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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	8 and 9 November 2017
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

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### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 4815/17 with the addition of the following points under AOB:

- Legislative changes in Iran;
- Lisbon Addictions 2017 conference.

### 2. Developments in the drug supply reduction activities in the EU

The Chair of the COSI support group gave an overview of the strategic planning of the EU Policy Cycle for serious and organised international crime stressing that the important feature of the instrument was that it was Member States led and that third states and partners could be invited to participate in different actions. The speaker also explained that different actions could be conducted within the policy cycle including data collection and analysis, operational activities and investigations, joint action days, training and capacity building.

The Chair of the CCWP and CUG gave an overview of the Customs Action Plan and its synergy with the EU Policy Cycle Operational Action Plans. The speaker observed that even if there was no direct link between the priorities of the Customs Action Plan, such a link existed as regards the results of their actions.

The EMPACT Co-Drivers on 'Cocaine/Heroin/Cannabis' and 'New Psychoactive Substances/Synthetic Drugs' priorities gave an overview of the actions foreseen in the new Operational Action Plans of the EU Policy Cycle and on the implementation of the current Action Plans.

The representative of Europol gave an overview of the situation with fentanyl and fentanyl derivatives, noting that in 2017 nine new fentanyl analogues which are not internationally controlled have been identified so far. The speaker presented the results of the implementation of the operation action on fentanyl.

The representative of Europol presented Europol's new response to drugs in Europe. The speaker explained that following the conclusions of Mid-term assessment of the EU Drugs Strategy 2013–2020 and other evaluations Europol decided to reform the EU's operational activities regarding drugs, and that a number of recommendations were put forward in this respect. Some delegations welcomed the proposed changes.

### **3. Implementation of drug supply indicators**

The representative of the EMCDDA presented the progress achieved together with the Europol in the implementation of drug supply indicators. The speaker informed the meeting that soon an evaluation of this process would be conducted and that they had started work with Europol and Commission on drug precursor-related indicators. He noted that the field of drugs was a very dynamic field, therefore other ways to collect data apart from the routine data collection had to be used. The representative of the Commission observed that good progress had been made so far in implementing drug supply indicators.

#### **4. Preparations for upcoming CND intersessional meetings**

The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the CND intersessional meeting held on 16-18 October 2017, where a number of EU statements were delivered.

Delegations finalised the discussion on the draft EU statements on implementation of the UNGASS recommendations as regards international cooperation as well as on the process towards the 2019 global drug policy review for the forthcoming intersessional meeting in Vienna to be held on 16-17 November 2017.

Delegations also provided initial comments as regards the "elements paper" issued by the CND Chair on 8 November 2017 and discussed the preparations for improving the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ).

#### **5. Preparations for upcoming 60th reconvened CND session and 61st CND session**

The FI delegation presented a proposal for the draft CND resolution on laboratory support for the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs (CND). A deadline of 16 November 2017 was set for providing the first comments on this document. The EL delegation announced their intention to present a draft resolution as regards drugs and refugees.

#### **6. Report of the EU-Central Asia dialogue on drugs**

The Presidency reported on the above-mentioned meeting held in Brussels on 12 October 2017, the outcomes of which are contained in doc. 13770/17.

#### **7. Preparation for the EU-US dialogue on drugs**

The Presidency recalled that the EU-US dialogue on drugs would be organised on 9 November 2017 and that the agenda of the meeting was outlined in doc. 12016/1/17 REV 3.

#### **8. Preparation for the Dublin Group meeting**

The RO delegation gave an overview of the forthcoming Dublin Group meeting to be held on 10 November 2017 (doc. CM 4387/17).

## **9. Preparation for HDG and Civil Society Forum on Drugs meeting**

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting about the forthcoming meeting between the working party and civil society, to be held on 29 November 2017 in Brussels.

## **10. Preparation for the EU-Eastern Partnership dialogue on drugs**

The Presidency updated delegations on the preparations for the above-mentioned meeting, the draft agenda of which is outlined in doc. 12889/17.

## **11. Alternatives to coercive sanctions**

The representative of the UNODC noted that the biggest achievement of the 2016 UNGASS on drugs was the recognition that drug use was a health disorder, and stressed that the UN Drug Conventions did not impose conviction or punishment neither for possession of drugs for personal consumption nor for drug related crimes in cases of “minor nature”. The expert explained that imprisoning people in such cases could lead to many negative consequences, including drug overdoses, and elaborated on alternatives which could be provided. He stressed that alternatives should not be compulsory and should be left to the free choice of the person concerned. The speaker also informed the meeting about the preparation of the UNODC-WHO Handbook on the Treatment and Care of People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment.

Delegations agreed that drug use should be treated as a health issue and supported the use of alternative measures to coercive sanctions. Some Member States presented their experiences in applying alternatives to coercive sanctions, noting that the results of their application have proved to be positive. Suggestions were made that international bodies dealing with drug control should further raise awareness that the Drug Conventions did not request to place drug users in prisons.

The Presidency informed the meeting that draft Council Conclusions on alternatives to coercive sanctions would be possibly provided for the discussion at the next working party meeting.

## 12. Information on relevant international events

The representative of the EEAS informed the meeting that Iran expressed an interest in cooperation with the EU in the field of drugs.

## 13. AOB

- *Presentation by the EMCDDA of the European guide on health and social responses to drug problems*

The representative of the EMCDDA presented the above-mentioned guide which provides key information on some of the most important drug issues for Europe and the responses available, and aims to assist those involved in tackling these challenges to develop new programmes and improve existing ones.

- *Legislative changes in Iran*

The DE delegation informed the meeting about legislative changes in Iran as regards the death penalty for drug-related offences.

- *Lisbon Addictions 2017 conference*

The PT delegation reported on the above-mentioned conference held on 24-26 October 2017 in Lisbon, in which around 1200 delegates participated.

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