



Brussels, 27 October 2017
(OR. en)

13770/17

JAI 978
CORDROGUE 138
SAN 383

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 12 October 2017
To: Delegations
Subject: Outcomes of the EU-Central Asia dialogue on drugs

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 4388/17.

2. Developments of drug policy and drug situation

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

Given that since 2015 one of the components of the CADAP programme dealt with drug policy making in Central Asia, the component leader of the CADAP programme presented the main conclusions of the recent Report on the State of Play of Drug Policy Making in Central Asia. The report covered the drug situation, prevention, treatment/rehabilitation and harm reduction measures, supply reduction measures, monitoring and research, drug policy coordination/legislation as well as the role of international organisations.

The delegations of the Central Asian states presented the drug situation and recent policy initiatives in their countries, most of them noting that their drug situation depended a lot on the proximity to Afghanistan and expressing concerns about the drug situation there. The delegation of Uzbekistan noted that there was more evidence on the links between drug trafficking and international terrorism and that darknet was becoming increasingly popular for drug sales. The speaker also stressed that the state anti-drug programme adopted in 2016 already brought good results. The delegation of Kazakhstan said that drug situation remained grave and that tackling drugs was an essential part of the Kazakhstan policy. The speaker also informed the meeting that they were introducing changes to their legislation on new psychoactive substances.

The delegation of Kyrgyzstan explained the recent institutional reform, during which the state service for drug control was dismantled and its functions transferred to the ministries of interior and health. The speaker also informed the meeting that with CADAP support, the opioid substitution treatment was introduced in the penitentiary system and that there was a decrease in HIV infections. The delegation of Tajikistan explained that they were working to promote a healthy life style within the framework of national drugs strategy 2013-2022 and that there was very good cooperation between law enforcement, health and social sectors. The speaker also noted that the number of HIV infections had been reduced thanks to the opioid substitution treatment. The delegation of Turkmenistan informed the meeting that among different activities undertaken to tackle drugs they had been setting up rehabilitation centers and introducing special antidrug curriculum to school programmes.

3. Mid-term review of the implementation of the EU-Central Asia Drug Action Plan 2014-2020

The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the overall EU framework of cooperation with Central Asia and recalled the EU-Central Asia strategy adopted in 2007 and lastly revised in June 2017. She noted the importance of the regional approach.

Delegations revised the progress achieved in implementing different chapters of the EU-Central Asia Drug Action Plan 2014-2020.

– *Chapter "Drug demand reduction"*

The components leaders of the CADAP programme gave an overview of the activities implemented within the "Prevention" and "Treatment" components of the CADAP programme. Three prevention programmes were developed and tested: programme aimed at involving parents into prevention of risky behaviors of school children, pilot prevention programme addressed to youth at risk and screening test to identify youth at risk. All the programmes were developed on the evidence - based knowledge and standards, adapted to the Central Asia cultural context and tested in this context, and now needed to be institutionalised.

Work progressed within the "Treatment" component in the fields of treatment, harm reduction, rehabilitation and social reintegration with working groups being set up and training and study visits. These activities aimed at increasing health care and social responses for tackling drug use in the region and consolidating best practices and better quality services for drug users. The component leader also noted the importance of working with NGOs in order to increase their capacities, provided that they did much of the front work in addressing drug users.

The delegation of Kyrgyzstan informed the meeting that they were introducing opioid substitution treatment. The delegation of Uzbekistan noted that the number of registered drug users was going down and put forward some proposals as regards the CADAP programme. The delegation of Kazakhstan said that they were planning to change the approach and make health more affordable and also explained the needs for assistance.

– *Chapter "Drug supply reduction"*

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the EU-ACT programme, launched in 2017 and replacing the former Heroin Route Programme, with an aim to strengthen capacities to tackle drug trafficking and fight against international criminal networks along the heroin route. The speaker explained that EUR 12 million were allocated for this programme until 2020 and a number of different activities were foreseen. She gave an overview of the implemented and foreseen activities in different Central Asian countries under this programme.

– *Chapter "Information, research, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies"*

The component leader of the CADAP programme gave an overview of the activities implemented within the Component 2 of the programme, as a result of which National Focal Points and Drug Information Systems were set up. Among the other achievements of the programme was the strengthening of the Early Warning System for new synthetic drugs, conducting several important studies as well as improving the knowledge of data analysis and interpretation methodology.

– *Chapter "Wider regional cooperation"*

The delegation of Uzbekistan stressed that over the last years the situation in the region as regards regional cooperation has improved. The speaker also recalled the forthcoming EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting to be organised in Uzbekistan in November 2017.

4. Exchange of views on post-UNGASS and 2019 global drug policy review

The 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 the outcome document. The speaker also called for more cooperation between the EU and Central Asia towards 2019 global drug policy review. The delegation of Kyrgyzstan put forwards a few proposals as regards further cooperation and the delegation of Tajikistan informed the meeting about the conference organised to address UNGASS and its implementation.

5. AOB

No issues were discussed under this agenda item.