



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 20 February 2015
(OR. en)

6416/15

CORDROGUE 12
COLAC 7

NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: Montevideo declaration

The EU co-presidency forwards herewith the Montevideo Declaration as adopted in Montevideo on 12 February 2015 by the XVIIth High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC).

1. WE the Member States of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC); Member States of the European Union, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council, the European Commission, the European External Action Service having met in Montevideo on 11th and 12th February 2015, under the co-presidencies of Uruguay and Latvia, at the XVII High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and CELAC.
2. RECALLING the Declarations of the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union at the Summits that were held in Rio de Janeiro (1999), Madrid (2002), Guadalajara (2004), Vienna (2006), Lima (2008), Madrid (2010) and Santiago de Chile (2013), and the EU-CELAC Action Plan adopted in 2010 and its continuity in which theme VI dedicated to the World Drug Problem was ensured, as well as the commitments made in the bi-regional Declarations adopted at the High Level Meetings of the Mechanism.
3. UNDERSCORING that the United Nations Drug Conventions and other relevant international instruments constitute the framework of the international drug control system, and welcoming the efforts to comply with the provisions and ensure the effective implementation of those conventions.
4. RECOGNISING that in order to address the drug problem efficiently, the efforts should follow an evidence-based, integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach combining drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction measures, and taking into account the social and economic root-causes, as well as the negative social and economic consequences in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, as well as in full respect of all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States

5. REAFFIRMING that our commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights, democracy, good governance, the principles of equality, solidarity and respect for the rule of law, at both the national and international levels, constitute shared values of our regions and the basis of our dialogue.
6. HIGHLIGHTING the need to implement in a balanced manner the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action “on International Cooperation towards an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem” of the United Nations, taking into account new challenges and national realities, under the principle of common and shared responsibility as agreed by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/9, and as further expressed in the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. REAFFIRMING that the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and the Plan of Action “on International Cooperation towards an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem” of the United Nations should be done with a vision that integrates the efforts aimed at preventing and reducing the negative effects of the world drug problem on the social, economic and political development of our societies, and by promoting and strengthening, inter alia, policies aimed at reducing demand taking into account the social inclusion of individuals and based on the full respect of Human Rights.
8. RECOGNISING the importance of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between CELAC and the European Union, a bi-regional framework, carried out on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility, taking into account the importance of coordination and cooperation, to tackle in an effective and balanced approach the World Drug Problem that affects both regions. REAFFIRMING that this principle guides the individual and joint actions of all CELAC and EU States to ensure their equal commitment to countering the World Drug Problem in all its dimensions and encourages ever greater international cooperation in strengthening national capacities on the basis of a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach.

9. RECOGNISING the importance of sharing experiences and best practices in addressing the world drug problem, which may improve or enrich national drug policies, particularly those centered on individuals and their social and economic environment
10. RECOGNISING that after all the efforts made by States to counter the world drug problem and its consequences, it remains a challenge to public health, citizen security and the social fabric, and must be addressed firmly through the strengthening of our actions in a coordinated and comprehensive manner and through the enhancement of international cooperation.

MAKE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:

BIREGIONAL COOPERATION

11. WE RECOGNISE that the World Drug Problem affects all States and, in order to confront it, WE AGREE that global strategies directed at each and every one of its underlying causes and consequences are required. WE REITERATE the value of further uniting efforts in multilateral fora dedicated to this matter.
12. WE RECOGNISE the need to tackle the causes and consequences of the World Drug Problem through the promotion of social inclusion the improvement of public health services, guaranteeing education of quality and fostering the creation of decent and dignified job opportunities, in full respect of human rights, guaranteeing education of quality and fostering the creation of decent and dignified job opportunities and the promotion of evidence based prevention programs in full respect of human rights.
13. WE EMPHASISE that bi-regional cooperation should complement efforts undertaken at local, national, bilateral, sub-regional, regional and multilateral levels and WE RECOGNISE the importance of ensuring that such cooperation aligns with agreed priorities and objectives and that it should take place under the principle of common and shared responsibility.

