



Brussels, 21 May 2015
(OR. en)

9105/15

CORDROGUE 35
COEST 148

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 29 April 2015
To: Delegations

Subject: Summary of discussions of the EU-Eastern Partnership dialogue on drugs

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda outlined in doc. CM 2214/15.

2. Developments of drug policy and drug situation

The Presidency and the European Commission updated the Eastern Partnership countries on the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2013-2016, the development of minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction and the draft Regulation on New psychoactive substances. The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the drug situation in Europe, explaining that due to globalisation and technological advancement cannabis market was changing with big variety of cannabis being available on the market, that new psychoactive substances still posed a serious challenge and that ecstasy was coming back to the market in a more powerful form. The representative of Europol updated the meeting on key developments in drug trafficking, including the increased cannabis cultivation and growing internet market. He also explained that while consumption of cocaine had decreased, big seizures had increased.

The Georgian delegation gave an overview of the drug situation and measures taken to address drugs. The speaker explained that they witnessed an unprecedented scale of misuse of prescribed medicines with millions of codeine containing pills being legally imported from abroad and then illegally sold in pharmacies as well as an increased use of home-made drugs such as desomorphine and amphetamines. The speaker explained that the legislative amendments introduced to tackle this situation brought positive results. She also explained that new psychoactive substances posed a serious challenge, therefore a new legislation has been recently passed which criminalised illegal circulation of these substances and established a new monitoring and inter-agency cooperation mechanism - State Commission. According to the speaker, such actions resulted in 90 % decrease of the use of new psychoactive substances.

The Belarusian delegation gave an overview of measures taken to fight against drug production and trafficking in Belarus, explaining that due to its geographical situation, Belarus was used as a transit country for drug trafficking and that trafficking was increasing, while the number of people using drugs was also increasing. At the same time their age was decreasing. The speaker informed the meeting that 12 clandestine laboratories had been dismantled since 2005 and that 13 premises used for growing cannabis had been revealed. She also noted that internet was a great facilitator for drug trafficking, and that new psychoactive substances were advertised on internet as legal substances. The speaker also explained that in 2014 the main antidrug legislation was amended with a view to preventing large-scale spread of designer drugs.

The Ukrainian delegation said that Ukraine was actively used by international criminal groups to transit large quantities of different drugs to Western Europe and was considered as a perspective market for drug sales, especially among young people. The speaker explained the trends in drug use, noting that the most common drugs in the illicit drug market were marijuana, opium and amphetamine-type stimulants, while opiod use caused the major problem. Misuse of medicines was also rapidly increasing. The expert presented the recent legislative framework put in place for tackling drugs and elaborated on preventive measures against drug use carried out via local TV/radio and newspapers in all Ukrainian regions, on provision of treatment as well as on law enforcement efforts to tackle drugs.

The Moldovan delegation informed the meeting that a new drugs action plan was adopted in September 2014 and that last year 46 new substances were included into the list of drugs. The speaker also noted that recently Moldova had signed an operational cooperation agreement with Europol and a Memorandum of Understanding with EMCDDA.

3. Overview of the cooperation between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries and regional activities in Eastern Partnership countries

The representative of the EEAS updated the meeting on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in 2013/2014 in relation to drugs, presenting the main programmes including the Heroin Route programme, Eastern Partnership Police Cooperation programme and Integrated border management programme, while noting the increased dynamics of cooperation compared to the previous years. The speaker also presented several examples of bilateral cooperation and elaborated on different areas for cooperation.

The representative of the EMCDDA noted that cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries was good and promising. He explained that the Memorandums of Understanding were signed with Ukraine and Moldova, which opened ways for an advanced exchange of information and methodology as well as for building national monitoring centers within these agreements. The speaker also informed the meeting that negotiations on such agreements were ongoing with Armenia and Georgia.

The Moldovan delegation updated the meeting on cooperation initiatives within the region.

4. Thematic debates: HIV in relation to injecting drug users, including in prison settings

The Presidency noted that addressing HIV in relation to injecting drug users was a priority within the EU antidrug policy. The representative of the Commission explained that globally there had been a decline of new infections by 33% between 2001 and 2012, however, there was no decline in the EU, while Eastern Europe and Central Asia witnessed a sharp increase by more than 100% in the number of new infections. The speaker gave an overview of EU efforts to address this issue and elaborated on the updated Action Plan on HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries for 2014-2016, aiming to reduce HIV infections; to improve access to prevention, treatment and care and to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS. He noted that various existing instruments were used to finance the implementation of the actions foreseen in this action plan.

5. Exchange of views on the outcomes of the Special Segment on the preparation for the UNGA Special Session on the World Drug Problem (9-12 March, Vienna)

The Presidency noted that the EU and Eastern Partnership countries had common challenges, including common new challenges, like new psychoactive substances and presented the main EU priorities as regards UNGASS 2016. The speaker also noted that much time was used to discuss the procedure, and that it was time to decide on the substance. He proposed that CND sessions in Vienna could be also used for EU and Eastern Partnership countries to meet to further discuss UNGASS 2016.

Eastern Partnership countries noted the importance of UNGASS 2016.

6. AOB

No issues were discussed under this agenda item.
