



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 27 November 2014
(OR. en)**

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**CORDROGUE 92
SAN 457**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 4 and 5 November 2014
To: Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda set out in doc. **CM 4710/14** with the addition of the following AOB items: "Information about the forthcoming National Drug Coordinators' Meeting" and "Key drug reports" and the cancellation of AOB item "Information about the joint session with civil society".

2. Preparation for UNGASS 2016

The representative of the UNODC gave an overview of the preparation for UNGASS 2016 process, emphasising that the CND was aiming at an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process. She recalled that UNGASS 2016 preparations were open to the participation of all Member States (members and non-members of the CND) and elaborated on the inclusion of the civil society, UN entities, specialised agencies, intergovernmental organisations and other important actors in the field into the preparation process.

Another representative of the UNODC spoke about the importance of a health-based approach to drug policies, noting that only less than one fourth of the countries in the world had drug prevention activities in place and worldwide only 1 out of 6 drug users had access to treatment. He also addressed the widespread misinterpretations of the UN Drug Conventions, stressing that they aimed to guarantee the availability of controlled drugs for medical purposes. However, different financial, cultural, knowledge-based impediments, not related to the Conventions, hindered this access. The expert also noted that the Conventions did not treat drug users as criminals who required punishment, but rather called for their reintegration, and emphasised treatment and rehabilitation as alternative to prison. The speaker also emphasised that there was no conflict between the harm reduction measures and drug demand reduction measures, as harm reduction should not be carried out as an alternative to demand reduction.

The representatives of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSF) presented their recommendations as regards the preparation for UNGASS 2016 and the session itself, advocating the meaningful engagement of civil society during UNGASS, including through the organisation of the formal civil society hearing during CND 2015 and a formal civil society hearing prior to UNGASS, the outcomes of which should contribute to UNGASS processes. They also presented their policy recommendations as regards the international drug control conventions, drugs policy and human rights, public health approach to drugs policy and alternative development. The speakers also explained that good working structures had been established with the Vienna NGO Committee.

3. Preparation for the "Special Segment on UNGASS Preparation" to be held during the reconvened CND session: discussion on key messages and recommendations

The Presidency reported on the intersessional meeting held in Vienna on 23 October 2014, noting that it was stressed during this meeting that UNGASS 2016 should not be the repetition of discussions held during the High Level CND session in 2014.

The AT delegation presented the Austrian and Thai proposal for "A Bureau of the CND leading UNGASS preparation" explaining that the establishment of such a specialised bureau was a technically and procedurally important step, which would ensure continuity of preparations for UNGASS 2016 and openness towards the participation of all UN Member States. The speaker also stressed that setting up such a specialised bureau for major UN events was an established practice. The Presidency invited delegations to communicate their position as regards this proposal by 14 November 2014.

As regards the compilation prepared by the informal UNGASS working groups, the Presidency noted that a written annex, comprising policy recommendations put forward by these groups, could be prepared and presented with the EU statement on the occasion of the Special segment on the preparations for the UNGA Special Session on the World Drug Problem to be held in Vienna on 9-12 March 2015.

4. Preparation for the ordinary 58th CND session: discussion on the EU resolutions

The FI delegation presented a proposal for a CND Resolution on Promoting the role of drug analysis laboratories worldwide and reaffirming the importance of the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories (doc. DS 1484/14). Some delegations expressed their support for this resolution and the concerns expressed in it.

The EL delegation informed the meeting about the intention to present a proposal for a CND Resolution on proportionality of sentencing for drug-related offences. A deadline of 1 December 2014 was set for providing comments on the draft FI resolution and providing the proposals for other CND resolutions.

The incoming LV Presidency informed the meeting about their plans to organise a side event on minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction during the CND session in Vienna. The ES delegation explained about the COPOLAD activities in this respect, and proposed to also include them in the presentation.

5. Preparation for the EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting (11 December 2014) and XVII High Level meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (11-12 February 2015, Montevideo)

The Presidency informed the delegations about the above-mentioned meetings.

6. Preparation for the EU-US expert meeting on drugs

The Presidency recalled the delegations about the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 5 November 2014, the agenda of which is contained in doc. [CM 4667/14](#).