14. WE WILL CONTINUE to support bi-regional projects, in the areas of both demand and supply reduction, based on jointly defined criteria of effectiveness and efficiency, sustainability, relevance and impact, taking into account national and regional circumstances, jointly designed and implemented by both regions in full acknowledgement of their respective priorities, rules and responsibilities. WE WILL CONTINUE to support evaluations of projects and their results.
15. WE ENCOURAGE the sharing of experiences, knowledge and best practices, as well as capacity-building activities that reinforce national policies, and WE EMPHASISE the value of triangular and South-South cooperation initiatives that seek to build institutional capabilities through the sharing of expertise, experiences and lessons learned, and through the provision of capacity building.
16. WE ALSO REAFFIRM our commitment to promoting bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation in countering the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and the production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances as well as new psychoactive substances, by sharing experiences, lessons learned, intelligence and information, as appropriate and in accordance with the legal framework of each State.
17. WE REAFFIRM the need to address the world drug problem with a comprehensive, multidisciplinary intersectorial and balanced approach to all aspects of the problem, including a perspective of public health, within a framework of respect for human rights taking into account the related citizen security problems.
18. WE RECOGNISE that the responsibility for addressing the World Drug Problem rests within States. WE HIGHLIGHT the value of supporting the implementation of national strategies that should contribute to strengthening relevant local actors, as well as the need to strengthen multisectorial cooperation at the public level and the participation of civil society and community-based organization in the implementation of public drug policies.

19. WE COMMIT OURSELVES to work within this bi-regional framework on identifying and addressing the particular social and economic causes of the world drug problem from its origin, as a means to prevent its negative consequences.
20. WE EMPHASIZE the important role played by civil society, in particular nongovernmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, and also note that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of public drug policies.
21. WE WELCOME the developments in the activities undertaken and the outcomes within the framework of the Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies between Latin America and the European Union – COPOLAD. WE UNDERLINE the importance of such Programme and strongly support the continuity of its activities in the future with the full involvement of the Caribbean countries in this regard.
22. WE COMMIT OURSELVES to foster the continued cooperation between Member States, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant United Nations agencies, to ensure or promote according to their respective mandates, the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control for medical and scientific purposes, while concurrently preventing their use for illicit purposes.
23. WE WELCOME the decision of the General Assembly to convene a special session on the World Drug Problem in 2016, and encourage a fruitful, wide-ranging and pragmatic debate. WE STRESS the importance of bi-regional cooperation to be fully engaged in the process established by UNGA Resolutions 67/193 and 69/200. In this regard WE REAFFIRM the need for an inclusive preparatory process that includes extensive substantive consultations, allowing organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice. WE REAFFIRM also that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the central policymaking body within the UN system dealing with drug-related matters shall lead that process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, inviting the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process.

24. WE RECOGNIZE the constructive role that parliamentarians can play in addressing the world drug problem and encourage their participation, as appropriate in the preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2016, according to UNGA Resolution 69/201.

DEMAND REDUCTION

25. WE REITERATE our commitment to promote, develop, review and strengthen effective demand reduction strategies within the framework of respect for human and intercultural rights in order to protect our societies from the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse with a particular focus on vulnerable groups especially children and youth.
26. WE ENCOURAGE the implementation of evidence-based strategies to address prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, and related support services in order to reduce the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse.
27. In this regard, WE HIGHLIGHT the importance of research and investigation, the role of national and where appropriate regional observatories, the use and exchange of best practices, as well as the continuous training of professionals, technical experts and other actors involved in the implementation of initiatives aimed at reducing the demand for drugs.
28. WE ENCOURAGE States to ensure that civil society plays a participatory role, where appropriate, in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation through consultation and partnerships, within the framework of national strategies, in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, particularly with regard to demand reduction.
29. WE UNDERSCORE the importance of strengthening education as a means to prevent drug abuse as well as investing in effective, universal prevention programmes, selective prevention programmes, indicated prevention programmes and support to communities.

30. WE SUPPORT the principle of equal access to public health services, which should guarantee broad coverage, as well as basic treatment, respecting human rights. WE ALSO SUPPORT measures to reduce the negative health and social effects of drug abuse, in accordance with the respective national legal frameworks, which may assist the most vulnerable groups and reduce the number of indirect drug-related deaths and infectious blood-borne diseases.
31. WE ENCOURAGE the development and adoption of policies and programs that incorporate a holistic, strengthened, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach with the objective of reducing the impact of drug abuse on public health and preventing the stigmatization, marginalization, and discrimination of drug abusers, in society, by mobilizing resources to facilitate access to national health systems.
32. WE CONSIDER, with regard to minor drug-related offences, that restorative justice may constitute, where appropriate, and in accordance with domestic laws a complementary mechanism to ordinary criminal justice.
33. WE ENCOURAGE, in this regard, cooperative efforts to strengthen national capacities, institutions, policies and programmes, such as special drug courts, special provisions in criminal procedures or others, where applicable and in accordance with national law.
34. WE ENCOURAGE work within the framework of the national and international law, and of the international drugs control conventions in order to consider, as appropriate, alternatives to incarceration in the cases of minor drug related offences. WE INVITE the participants of this bi-regional mechanism to consider the promotion of evidence-based treatment, care, rehabilitation, and social re-integration practices and community-based support services for drug dependent persons in prisons, as appropriate, as well as from the transition from penitentiary institutions to the community, securing continuum of care. In this regard, WE COMMIT TO take into account, inter alia, gender perspective, the severity of the crime, and the appropriate sentencing, where appropriate and in conformity with national law.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

