



Brussels, 29 July 2015
(OR. en)

11275/15

CORDROGUE 61
COLAC 84

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 10 July 2015
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcomes of the technical Committee of the EU/CELAC Mechanism on Drugs

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 3214/15.

2. Update on the drug situation and policy developments in the EU and CELAC

The representative of the Presidency presented the main findings of the European Drug Report 2015 and the representative of the Commission updated the CELAC delegations on the most recent EU policy initiatives, including the development of minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction, implementation of the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime and proposal to establish a new mechanism at the EU level to tackle new psychoactive substances. The delegation of Costa Rica presented the special declaration on the world drug problem and the drug-related aspects of the Action plan, adopted at the recent Third Summit of CELAC held in Belen, Costa Rica. The speaker emphasised that the special declaration, among other issues, focused on the need for integral, multidisciplinary and balanced approach to drug policies, based on full respect for human rights and orientated towards protecting well-being and health of individuals, on placing an individual at the center of drug policies and on the necessity to strengthen regional cooperation in drug policies.

3. Report on the XVIIth High Level Meeting of the CELAC – EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

The Uruguayan delegation gave an overview of the last EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Drugs, held on 11-12 February 2015 in Montevideo, Uruguay, under the co-presidency of Latvia and Uruguay. The speaker noted that the meeting allowed to confirm common ground between the EU and CELAC in drug policies, which was especially important in the context of approaching UNGASS on Drugs in 2016 and stressed that it was essential that the EU and CELAC had a possibility to hold regional discussions before the UNGASS.

The Latvian delegation outlined the similarities between the Montevideo declaration, adopted at the above-mentioned High Level Meeting and the Athens declaration, adopted at the previous EU-CELAC High Level Meeting, stressing that continuity of commitments was important, and gave an overview of the new elements of the Montevideo declaration.

4. Outcome of the EU-CELAC cooperation activities

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of developments within the Cocaine Route programme, informing the meeting that three contracts related to three different actions would have to be signed by the end of 2015, including a new component on criminal investigation and criminal justice, aimed at complementing existing projects and strengthening the focus on judiciary actors and on trans-regional cooperation, the fourth phase of the on-going SEACOP project, the geographical coverage of which would be extended to selected countries in the Caribbean and Africa, and the third phase of the on-going CORMS project, dedicated to monitoring and ensuring coordination between all the projects under this Programme.

The representative of the Commission reminded that the initial phase of the COPOLAD ended in June 2015 and explained that the final evaluation of the implementation of the programme had demonstrated positive impact in terms of increased regional dialogue and networking, promotion of drug policies coherent with the EU approach and the development of effective and evidence-based drug policies. The speaker also noted that participants agreed that the programme had succeeded in building a platform for both regions to exchange experiences and to engage in an open and respectful dialogue in an atmosphere of trust. She informed the meeting that COPOLAD II would be composed of the same components and an additional component on drug precursors, and that the deadline for call for proposals for COPOLAD II was set at 31 July 2015.

The ES delegation noted that COPOLAD was very successful and informed the meeting that they had been working with preparing a proposal for COPOLAD II.

5. Endorsement of the CELAC – EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs Annual Report of June 2014 – May 2015

In accordance with paragraph 46 of the Montevideo declaration, the meeting endorsed the above-mentioned report contained in doc. [9284/15 CORDROGUE 36 COLAC 58](#).

6. Exchange of views on UNGASS 2016

The EU co-Presidency gave an overview of the EU priorities as regards UNGASS 2016. The CELAC co-Presidency emphasised that the human being should be at the center of drug policies and that drug issues had to be addressed in an integral, balanced and multidisciplinary manner with full respect to human rights. The speaker also stressed that common efforts should be reinforced to understand and address the structural causes of the world drug problem. Both sides agreed on the importance of UNGASS 2016 with regard to strengthening the commitment to tackle drugs and address new challenges.

The Brazilian delegation referred to the Declaration of Brasilia adopted at the special MERCOSUR meeting on drugs and regretted that some countries still applied death penalty for drug-related crimes and that the global recognition that drugs was a public health issue had not yet been reached.

The EU co-Presidency suggested to further discuss this issue during a meeting in Vienna, possibly organised in the margins of the reconvened CND session.

7. Coherence within the United Nations system and synergies with international fora on the world drug problem

The Mexican delegation informed the meeting that they were drafting proposals for UNGASS 2016 operational recommendations and gave an overview of the possible recommendations, including on abolition of death penalty for drug-related crimes, proportionality of sentences, alternatives to imprisonment, tackling new challenges such as new psychoactive substances and the use of internet. The speaker also called for more synergies among various bodies, dealing with different aspects of the drugs phenomenon. The delegation promised to share the document once available and the EU co-Presidency stressed the importance of both regions working together to develop UNGASS outcome document.

8. AOB

- *EU-CELAC Summit*

The representative of the EEAS reported on the above-mentioned Summit held on 10-11 June 2015 in Brussels, which adopted the political declaration and the action plan, also referring to drugs. The speaker noted that drugs was a predominant issue in the Summit and that preparation for the UNGASS 2016 was also touched upon during the Summit.
