



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 17 January 2014  
(OR. en)**

**5390/14**

**CORDROGUE 5  
COWEB 7**

**NOTE**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	16403/13
Subject:	Declaration updating the EU-Western Balkans commitment to fight against drugs

Delegations will find in annex the above-mentioned declaration, endorsed at the EU-Western Balkans ministerial meeting held on 19-20 December 2013 in Budva.

## EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs

Budva, 19-20 December 2013

**Joint Declaration on enhancing cooperation on drugs and renewing the commitments of the  
EU-Western Balkans Action Plan on Drugs (2009-2013)**

We, the Ministers of the Western Balkans and the Ministers of the European Union Member States, meeting on the occasion of the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs in Budva, Montenegro, on 19-20 December 2013, acknowledge the important achievements in developing and implementing national strategies and actions to effectively tackle the drugs issue under the EU-Western Balkans Action Plan 2009-2013. Determined to further build upon our accomplishments over the past four years, we recall the fact that drugs continue to present a complex problem affecting the health and safety of individuals and societies, as well as the security of states in our region. This problem can only be tackled by joint efforts involving all relevant actors and including information exchange and cooperation with the EU agencies.

Building on the results of the implementation of the EU-Western Balkans Action Plan on Drugs (2009-2013), we hereby declare our intention to continue the endeavours to counter the trafficking and use of illicit drugs, by renewing our commitments to implement the Action Plan, which will remain the reference for our cooperation in this area also in the future.

Moreover, taking into account the EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020), which consolidates the balanced evidence-based approach to drug policy, the respect for the fundamental principles that we all share - human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law and human rights - and recognizing the new trends in drugs consumption and the new dynamics in the illicit drugs markets,

We resolve to work towards strengthening our regional cooperation to address the following priorities:

1. Drug demand reduction, with a view to helping reduce the use of drugs, drug dependence, and drug-related health and social harms as well as to guarantee recovery and social reintegration.
2. Polydrug use reduction, including the combined use of licit and illicit substances, and the rapid spread of new psychoactive substances.
3. Drug supply reduction, with a view to providing effective responses to new threats, including the constantly changing trafficking routes and methods of operation of criminal networks, and to stepping up efforts to prevent the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors used in the synthesis of illicit drugs as well as pharmacologically active substances used as cutting agents.
4. Strengthen cooperation with civil society in particular on drug demand reduction measures and awareness-raising campaigns, in responding to the challenges presented by illicit drugs and the spread of new psychoactive substances.
5. Further develop monitoring, information, evaluation and research so as to contribute to a better understanding of the drugs phenomenon and of the impact of measures in order to provide sound and comprehensive evidence for policies and actions in our region.

Done in Budva on 19 December 2013

---