



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 15 April 2014
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**CORDROGUE 27
COLAC 19**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 10 April 2014
To: Meeting of Technical Committee of the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. **CM 2207/14** with the postponement of the AOB point "Presentation on the Coca leaf study". The other AOB point "Presentation of the outcomes of the study "Judicial cooperation, mutual legal assistance and extradition of drug traffickers and other drug-related cases between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries" was taken under agenda item 2.

2. Preparation of the XVIth High Level meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

The EU co-Presidency informed the meeting about some practical details related with the above-mentioned meeting to be held in Athens on 18-19 June 2014 and promised to send the practical information sheet to the delegations before the next Technical Committee meeting.

As regards the coordination of possible presentations/information points to be included to the agenda of the High Level meeting, the representative of the Commission proposed that the contractors of the study "Judicial cooperation, mutual legal assistance and extradition of drug traffickers and other drug-related cases between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries" would be invited to present the outcomes of this study and gave a short overview of the study and its results (originally foreseen as an AOB item on the agenda). Another representative of the Commission suggested making a presentation on drug-precursors during the High Level meeting, during which the amended EU legislation on drug precursors could be presented and existing as well as future cooperation with Latin American countries in the field could be discussed. The UK delegation proposed to make a presentation on mephedrone, so as to encourage the states to place mephedrone under control, as already proposed during the recent Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) session in 2014 March.

The possible number of thematic debates to be held during the High Level meeting was discussed, with the EU co-Presidency proposing to concentrate on two topics. The meeting discussed a possibility to put one topic proposed by the CELAC side ("Institutionality") and one topic proposed by the EU side ("New psychoactive substances") on the agenda of the High Level meeting.

The CELAC co-Presidency shared their initial comments as regards the draft Athens declaration (doc. DS 1046/2/14 REV 2) with a view to providing the drafting proposals before the next Technical Committee meeting.

The representative of the SGC shortly presented the draft Annual report (doc. DS 1146/14) and asked the CELAC side to provide their comments on the report, once the document would be discussed during the inter-CELAC meeting.

3. Developments in antidrug policies

The representative of the EMCDDA updated the CELAC delegations on the developments in the drug situation in the EU, emphasising the importance of the challenge posed by new psychoactive substances, elaborating on the cannabis use trends and the growing availability of domestically produced herbal cannabis in many countries as well as stressing that the illicit use of opioids remained responsible for a disproportionately large share of the morbidity and mortality resulting from drug use in Europe.

The representative of the Commission outlined the policy developments in the EU, including efforts to tackle the new psychoactive substances and work done to develop supply reduction indicators as well as minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction.

The Argentinian delegation explained that their antidrug efforts focused on prevention policy, social inclusion, improving employment opportunities and access to health care. The speaker also informed the meeting that the national traceability system for drug precursors would become obligatory for all operators using precursors and life-time tracking of precursor movements would be available. The delegation also expressed their concern about the appearance of new drugs.

The Guatemalan delegation informed the meeting about a recently created committee on the drug policy reform tasked to draft proposals on alternative ways to tackle drugs, while respecting human rights, which should produce its final report in November.

4. Overview of EU-CELAC cooperation activities and other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives in which some CELAC countries participate

The representative of the Commission announced that the Commission was ready to prolong the COPOLAD programme for an additional year so as to avoid gaps in activities, and that following the positive evaluation of the functioning of the programme, the Commission intended to set up a follow-up programme. The speaker stressed the importance of the involvement of CELAC countries in the preparation of the new programme.

The representative of the COPOLAD programme gave a brief overview of the COPOLAD activities implemented so far, including strengthening national observatories, developing the necessary protocols, preparing relevant studies and online courses. The speaker also noted that a number of the events was foreseen in the near future, including a major forum on alternative development to be held in Quito in May. She also informed the meeting about the COPOLAD conference focusing on health approach in drugs policy to be held on 17 June 2014 in Athens, back-to-back to the EU-CELAC high level meeting, and indicated that the deadline for sending the applications for participation was set at 29 April 2014. The CELAC co-Presidency congratulated on the choice of the topic for the COPOLAD conference, noting that the relevance of health-driven approach was becoming more and more clear in drug policies.

The representative of the Commission updated the meeting on the developments in the framework of the Cocaine Route programme, informing the meeting that the annual action plan for 2014 was being developed and three actions were proposed for the implementation as from this year (subject to the agreement of the Member States), including the extension of the SEACOP programme to the selected Caribbean and African countries and introduction of a project on criminal justice and investigations, which would cover Latin American, Africa and the Caribbean.

5. Any other business

No items were discussed under this point.
