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## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 10 and 11 September 2014  
To: Delegations of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting adopted the agenda set out in doc. **CM 3939/14** with the cancellation of item 9: "Preparation for the EU-US expert meeting on drugs (5 November 2014): presentation and discussion on the new US drugs strategy".

### **2. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on new psychoactive substances**

The Presidency presented an alternative proposal for risk assessment and classification system, proposing amendments to the system of data provision to EMCDDA and Europol, the stages of the risk assessment procedure and the system of classifying substances compared to the Commission's proposal outlined in doc. **13857/13 CORDROGUE 87 SAN 344 DROIPEN 110 CODEC 2068**. The delegations further examined the proposal, focusing among other issues on the suggested amendments to the system of data provision to EMCDDA and Europol, on the number of Member States needed to launch the procedure and the possibility to take more stringent measures.

The SE delegation gave an overview of the Law on Destroying possible hazardous new psychoactive substances, explaining the procedure for destroying these substances and criteria which had to be met.

### **3. Collaboration between the EMCDDA and UNODC on new psychoactive substances**

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview the European Early Warning System (EWS) and the collaboration between their agency and UNODC in the field of new psychoactive substances. The speaker stressed the importance of avoiding duplication between the EWS and the recently established UNODC Early Warning Advisory and explained that a lot of data sharing between the two organisations already existed. He noted that EMCDDA was consulted when UNODC decided to set up a global early warning system, and also expressed interest in data that UNODC had. The representative of the EMCDDA informed the meeting that some non-EU countries requested access to the EWS and that currently EMCDDA was reviewing the data sharing practices. It was also noted that such data sharing should be based on the principle of reciprocity.

Delegations stressed the importance of information sharing and agreed on the need to avoid duplication while providing data as well as discussed practical issues as regards the reporting obligations on new psychoactive substances. One delegation suggested spotting different reporting obligations and finding out if instead of filling in different questionnaires, one questionnaire could be filled in and sent to different addressees.

The UK delegation announced that in the framework of G7 in November 2014 they would be hosting an expert meeting on new psychoactive substances, aiming at improving information sharing at different levels.

### **4. Misuse of and dependence on prescribed medicines - the way forward**

The LT delegation recalled that according to the EMCDDA European Drug Report 2014, in 2012 in 17 countries of the European Union over 10% of first time treatment entrants were reporting misuse of opioids other than heroin and presented the proposed way forward as regards tackling misuse of and dependence on prescribed medicines, contained in doc. [DS 1362/14](#). The document suggests to endorse a definition of this phenomenon and start developing the relevant indicators so as to be able to monitor the situation in this field.

In response to some delegations, the speaker explained that once misuse of prescribed medicines resulted in dependence, this issue fell under the mandate of HDG and that the Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices should also be involved in this discussion.

The Presidency reminded that misuse of prescribed medicines could also lead to the use of illicit drugs and invited the delegations to study the presented document, to provide their first comments and discuss it at the forthcoming HDG meetings. The Presidency also informed the meeting about a survey on misuse of prescribed medicines launched in the framework of the Pompidou group, the results of which might be relevant for the future HDG discussion on this issue. The incoming Latvian Presidency announced their plans to continue addressing misuse of and dependence on prescribed drugs during their Presidency.

## **5. Minimum quality standards for drug demand reduction - the way forward**

The Presidency suggested the further steps as regards developing the minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction, contained in doc. DS 1363/14. A number of delegations welcomed this initiative and the proposed way forward and the Presidency requested the delegations to indicate the experts with experience in this field in the view of establishing an informal working group, which would draft a list of proposed minimum quality standards, to be consequently examined by the HDG. The incoming Latvian Presidency announced their plans to continue addressing this issue during their Presidency.

The PL delegation informed the delegates about a conference on European Drug Prevention Quality Standards to be held in Warsaw on 2-3 October 2014, which would also feature two thematic sessions on new psychoactive substances and risk and harm reduction, and invited the interested delegations to participate.

## **6. National Drug Coordinators' meeting**

The Presidency informed the delegates about the forthcoming National Drug Coordinators' meeting to be held on 13-14 November 2014 in Rome, during which a number of issues would be discussed, including the development of minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction, combating drug trafficking by sea as well as sales of new psychoactive substances to young people on internet.

## **7. Preparation for UNGASS 2016: update on the status of play**

The representative of the Commission reported on the intersessional meeting held in Vienna on 4-5 September 2014, also informing the delegates that during this meeting the CND Chair presented a non-paper outlining a provisional agenda for UNGASS 2016, topics for the High Level debate in plenary and a list of High Level workshops, which should be prepared during the forthcoming reconvened and regular CND sessions. The speaker also informed the meeting that the delegations were invited to present comments on the proposed topics for the High Level workshops and on the possible UNGASS outcomes for the next intersessional meeting in Vienna to be held in the second half of October.

The Presidency updated the meeting on the establishment of 4 informal working groups to prepare for the UNGASS 2016, reminding that the topics for these groups were chosen before the CND Chair submitted his non-paper with possible UNGASS High Level workshops. She invited the Member States to nominate their experts to these informal working groups.

The delegations shared the preliminary comments on the proposed UNGASS High Level workshops, on the possible contribution of the informal working groups and on other issues related with the preparation for UNGASS 2016.

## **8. Preparation for the EU-Russia expert meeting on drugs**

The Presidency recalled that the agenda of the forthcoming EU-Russia expert meeting on drugs to be held on 11 September 2014 was issued as doc. [CM 3719/14](#) and the delegations exchanged comments on the content and conduct of the meeting.

## 9. AOB:

### – *Court cases on cannabis cultivation at home*

The DE delegation informed the meeting that recently a German court had ruled that some people suffering from chronic pain should be able to cultivate their own cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

### – *The call for proposals for action grants under the Justice Programme published in August*

The representative of the Commission recalled the delegations about the above-mentioned call for proposal and invited them to disseminate this information to those who could be interested in applying.

### – *The upcoming meeting of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs*

The representative of the Commission informed the delegates about the above-mentioned meeting and the process leading to the renewal of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs.

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