



Brussels, 28 October 2015
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13521/15

CORDROGUE 82

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Outcomes of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs, 7-8 October

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda outlined in doc. CM 3839/15 with the addition of the following AOB points:

- Side event on alternative development at UNGASS 2016;
- The first European conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies;
- Adoption of the draft Council decisions on subjecting new psychoactive substances to control measures;
- Possible meeting with CELAC to discuss UNGASS 2016 during the 58th reconvened CND session in Vienna.

2. Preparation for UNGASS 2016

The Presidency gave an overview of the 5th CND intersession meeting held on 24 September 2015 in Vienna, during which the document containing the elements for the UNGASS outcome document ('Elements document') was provided. Delegations commented on the EU response to the 'Elements document', contained in doc. WK 98/15, also meant to serve as a basis for the EU statement during the 6th intersessional meeting to be held in October. The revised versions of the document were prepared during and after the meeting to be subsequently endorsed through the silence procedure.

Delegations further discussed the EU common position on UNGASS (doc. DS 1369/2/15 REV 2) which will be used as a written annex to the EU statement for the reconvened CND session in December 2015. A deadline of 15 October 2015 was set for providing written comments on the document.

3. Misuse of and dependence on prescribed medicines

The representative of the European Medicines Agency presented the Eudravigilance system, aimed at facilitating mandatory e-reporting of adverse reactions in the EU, explaining that actual or potential abuse and misuse were classified as types of risks with medicinal products, however, there were intrinsic limitations in pharmacovigilance processes to identify and understand misuse and abuse comprehensively. Also, she noted that one of the essential problems of the system was high underreporting.

The speaker gave an overview of the results of the project aimed at examining opioid abuse cases, noting that quite a high number of abuse was reported on Oxycodone and that Tramadol was leading as regards the number of reports received, many of them on misuse and abuse. She also explained that with EU pharmacovigilance system the trends could be picked up, however, they only related to cases which somebody identified as possible misuse or abuse cases. Therefore pharmacovigilance system could give some information to complete the picture on misuse, but could not provide a complete picture.

The representative of the EMCDDA recalled that they have developed a working definition of the phenomenon and that they were able to collect some data as regards misuse through some of existing data collection tools for collecting information on seizures, drug-related deaths, demand for treatment, however, much further effort and time was needed in this direction.

The Presidency gave an overview of the Presidency's paper on misuse of and dependence on prescribed medicines outlined in doc. DS 1472/15 and delegations discussed the scope and monitoring of the phenomenon.

Following the successful example of the informal expert group on minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction, the Presidency proposed to establish an online, informal expert group to address the issue of misuse of and dependence on prescribed medicines, which would put forward the expert proposals for consideration of the HDG.

4. Discussion on the draft CND resolution on proportionality for sentences regarding drug related offences

Delegations further examined the revised version of the above-mentioned draft resolution, contained in doc. WK 50/2015 REV 1 and the deadline of 15 October 2015 was set for providing written comments on it. The Presidency also invited other delegations intending to present draft resolutions for the 59th CND session to inform accordingly the HDG delegations at the November HDG meeting.

5. Preparation for the EU-Russia expert meeting on drugs

The Presidency informed the delegations about the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 8 October 2015, the agenda of which is contained in doc. CM 3840/15.

6. Report on the EU-Western Balkans expert meeting on drugs

The Presidency reported on the above-mentioned meeting held on 4 September 2015, the outcomes of which are contained in doc. 12123/15 JAI 668 CORDROGUE 71 SAN 286.

7. Outcome of the HDG Joint session with Civil Society Forum on Drugs

The representative of the Commission reported on the above-mentioned meeting held on 6 October 2015.

8. Discussion on the draft legislation on new psychoactive substances

Delegations further examined the draft legislation on new psychoactive substances, based the Presidency's text prepared under the legal basis of Article 83(1) TFEU, especially as regards the role of Europol in drafting initial report and risk assessment report, the added value of introducing a temporary ban to tackle the most dangerous new psychoactive substances at the EU level and the threshold for starting the risk assessment procedure. A number of Member States entered scrutiny reservations on the text.

The Presidency informed the meeting about the intention to submit the articles containing criminal law provisions for the examination at the DROIPEN working party, while the rest of the articles would be further addressed by the HDG. The Presidency also recalled the delegations that there was a COREPER decision tasking the HDG to explore the possibility to establish the new instrument to tackle new psychoactive substances under the legal basis of Article 83(1) TFEU.

9. AOB

– First Joint Call for Proposals of ERANID

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting about the first joint call for proposals launched by ERANID on 15 September 2015.

– Side event on alternative development at UNGASS 2016

The DE delegation informed the meeting that they were planning to hold the above-mentioned side event at UNGASS 2016 in New York and invited delegations to exchange information on what other countries were doing in this area.

– ***The first European conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies***

The PT delegation reported on the above-mentioned conference held in Lisbon on 23–25 September, explaining that the conference was attended by over 600 of different specialists and that the second conference would be held in June 2017.

– ***Adoption of the draft Council decisions on subjecting new psychoactive substances to control measures***

The Presidency informed the meeting that the draft Council decisions on subjecting 4-methyl-5-(4-methylphenyl)-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-amine (4,4'-DMAR), 1-cyclohexyl-4-(1,2-diphenylethyl)piperazine (MT-45), 4-methylamphetamine, 5-(2-aminopropyl)indole, 4-iodo-2,5-dimethoxy-N-(2-methoxybenzyl)phenethylamine (25I-NBOMe), 3,4-dichloro-N-[[1-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]methyl]benzamide (AH-7921), 3,4-methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV) and 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(ethylamino)cyclohexanone (methoxetamine) to control measures were to be (re)adopted at the JHA Council on 8-9 October 2015.

– ***Possible meeting with CELAC to discuss UNGASS 2016 in Vienna during the 58th reconvened CND session***

The Presidency recalled the initial proposal made at the EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting on 10 July 2015 to organise an EU-CELAC informal meeting to discuss UNGASS 2016 at the reconvened CND session in Vienna in December and the delegations welcomed this idea.
