



**Brussels, 24 September 2014  
(OR. en)**

**13385/14**

**CORDROGUE 68  
SAN 351**

## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

---

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 11 September 2014  
To: Delegations of the EU-Russia expert dialogue on drugs  
Subject: Summary of discussions

---

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

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 3719/14.

### **2. Developments in drug policy**

The representative of the Commission updated the meeting about the draft legislation aimed at tackling new psychoactive substances more efficiently and presented the results of the flash Eurobarometer survey on youth attitudes to drugs, addressing different drug-related aspects, including self-reported use of cannabis and new psychoactive substances, which demonstrated that the number of young people using new psychoactive substances increased in the past few years.

The Russian delegation noted that one of the challenges was to set up a system to prevent the abuse of drugs and explained that work was done to improve legislation. As regards prevention activities, in 2013 an antidrug campaign focusing on safety of children was launched and in a number of regions special internet sites were set up both for families and children, and much work in this context was done on a voluntary basis.

The Russian delegation also informed the meeting about their efforts to fight against the Russian organised crime groups dealing with drugs and gave details on various drug-related operations. The speaker also explained that internet was increasingly used for distribution of drugs and therefore was becoming an important issue, in response to which a specific programme to tackle internet sites which sell drugs was established.

### **3. Developments in drug situation**

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the European Drug Report 2014, noting that stagnation and decline was perceived in EU heroin and cocaine indicators, however, replacement substances caused concern. He also stressed that synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances constituted an active and multifaceted market with 81 new psychoactive substances being reported for the first time in 2013 and over 350 substances being monitored through the European Early Warning System.

The Russian delegation gave an overview of drug demand and seizures, noting that in the last 3 years criminal activity had involved more than several hundred of new types of synthetic drugs and that there was a big increase in synthetic drugs smuggling, which were trafficked from Russia towards the west and China. The speaker explained that new psychoactive substances were also a cause of concern.

### **4. Reducing drug supply and tackling new psychoactive substances**

The Russian delegation stressed that new psychoactive substances seemed to be the main future challenge and that drug traffickers were switching to these new substances. As an example of successful control efforts, the speaker explained how control of codeine containing mixtures led to the decreased use of desomorphine, also noting that some months ago around 200 of precursor chemicals were put on a black list, and this led to a number of seizures of new psychoactive substances and their precursors. The speaker also explained that the Federal Drug Control Service was working on introducing new methods to detect and control new psychoactive substances and that a new department was established within the Service to deal with these substances.

The representative of the Commission presented the progress achieved 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 EMCDDA was fine tuning these indicators.

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an update on the European Early Warning System, noting that amendments to the system were necessary due to the unprecedented pace at which new psychoactive substances were appearing on the market and informing the meeting that so far in 2014, 58 new substances had been identified.

The representative of Europol explained that some priorities of the EU policy cycle on serious and organised crime concerned cocaine, heroin and synthetic drugs, and a number of measures were foreseen to tackle them, implemented both on the EU and Member State level.

## **5. Successful policies to reduce drug demand**

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the Action Plan on HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries for the years 2014-2016, 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. The representative of the EMCDDA elaborated on the scientific evidence and policy implementation, noting that in Europe it was increasingly recognised that standards and guidelines was an efficient way of moving from scientific evidence to the effective policy implementation.

The Russian delegation informed the meeting that a new national system for treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts was created. The speaker also stressed that substitution treatment was not used to treat drug addicts, as other types of treatment were available. She noted that a far reaching network of medical institutions through the country was in place and quality and accessible treatment was provided with drug addicts enjoying the same rights as other people in the Russian Federation. Also, the speaker explained that in 2009 a state programme was launched for promoting healthy life style, which among others, included measures to prevent drug use.

The EU side stressed that substitution treatment was recognised at the EU and global level as an efficient method for treating drug addicts, as proved by scientific evidence, and the EU side announced their availability to share with the Russian delegation their good practices in this field.

## **6. Alternative development programmes**

The representative of the EEAS noted that the EU had been active in the field of alternative development for many years with significant financial contributions provided by the EU and its Member States for alternative development and rural development projects in Latin America as well as in Afghanistan, and elaborated on the EU alternative development principles and programmes implemented. The speaker also noted that the EU support for Afghanistan agriculture had been constantly increased.

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the COPOLAD programme, one component of which was also dealing with alternative development, noting that in the framework of this programme planning and evaluation protocol was elaborated, which would provide guidelines for sustainable development programmes, also to be used as a key instrument for national agencies in Latin American countries.

The Russian delegation elaborated on the challenges of implementing successful alternative development programmes, stressing the need to find such alternatives to illicit crops which would be attractive to farmers, the need to guarantee the access to the market and noting the inefficiency of purely repressive approach. The speaker also elaborated on encouraging alternative development in Afghanistan in the framework of the Rainbow programme.

## **7. Afghanistan and Central Asia**

The Russian delegation emphasised that drug trafficking from Afghanistan was increasingly influencing the internal economic situation of the country. Also, there were signs that both the trafficking in drugs and trafficking in precursors had intensified, and the number of clandestine laboratories producing heroin had been also growing. As the speaker noticed, an additional issue was the changing trafficking routes. Therefore he concluded that the situation in Afghanistan represented a new challenge.

The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the EU and Central Asia cooperation in drug issues, and presented the EU – Central Asia Action Plan on Drugs (2014-2020), which was composed of the four following components: strategic planning towards drug demand reduction; information, research, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies; drug supply reduction and wider regional cooperation. She also elaborated on the assistance programmes, including CADAP, BOMCA and Heroin route through which the implementation of the Action plan was supported.

The Russian delegation noted that they were also working actively with the Central Asian partners, including through bilateral initiatives.

## **8. Any other business**

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

---