



Brussels, 20 October 2017
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 11 and 12 October 2017
To: Delegations
Subject: Outcomes of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda set out in doc. CM 4386/17 with the addition of the following points under AOB:

- Update by the Commission on the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime;
- Conference on drugs, refugees and migrants.

2. International scheduling of new psychoactive substances

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of new psychoactive substances which the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) will review at its meeting on 6-10 November 2017 in Geneva and which might be proposed for international scheduling at the 61st CND session in March 2018. The speaker drew the delegates' attention to the fact that acrylyolfentanyl has already been subjected to control measures on the EU level, that a number of substances on the list were currently under the process of the EU risk assessment and that the rest of them were monitored by the EMCDDA. Delegations shared their initial positions as regards these substances.

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting that they should submit the proposal for a Council decision as regards international scheduling of substances at the 61st CND session in late December/early January.

3. Alternatives to coercive sanctions

The Presidency gave an overview of the revised Presidency paper on the topic, outlined in doc. WK 9399/2017 REV 1. The speaker emphasised that the aim of this discussion was to contribute to the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020. The representative of the Commission presented the main conclusions of the recent study on the use of alternatives of coercive sanctions in the EU and the representative of the EMCDDA outlined the current situation as regards data collection, monitoring and evaluation of alternatives to coercive sanctions.

Delegations further exchanged the views on the topic and LT, PT as well as EL delegations presented the examples of good national practises in implementing alternatives to coercive sanctions. The Presidency concluded that further work needed to be done on strengthening data collection on this issue, providing training opportunities and contributing to international efforts to increase the use of alternatives to coercive sanctions globally.

4. Preparations for upcoming CND intersessional meetings

The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the CND intersessional meeting held on 23-25 September 2017, where a number of EU statements were delivered.

Delegations finalised the discussion on the draft EU statements on implementation of the UNGASS recommendations in the fields of drug supply reduction, new challenges and alternative development for the forthcoming intersessional meeting in Vienna to be held on 16-18 October 2017.

Delegations also provided first comments on the draft EU statements on implementation of the UNGASS recommendations as regard international cooperation as well as on the process towards 2019 global drug policy review. A deadline of 18 October 2017 was set for providing further written comments.

5. Report of the EU-CELAC technical committee meeting

The Presidency reported on the above-mentioned meeting held in Brussels on 21 September 2017 (doc. 12718/17)

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

The Presidency recalled about the forthcoming EU-Central Asia expert meeting on drugs to be held on 12 October 2017, the agenda of which is outlined in doc. CM 4388/17.

7. Preparation for the EU-US dialogue on drugs

Delegations discussed the proposed changes to the agenda of the forthcoming EU-US dialogue on drugs to be held on 9 November 2017 (doc. 12016/1/17 REV 1).

8. Preparation for the Dublin Group meeting

The Chair of the Dublin Group gave an overview of the agenda of the next Dublin Group meeting to be held on 10 November 2017 (doc. CM 4387/17)

9. Preparation for HDG and Civil Society Forum on Drugs meeting

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting about preparations for the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 29 November 2017 in Brussels.

10. Preparation for the EU-Eastern Partnership dialogue on drugs

The Presidency gave an overview of the proposed agenda for the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 29 November 2017 in Brussels (doc. 12889/17) and the delegations endorsed the proposed agenda.

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

The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the CND Chair consultations with regional groups, aimed at collecting some points of convergence as regards 2019 global drug policy review, on which the further work could be based. The speaker also updated the meeting on the work done as regards drugs statistics and recalled the request addressed to the States to fill in the UNGASS matrix with the information on national implementation of the UNGASS outcome document.

The Director of the EMCDDA assured delegations that the EMCDDA was ready to play an active role in the revision of the Annual Reporting Questionnaire (ARQ), stressing the new system should not be too complicated so as to increase response rate. The speaker also noted that the EMCDDA could provide drug-related data to the UNODC on behalf of the EU.

Delegations finalised the draft EU common position on 2019 global drug policy review, to be endorsed through a silence procedure and to be subsequently adopted by COREPER.

12. AOB

- *Presentation by the Irish delegation on the new Irish National Drug Strategy*

The IE delegation gave an overview of the recently adopted new drugs strategy, which represented an important move towards a health-based approach to drugs policy.

- *Strengthening the capacity of the Turkish Reitox point - information by the Romanian delegation*

The RO delegation presented the twinning project between the Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction located within the Ministry of Interior and the Romanian National Anti-drug Agency aimed at strengthening data collection capacity of the Focal Point.

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

The Presidency informed the meeting that the Council's position at first reading as regards the new psychoactive substances directive has been adopted.

- *Update by the Commission on the scheduling of 7 new psychoactive substances under Council Decision 2005/387/JHA*

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting that the Commission proposal for the Council decision as regards new psychoactive substances AB- CHMINACA, ADB- CHMINACA, 5F-MDMB-PINACA, CUMYL-4CN-BINACA, 4F-iBF, THF-F and carfentanyl would be adopted by the second half of December 2017.

- ***Guide for the evaluation of national strategies problems***

The representative of the EMCDDA informed the meeting about the recently produced online tool to help to conduct a drug policy evaluation, which provides seven-step practical guideline from the very beginning to the final point of the evaluation.

- ***The launch of the European guide on health and social responses to drug problems - information by the EMCDDA***

The representative of the EMCDDA announced the launch of the above-mentioned report to take place at the Lisbon addictions conference.

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

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting about the workshops dedicated to the drafting of the MASPs and OAPs on drug-related priorities.

- ***Conference on drugs, refugees and migrants***

The Greek delegation informed the meeting about the above-mentioned conference to be held in Greece.