7. Preparation for the Dublin Group meeting

The FR delegation outlined the agenda of the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 6 November 2014, contained in doc. [CM 4731/14](#).

8. Misuse of and dependence on prescribed medicines: defining the scope of the problem

The GSC representative dealing with the [Working Party on Public Health](#) and [Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices](#) explained the mandate and presented the activities of these working parties.

The LT delegation drew the attention of the HDG delegations to the fact that the phenomenon of misuse of prescribed medicines concerned medicines being used not according to their original purpose but rather "to get high", similarly to illicit drugs. She also stressed that such misuse, as in case of illicit drugs, could result in dependence and have similar consequences in terms of mortality, co-morbidities, social and economic burden, crime, etc. as the use of illicit drugs. Moreover, it could also lead to polydrug use and the use of illicit drugs.

The incoming LV Presidency recalled that the misuse of prescribed medicines was one of the challenges described in the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020, and therefore noted that this issue belonged to the mandate of the HDG.

9. Risk assessment report on 1-cyclohexyl-4-(1,2-diphenylethyl)piperazine (MT-45)

The representative of the EMCDDA presented the above-mentioned risk assessment report, contained in doc. 14029/14 CORDROGUE 77 SAN 377 + ADD1. Some Member States informed the meeting about the national measures taken to tackle MT-45.

10. Dialogue on research

The representative of the Commission recalled that the Commission had financed many research projects in the fields of drugs and published two publications containing information on the funded projects.

Another representative of the Commission gave an overview on the drug-related research in FP7 and Horizon 2020 programmes, which provided possibilities for drug-related research both in the fields of health and security, and presented the timeline for developing the Strategic programming for 2016-2017 within the Horizon 2020 programme. The speaker also elaborated on the ongoing FP7 projects, including ALICERAP, ERANID and LINKSCH.

The representative of the I-TREND presented this project aimed at determining the most popular new psychoactive substances (NPS) on Internet and creating technical data sheets about them. To this aim, actions were taken to develop tools for monitoring NPS availability on Internet, and business strategies; to attempt to reach “hidden users” and know more about them, as well as to identify and quantify selected NPS sold in online shops. She explained that five EU Member States were participating in this project, to be completed by March 2015, and presented a number of results already achieved as well as some pre-findings, including the pre-finding that recently banned NPS were less easy to find, but still accessible online.

The representative of the LINKSCH project gave an overview of this project, examining the unintended consequences of drugs policies. The speaker explained that they conducted an analysis of the global legal framework for drug policies in the view of preparation for UNGASS 2016, trying to detect controversies of the drugs policies and to link them to the legal basis. The project preliminary concluded that states misused the UN Drug Conventions in order to legitimize zero tolerance approaches on a national level and that the international community should clarify that the protection of health and welfare of mankind is the "first principle" of drug control.

The representative of the EMCCDA's Scientific Committee presented the drug-related research priorities in the areas of population-based research and epidemiology; demand reduction; basic biological, neurobiological and behavioural research; supply, crime and supply reduction and new psychoactive substances. The speaker explained that in selecting these priorities the following four principles were used: appropriateness, relevancy, chance of success and impact of the research outcome. The expert also elaborated on the ways and mechanisms to promote synergies and complementarity and to prevent overlaps in research funding.

11. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on new psychoactive substances

The Presidency recalled the alternative proposal for the risk assessment and classification system as presented during the earlier HDG meeting, and the delegations further examined this proposal. Delegations agreed on the value of information sharing through the European Early Warning System. As regards the risk assessment, delegations were willing to speed up the process compared to the one provided for in the Council Decision 2005/387/JHA, and considered that the seriousness of events for launching a risk assessment report on a specific NPS was a more important factor than the number of Member States notifying the substance.

12. AOB:

- *Information about the forthcoming National Drug Coordinators' Meeting*

The Presidency updated delegations on preparations for the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 13-14 November 2014 in Rome.

- *Key drug reports*

The UK delegation presented the "International Comparator" study and the review on New Psychoactive Substances which were recently published by the UK's Home Office.
