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## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 18 April 2018  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Outcomes of the EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting

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### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting adopted the agenda as outlined in CM 2210/1/2018 REV 1.

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

The EU co-Presidency and the representative of the Commission gave an overview of the latest developments in the EU drugs policy, including the adoption of new legislation to tackle new psychoactive substances in a more efficient manner, Council conclusions on alternatives to coercive sanctions and the new EU policy cycle on organised and serious international crime. The representative from the EMCDDA gave an update on the EU drugs situation, saying that the drugs market remained very resilient. The representative of Europol reported a significant increase in cocaine seizures compared to 2016 and informed the meeting that they were stepping up efforts to tackle drug supply. The speaker also encouraged delegations to make best use of the new Europol legal framework, which provided for a more flexible exchange of data on a case-by-case basis.

The CELAC co-Presidency informed the meeting that the drug situation in the CELAC region had not changed significantly since the last meeting, with cocaine production still being the main problem. The speaker said there were reports of increased cannabis and opiate use in certain parts of the CELAC region, while ecstasy was the most widely used synthetic drug. As regards new psychoactive substances (NPS), NPS with a hallucinogenic effect were emerging in the CELAC region, though other NPS groups were less present. The co-Presidency also enumerated the major drug-related regional CELAC meetings held over the last few years and the instruments adopted at those meetings.

### **3. Exchange of views on the preparation for the 2019 global drug policy review**

The Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) reported on the 61st CND session, especially as regards the adoption of the Chair's resolution on preparation for the forthcoming 2019 global drug policy review. The speaker noted that different positions existed as regards the 2016 UNGASS outcome document. She emphasised the importance of safeguarding the UNGASS achievements, but also the need to strike a balance between different positions. The CND Chair expressed her determination to engage in a broad discussion on this topic with everybody interested.

The Colombian delegation stressed the importance of the UNGASS and hoped that the 2009 Political Declaration would be closed in 2019, as the UNGASS outcome document encompassed more aspects of drug policy than the 2009 Political Declaration and going back to this declaration would not reflect the work done since then. The Bolivian delegation gave an extensive overview of the preparations done so far for the 2019 global drug policy review, including through CND sessions and intersessional meetings. The El Salvador delegation, referring to the 2009 Political Declaration, noted that it was important not to lose sight of the commitments made previously, and claimed that the 2009 Political Declaration and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document were complementary.

The representative of the EU co-Presidency noted that the UNGASS outcome document was a pivotal document for all future drug-related discussions and therefore no new political agreement was necessary as the outcome of 2019 global drug policy review. The speaker also stressed that the EU's priority was a broad international implementation of the recommendations outlined in the UNGASS outcome document and also seeking progress beyond UNGASS commitments. The representative of the Commission observed that the 2009 Political Declaration lacked the balance introduced by the UNGASS outcome document, as the major part of the declaration was devoted to supply reduction efforts and only a few pages dealt with demand reduction. The speaker observed that since 2009 there had been many changes, including recent achievements and new challenges. Also, in the meantime, the Sustainable Development Agenda had been adopted and therefore it was important to link the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document with the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **4. Update by Commission on the EU-CELAC cooperation activities**

The representative of the Commission and the representative of the COPOLAD programme gave an overview of recent and forthcoming activities as regards different components of the COPOLAD II programme. The representative of the COPOLAD programme noted that the current phase of the programme counted on increased involvement of Member States and that a new working method of working groups, based on different topics like early warning systems and aimed at sharing experience, was now used. She also observed that as regards alternative development - another topic dealt with in the framework of the COPOLAD II programme - some new countries were interested in joining such initiatives.

The representative of the Commission also gave an update on the recent and forthcoming activities within the different components of the Cocaine Route programme, to the implementation of which the EU has contributed more than EUR 50 million since the launch of the programme in 2009.

The speaker informed delegations that the EL PAcCTO programme, aimed at contributing to the reinforcement of rule of law and citizen security in Latin America had recently been very successfully launched in Argentina. The speaker explained that the specific objectives of the programme were to support the development of security structures and forces of the Latin American States; to improve cooperation in judicial and prosecution matters; to support the development of more modern and efficient penitentiary systems with greater respect for human rights, as well as to promote cross-border, regional and international cooperation in the area of organised crime.

He also updated delegations on the CARIFORUM Crime and Security Cooperation Programme dedicated to the Caribbean countries and the recently approved I-crime programme for Central America, which aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the criminal justice system to fight against transnational crime and had four components.

## **5. XX High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs**

The EU co-Presidency gave an overview of the framework agenda and organisational aspects of the above-mentioned meeting to be held on 21 and 22 June 2018 in Sofia. The speaker informed the meeting that the annual report on EU-CELAC cooperation was in preparation and would be transmitted to the CELAC delegations for comments before the second EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting. She also put forward two EU proposals for thematic debates to be held at the High Level meeting.

The CELAC co-Presidency presented some CELAC comments on the draft Sofia declaration and promised to come back with written comments shortly.

## **6. AOB**

### **– *Information on the annual COPOLAD II meeting***

The representative of the COPOLAD programme gave an update of the forthcoming COPOLAD conference to be held on 19 and 20 June 2018 in Sofia.

– *EU-CELAC Citizen Security seminars*

The EEAS representative gave an overview of the above-mentioned seminars, promising to keep the delegations updated on the forthcoming seminar on citizen security to be held in the second half of 2018.

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