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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| On: | 20 and 21 September 2017 |
| To: | Delegations |
| Subject: | Outcomes of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs meeting |

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 4011/17 with the addition of the following points under AOB:

- Conference on medical cannabis in Prague;
- New psychoactive substances to be reviewed at the 39th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence meeting;
- Financing of the UNODC;
- Meetings on drug precursors;
- Update on the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime;
- New Europol's approach to addressing drug trafficking.

2. Information on relevant international events

The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the conclusion of the negotiations as regards the draft ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) statement on drugs in Manila, Philippines. Delegations welcomed the final results of the negotiations, especially as regards the inclusion of health and human rights aspects into the final statement and considered it to be a major improvement compared to the original statement focused on law enforcement. Delegations also considered this statement to be a positive element towards the 2019 global drug policy review.

3. Alternatives to coercive sanctions: discussion on future EU actions

The Presidency gave an overview of the initial general recommendations on promoting the implementation of alternatives to coercive sanctions, outlined in doc. [WK 9399 2017](#). The speaker emphasised that the Presidency did not aim at harmonising national legislation, but rather at implementing Action 22 of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020. A deadline of 27 September 2017 was set for written comments and the Presidency announced that the in-depth discussion on initial recommendations would be continued at October HDG meeting.

4. Preparations for upcoming CND intersessional meetings

Delegations finalised the discussion on the draft EU statements on implementation of the UNGASS recommendations in the fields of drug demand reduction, availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and human rights for the forthcoming intersessional meeting in Vienna to be held on 26-28 September 2017.

Delegations also provided first comments on the draft EU statements on implementation of the UNGASS recommendations in the fields of supply reduction, new challenges and alternative development to be presented at the next intersessional meeting in Vienna to be held on 16-18 October 2017. A deadline of 27 September 2017 was set for providing further written comments.

The Presidency and the EEAS representative noted that these intersessional meetings in Vienna were a crucial moment for the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document and encouraged delegations to be active in discussions.

5. Preparation for the EU-Central Asia dialogue on drugs

The Presidency gave an overview of the proposed agenda for the forthcoming EU-Central Asia dialogue on drugs to be held on 12 October 2017 in Brussels (outlined in doc. 11372/17).

The representative of the CADAP programme presented the major elements and main developments in the programme, which is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian countries in dealing with drug policy and drug demand reduction issues in a comprehensive, integrative and sustainable manner. The representative noted that they were mainly working with governments, but were also starting to work with civil society and that the EU had the opportunity to contribute to the discussions leading towards a more balanced drug policy in the region.

6. Preparations for the bilateral EU-US dialogue

The Presidency introduced the proposed agenda for the EU-US dialogue on drugs foreseen on 9 November 2017 (doc. 12016/17). Delegations proposed a few additional subtopics for the forthcoming discussions. The Presidency also informed delegations about the forthcoming EU-US senior officials meeting scheduled on 20-21 September 2017 in Tallinn.

7. Preparation for the EU-CELAC technical committee meeting

The Presidency recalled about the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 21 September 2017, the agenda of which is outlined in doc. CM 3446/17.

8. Preparation for the 2019 review of the UN Political Declaration

The CND Chair updated delegations on the preparation for the 2019 global drug policy review, including on the work commenced to improve drug-related statistics and strengthen the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ). The speaker recalled the difficulties in collecting answers to the questionnaire and noted that there was an opportunity to streamline statistics. She also informed the meeting about consultations with the regional groups in Vienna, after which a Chair paper on the way forward should be issued. The CND Chair noted that statistical work would be an important issue to be discussed during these meetings.

She also noted that the way CND was working improved a lot over the last five years, including an increased involvement of civil society, and the EU and its Member States have played a pivotal role in that. The Chair and delegations agreed on the importance of the UNGASS outcome document for any future developments in drugs policy and on the need to focus on its implementation.

Delegations also discussed the draft EU common position on the 2019 global drug policy review, contained in doc. WK 9391 2017. A deadline of 27 September 2017 was set for written comments.

9. Information on the National Drug Coordinators meeting

The Presidency gave an overview of the above-mentioned meeting held on 13-14 September 2017 in Tallinn, during which awareness was raised about the issue of fentanyl and fentanyl derivatives. The Presidency also presented the conclusions made at the meeting, including the need for more insights into health consequences of fentanyls, more international cooperation to promote the use of naloxone and adaptation of the national forensic systems to better detect fentanyls. The AT delegation informed the meeting that the European Medicines Agency has recently granted an authorisation for nasal spray of naloxone.

10. AOB

- *European Parliament (LIBE Committee) hearing on "Evaluating drug policies and state of play in the EU legislation"*

The Presidency informed delegations about the above-mentioned LIBE hearing on 25 September 2017.

- *Update on the legislative package on new psychoactive substances*

The Presidency updated delegations on the latest developments as regards the new psychoactive substances legislation.

- *State of play of the procedure on new psychoactive substances: carfentanil, AB-CHMINACA, ADB-CHMINACA, 5F-MDMB-PINACA, CUMYL-4CN-BINACA, 4F-iBF, THF-F, furanylfentanyl and acrylyolfentanyl*

The Presidency updated delegations on the latest developments as regards the risk assessment procedures on the above-mentioned substances.

- *Conference on medical cannabis in Prague*

The CZ delegation informed the meeting about the International Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids Conference: Policy, Science, and Medical Practice to be held in Prague on 22-24 November 2017.

- *New psychoactive substances to be reviewed at the 39th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence meeting*

The MT delegation shared information with delegations as regards new psychoactive substances with potential for dependence, abuse and harm to health, which will be reviewed during the Thirty-ninth meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) in Geneva on 6 – 10 November 2017.

- *Financing of the UNODC*

The DE delegation has drawn the meeting's attention to the discussion taking place in Vienna, in the FINGOV group concerning the situation with the future UNODC budget.

- *Update on the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime*

The representative of the COM informed delegations that the Operational Action Plan (OAP) for 2018 on cocaine, cannabis and heroin would be drafted on 11-12 October 2017 and OAP on synthetic drugs would be drafted on 24-25 October 2017.

– *Meetings on drug precursors*

The representative of the COM informed delegations about different meetings to be held to address the issue of precursors, including the annual precursor week organised by COPOLAD in Brasilia.

– *New Europol's approach to addressing drug trafficking*

The representative of Europol informed delegations about the internal evaluation conducted and the action plan drafted as well as about the forthcoming Europol conference to be held on 6-7 December 2017.
