the inclusion of cannabis among the priorities.

3. Preparation for the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe

The Presidency recalled the CND Chair decision as regards HONLEA and invited delegations to reflect on its implementation. Delegations exchanged information on the participation in the forthcoming meeting of HONLEA Europe, to be held in Vienna on 27-30 June 2017. The importance of national coordination before HONLEA meetings was emphasised. Delegations raised the issue of possible EU coordination before the HONLEA meetings.

4. Report on the CND intersessional meeting

The Presidency gave an overview of the CND intersessional meeting held on 6 June 2017 in Vienna, noting that important work was starting to review drug-related statistics at the UN level and emphasising the need to improve reporting capacity. It was also stressed that any changes in drug-related reporting systems would affect the Member States, given that the EU had a very developed drug-related data collection system.

5. Discussion on relevant international events

The representative of the EEAS summarised the EU comments on the draft ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) statement on drugs and informed the meeting about coordination with like-minded countries. The representative of the EEAS also reported on the EU – US Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting held in Valletta on 15-16 June 2017, where drugs were discussed among other issues.

6. Report on the Dublin Group meeting

The Romanian Chair of the Dublin Group reported on the Dublin Group meeting held on 2 June 2017.

7. Presentation by the UNODC of the 2017 World Drug Report

The representative of the UNODC presented the main trends indicated by the 2017 World Drug Report, noting that opiates still caused most health-related harms and that the cultivation of opium poppy remained at high level and had also increased in 2016. She also informed the meeting that there were about 770 new psychoactive substances identified so far by the UNODC and that the number of synthetic opioids was increasing. According to the expert, the cultivation of coca bush was also increasing as well as the global manufacture of cocaine. As regards the use of cannabis, it was rather stable at global level, but raising in the US. The expert also explained that this year the UNODC focused on hepatitis C in their report.

8. Presentation by the EMCDDA of the European Drug Report 2017

The representative of the EMCDDA presented the main developments of the 2017 European drug report, noting that there was an increase in overdose deaths, that synthetic opioids caused a growing threat to health and that less new NPS were detected, however their availability was still high. Also he informed the meeting that there might be signs of increasing cocaine availability.

9. Presentation of the priorities of the incoming Estonian Presidency

The incoming Estonian Presidency presented the priorities in the field of drugs and meetings to be held during their Presidency.

10. AOB:

– Information from the Presidency on the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020

The Presidency informed the meeting that the new EU Action Plan was adopted by the Council on 20 June 2017.

– Information from the Presidency on the new psychoactive substances legislation

The Presidency informed the meeting that political agreement had been reached in the Council on the new psychoactive substances Directive.

– Information on the Lisbon Addictions Conference (Lisbon, 24-26 October 2017) and on the satellite meetings: Symposium on drugs and driving, MedSPAD and WasteWater conference

The PT delegation and the representation of the EMCDDA informed delegations about the above-mentioned events.