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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 21 September 2017
To: Delegations
Subject: Outcomes of the EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as outlined in doc. CM 3466/17.

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

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the latest developments in the EU drugs policy, including the adoption of the new EU Drugs Action Plan on Drugs for 2017-2020 and the forthcoming adoption of the new legislation on new psychoactive substances, which will allow to significantly shorten the time needed to bring the most dangerous substances under control. The representative of Europol updated on the drug supply situation in the EU.

The CELAC co-Presidency gave an overview of the regional trends as regards drug consumption and seizures. The speaker noted that so as to address new psychoactive substances, States were adopting relevant legislation and establishing early warning systems. He also gave an overview of the recent regional policy instruments, such as Santo Domingo declaration and the CELAC Action Plan 2017 adopted in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on 25 January 2017.

The delegation of Colombia presented the national developments, noting that the government planned to eradicate a substantial number of illicit coca crops and expressed an interest in closer cooperation with the EMCDDA. The delegation of El Salvador explained that they were working to reform the law on money laundering and the delegation of Mexico informed the meeting about the recently approved legislation on medical cannabis.

3. Report on the XIXth High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

The former Argentinian and Maltese co-Presidencies of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs gave an overview of the above-mentioned meeting, held in Buenos Aires on 18-19 May 2017, during which thematic debates on alternatives to coercive sanctions for drug-related offences and on interventions in the context of vulnerability were held and which adopted the Buenos Aires declaration (doc. 9582/17) and the annual report of the EU-CELAC cooperation in the field of drugs (doc. 9583/17).

4. UNGASS follow up and preparation for the 2019 global drug policy review

The EU co-Presidency emphasised that the UNGASS outcome document was a pivotal document for all future drug-related discussions and stressed the importance of the implementation of the recommendations outlined in it. The speaker also stressed the importance of the forthcoming CND intersessional meetings organised to discuss the implementation of UNGASS recommendations. The representative of the Commission noted on the importance of the implementation of drug-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and expected close cooperation between the EU and CELAC in preparation for the 2019 global drug policy review. The Mexican delegation also stressed the importance of the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document and presented the national efforts taken to foster this implementation.

5. Cooperation

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the recent and forthcoming activities of the COPOLAD II programme, including the planned meetings on good practises in cocaine reduction and annual meeting in drug precursors.

The representative of the Commission updated delegations on the EL PAcCTO programme launched in May 2017, which provides technical assistance to Latin American countries to help to combat transnational crime. The speaker informed the meeting that questionnaires were circulated so as to identify priorities within different pillars of the programme, which are the following: police cooperation, judicial and financial cooperation and penitentiary system.

6. Information by the Bulgarian delegation on the preparations for the XXth High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

The future Bulgarian co-Presidency of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs informed the meeting that the next EU-CELAC High Level meeting will be held on 21-22 June 2018 in Sofia, back to back to the annual COPOLAD conference.

7. AOB

No issues were raised under this agenda item.