35. WE WILL PROMOTE joint actions in order to identify, disrupt and dismantle transnational organised criminal groups involved in any illicit activities relating to drugs trafficking, with a continued commitment to working together to develop comprehensive capacities and strategies to counter the challenges posed by new and existing drug trafficking routes and new technologies and methods used by traffickers.
36. WE STRESS the need to implement joint preventive and enforcement measures, where appropriate, to combat all forms of criminal activity that may be linked to the trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances such as money-laundering, trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and arms trafficking. WE WILL ENHANCE joint actions, where appropriate, aimed at sharing information and transferring technologies among law enforcement authorities in order to better trace international money laundering and precursors deviation routes, and WE ARE COMMITTED to strengthening judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance to better identify, investigate, prosecute and sanction individuals and organisations engaged in money laundering and other drug-related criminal activities in accordance with national and international legal frameworks including, where possible, the seizure and recovery of the assets involved.
37. WE TAKE NOTE of existing forms of non-judicial cooperation in and between our regions, such as the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force implemented in the Caribbean basin, in promoting standards and the effective and coordinated implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating drug related threats to the integrity of financial systems.
38. WE EMPHASISE the need to strengthen bi-regional cooperation to prevent the diversion of precursors and chemical substances that could be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, including amphetamine type stimulants and other synthetic drugs, focussing in particular on the control of legal production and trade in these substances. To this end, cooperation between authorities and industry and interagency cooperation, which are essential for an effective control, should be further developed with the support of the existing and future programmes.

39. WE ENCOURAGE the implementation of control and preventive measures in seaports and airports in order to tackle the use of the various transport means for drug trafficking, including shipment containers, in accordance with national law.
40. WE WELCOME initiatives aimed at ensuring the availability of evidence, including the development of any project aimed to set up a traceability system of precursors through an analysis of seized drugs, which, among other data, will assist in the determination of the purity, the elements used in their manufacture, the processing methods and the geographical origin.
41. WE RECOGNISE that new psychoactive substances pose a significant worldwide problem affecting our countries. At the same time, noting the challenges posed by the involvement of organised criminal groups in the production and distribution of new psychoactive substances, WE WELCOME new initiatives focusing on combating illegal production, manufacture and trafficking of new psychoactive substances and support capacity-building, as needed, to improve surveillance and response in this matter, as well as to promote public awareness.
42. WE AGREE, in addressing the World Drug Problem, to promote cooperation and exchanges in scientific research and knowledge generation for the development and strengthening of strategies and actions; to encourage and strengthen studies, analysis, evaluations and initiatives which may improve or enrich drug policies, and the continued specialization of human resources in the various areas of this subject. WE ALSO AGREE to encourage, as appropriate, new forms of national, regional and interregional research on the world drug problem based on a knowledge and scientific evidence based approach.
43. WE HIGHLIGHT the great importance of the on-going cooperation between CELAC countries and the EU in the field of alternative development, addressing the root causes that lead to the settlement of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and the manufacture of psychotropic substances and seeking to replace it by licit sustainable livelihoods. WE RECALL the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and commit ourselves to contribute to their implementation in the framework of bi-regional cooperation between CELAC countries and the EU.

44. WE AGREE to promote initiatives to tackle the negative consequences of the World Drug Problem on the environment, in accordance with national policies.
 45. WE AGREE to bring this Montevideo Declaration to the attention of the EU CELAC Summit that will take place in Brussels, June 10 – 11, 2015.
 46. WE INSTRUCT the next Technical Committee of the Mechanism, which will take place under the presidencies of Mexico and Luxembourg to approve the 2014 – 2015 Annual Report of Activities.
 47. WE AGREE to convene the XVIII High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between CELAC and the European Union in 2016 under the co-presidencies of Mexico and Netherlands.
-