



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 7 July 2014
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**JAI 589
CORDROGUE 53
COWEB 78**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 8 May 2014
To: Delegations

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting approved the agenda as set out in doc. **CM 2457/14**.

2. Developments of drug policy and drug situation

The representatives of the Commission informed the meeting about the draft legislation aimed at tackling new psychoactive substances more efficiently and about recent changes made to the EU drug precursor legislation, and the representative of the EMCDDA updated on the EU drug situation.

Montenegro informed the meeting that the national drugs strategy for the years 2013-2020, which was fully aligned with the EU Drugs Strategy, and an action plan had been adopted. In Serbia the evaluation of the implementation of the national drugs strategy for the years 2009-2013 was completed, based on the results of which the new strategy had been drafted. Bosnia and Herzegovina noted that following the expiration of the drugs action plan in place, a working group had been initiated for drafting a new action plan. Kosovo* explained that they had conducted the first general population survey on drugs and were currently drafting the first national report. Albania noted that the National Action Plan for Prevention and Fight against Cultivation of Narcotic Plants had been approved and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia informed the meeting about the implementation of the national intelligence model.

3. Overview of the cooperation between the EU and Western Balkans

The representative of the Commission gave an update on Serbia's and Montenegro's accession negotiations as regards Chapter 23 (judicial system and fundamental human rights) and Chapter 24 (justice, freedom and security). The speaker noted that special attention had been given to the elaboration, adoption and implementation of action plans in the above-mentioned fields, including in the field of drugs. He also elaborated on the EU instruments available to the region to improve their fight against drugs, recalling that TAIEX could be used for organising workshops, missions and capacity building activities. The representative of the EMCDDA also stressed the importance of using the twinning programmes in this respect.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the EMCDDA's cooperation with the region, including a number of recent meetings held and support provided for data collection. He informed the meeting that the general population surveys on drugs were produced for Albania, Serbia and Kosovo, that IPA 5 would be launched next year and that the third REITOX week would be organised in November, which would also be used to closing IPA 4 and preparing for IPA 5. The speaker also stressed the importance of institutionalising and stabilising focal points in the region this year.

The representative of Europol gave an overview of the state of play as regards cooperation agreements, reminding that Albania had recently ratified an operational cooperation agreement with Europol, that with Serbia the agreement was signed in 2013 January and now was subject to ratification, and that with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia such an agreement was in place as from 2011. The speaker stressed the importance of providing systematic technical information on drug seizures, which would provide added value for linking the investigations between the EU and neighbourhood.

Montenegro gave overview of their cooperation with different EU bodies and partners from Western Balkans, also informing the meeting that as a result of their cooperation with Serbian police and other agencies the suspected major Balkan drug trafficker was arrested in Latin America. Kosovo noted that there was a need to think more regionally, possibly about regional treatment centers, given the small size of Kosovo. Albania presented their recent antidrug operations, informing the meeting that the most successful one, conducted with Italian authorities, resulted in a seizure of 1 ton of marihuana. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia noted that the Ministry of Interior participated in 3 JITs and that an infrastructure with Albania, Serbia and Romania for information exchange had been created. Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the meeting about a multi-beneficiary workshop on enhancing the quality of drugs addiction treatment held in Sarajevo in March 2014, financed by the TAIEX instrument, and Serbia informed the delegations about a twinning project conducted by Germany and destined to the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Health.

4. Drug demand reduction policies – overview of the current situation

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the challenges in the field of drug demand reduction addressed in the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 and its Action Plan 2013-2016. She also informed the meeting that an Action Plan on HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries for the years 2014-2016 had been adopted, which prolonged and extended existing EU action in this area, building on the achievements of the Action Plan 2009-2013, which aimed at reducing the number of new infections, improving access to prevention, treatment, care and support and improving the life style of those living with HIV/AIDS.

5. Drug supply reduction policies – overview of the current situation

The representative of the Commission presented the progress in developing the drug supply indicators, explaining that sets of data to be monitored were chosen in the areas of drugs market, drug-related crime and drug-related supply activities and that a reference group on drug supply indicators was established last year, which would meet annually with the second meeting planned in November 2014.

The representative of Europol informed the meeting about the latest trends as concerns heroin trafficking along the Balkan route and shared their assumptions on the seizures of acetic anhydride, used to produce heroin. The speaker also reported on the changes in cocaine trafficking, noted that Europol would soon start preparing the new drugs market report, and invited the participants of the meeting to provide input. Serbia informed the meeting about their legislation on tackling new psychoactive substances.

6. Exchange views on UNGASS 2016

The Presidency presented the EU priorities for the preparation for UNGASS 2016.

7. The role of Civil Society in addressing the drug problem

The Presidency informed the meeting about the letter received from a network of NGOs working within Western Balkans. The delegates stressed the importance of involving civil society in drug policy development and implementation and shared their national experiences of cooperation with NGOs.

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting that before the summer holidays a call for proposal would be published, focusing on seven priorities, out of which three could concern the NGOs working in the field of drugs.

8. AOB

No issues were raised under this agenda item.