



Brussels, 6 January 2016  
(OR. en)

15387/15

CORDROGUE 106  
USA 37

**NOTE**

---

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 2 December 2015  
To: Delegations

---

Subject: Outcomes of the EU-USA dialogue on drugs

---

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting, organised as a videoconference, adopted the agenda outlined in doc. CM 4672/15.

**2. Developments in the drugs situation and policies in the EU and in the US, including on new psychoactive substances and misuse of prescribed medicines**

The representative of the EMCDDA updated the US delegation on the latest trends in drug production, trafficking and consumption in the EU as well as on the situation with new psychoactive substances and misuse of prescribed medicines. The speaker explained that around 500 new psychoactive substances were monitored on the EU level and that tramadol and fentanyl were among the most misused prescribed medicines. However, data on misuse of prescribed medicines in the general population was lacking. The representative of Europol recalled the drug-related priorities of the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime and spoke about the involvement of the US in this respect, noting that cooperation was good, but could be further improved. The representative of the Commission presented the results of the implementation of the EU Action plan on drugs 2013-2016 and informed the meeting about an intention to organise a meeting on drug trafficking on internet, to which the US counterparts would also be invited.

The US delegation gave an overview of the US drugs situation and policies, informing the meeting that according to the results of the latest national survey there was a decrease in cocaine and methamphetamine use in the US, heroin use remained stable and cannabis use was increasing. The delegates noted that methamphetamine was starting to cause more concerns due to the changing patterns of methamphetamine production, which resulted in more seizures of this drug.

The speaker also recalled that 23 US states passed legislation allowing the use of marijuana for medical conditions, however, in 7 states the conditions for the medical use of marijuana were very restrictive. She explained that the government supported the research and clinical trials in marijuana so as to develop pharmaceutical recipes and medicines. The expert also informed the meeting about a recently launched major 10 year-study on the effects of marijuana on the brain, especially on youth.

The US delegation recalled that they had a quick system for scheduling new psychoactive substances and shared some concerns as regards the balance between quick scheduling of these substances and availability of scientific evidence. They also reported on a recent meeting with China to discuss new psychoactive substances, during which they were informed that China recently took action to schedule over 140 new psychoactive substances.

The representative of the EMCCDA explained that under the EU Early Warning System, the decision to schedule a certain new psychoactive substance was taken only after having conducted substantial research on the substance. Delegations also discussed the advantages of individual and family scheduling of new psychoactive substances.

### **3. Exchange of views on preparation for UNGASS 2016, including on elements for the UNGASS outcome document**

The US delegation outlined the objectives for the reconvened 58th CND session to be held in December in Vienna. The delegation called for having a short and operational UNGASS outcome document and supported the idea to first reach an agreement on the elements to be included into the UNGASS outcome document before proceeding to preparation of the first draft.

The speaker also recalled the main elements proposed by the US to be included into the UNGASS outcome document. Among operational recommendations, the delegation hoped to see more links between public health and law enforcement, focus on dealing with prison population overcrowding through alternatives to criminal sanctions and proportionate sentencing, reinforcement of law enforcement and judicial cooperation, focus on alternative development, ensuring availability and preventing the diversion of essential medicines. The speaker also noted that addressing new psychoactive substances at UNGASS was of great importance.

The EU delegation gave an overview of the EU common position on UNGASS, outlined in doc. 13795/15.

#### **4. Preparation for the 59th CND session: exchange of information on draft resolutions by US and EU Member States and planned side events**

The Presidency informed the US delegation about the preparation of the draft resolution on applying the principle of proportionality for drug-related offences for the forthcoming 59th CND session in Vienna.