



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 6 November 2017
(OR. en)

13875/17

JAI 989
CORDROGUE 140
SAN 387

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 2 June 2017
To: Delegations
Subject: Dublin Group

1. Adoption of agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 2810/2/17 REV 2.

2. Revised Dublin Group Guidelines

Delegations discussed the proposed amendments to the Dublin Group guidelines, outlined in doc. 9161/17 CORDROGUE 59 JAI 426 SAN 196, especially as regards the observer status.

3. Debate on the role of the Regional Chairs and the list of monitored countries

Delegations discussed the definition, role and responsibilities of the Dublin Group regional chairs. The Chair recalled about the request for China and Thailand to become observers in the South East Asia regional Dublin Group, provided that they were emerging as donors and key stakeholders in the field of drugs, and Thailand was actively engaged as a leader and key proponent of alternative development and sustainable crop substitution programs, while China was funding the UNODC's work on chemical precursors for synthetic drugs as well as an organised crime threat assessment for the Golden Triangle region. The Chair informed the meeting that a silence procedure would be launched as regards this request.

4. Presentation of regional reports by the regional chairs

The Italian Chair gave an overview of the situation in Central Asia (doc. 8667/17 CORDROGUE 54 ASIE 12) explaining that the changing heroin routes were affecting Central Asian states and that decreased availability of heroin in the Central Asian black markets was resulting in an increase of the heroin cost. Among the major issues as regards anti-drug efforts was insufficient information on drugs and corruption. At the moment, CARICC was the only data-sharing and analysis-sharing platform filling information vacuum on drug-related issues in the regions, but needed more support from the Dublin Group. Regional economic integration in the form of the Customs Union could also contribute to intensification of drug trafficking among Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Belarus.

The French Chair gave an overview of the situation in West Africa (doc. 9416/17 CORDROGUE 60 COAFR 143 COSI 104 GENVAL 58) noting that the region had to cope with multiple threats linked to transnational organised crime in all its forms, not only drugs, but also terrorism. West Africa remained an important transit area for cocaine from South America on its way mainly to Europe. Trafficking of Afghan heroin to West Africa (especially to Nigeria) was on the rise via the southern route and an increase in regional cannabis trafficking was also observed. West Africa was also becoming a region for methamphetamine production. Regional drug trafficking has led to increased supply and availability of drugs on the market and drug use was increasing locally. In addition to the traditional use of cannabis, opiate use has increased significantly in a region where levels of cocaine use were already high.

5. Discussions on the proposal to organize a side event at the 61st CND session in Vienna on the regional risks to health and safety generated by the drug phenomenon

The Chair of the Dublin Group proposed to organise a side event at the reconvened 60th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) session in December 2017 and delegations exchanged their views as regards this proposal. The Chair also encouraged delegations to send their proposals as regards the topic of the event so as to decide on the final topic.

6. Presentation by INTERPOL on the CRIMJUST project

The representative of Europol presented the CRIMJUST project aiming at strengthening the capacities of criminal justice institutions, fostering international police cooperation, enhancing institutional integrity and enhancing the accountability of criminal justice institutions along the cocaine route in which 11 countries from Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa participated. The speaker also gave an overview of the recent activities, including targeted trainings, expert meetings, setting up of the operational task forces, held within the project. He explained that although the CRIMJUST project focused on cocaine, big amounts of cannabis and heroin were also seized as a result of the project activities.

The representative of the Commission explained that EU efforts to address cocaine trafficking were directed through the Cocaine Route Programme composed of a number of different thematic components and recalled the EU role within the CRIMJUST programme. The speaker also announced about the forthcoming launch of EL PAcCTO programme which would aim to improve the judiciary, prosecutorial and security forces capacity to tackle different forms of transnational organised crime and cooperate in this regard as well as develop more modern and efficient penitentiary system.

7. AOB

No issues were discussed under this agenda item.