



Council of the
European Union

022284/EU XXVI. GP
Eingelangt am 23/05/18

Brussels, 22 May 2018
(OR. en)

9138/18

JAI 446
CORDROGUE 50
SAN 152

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	17 April 2018
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda outlined in CM 2223/1/18 REV 1, with the postponement of the AOB item "Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" and the addition of the following AOB items:

- forthcoming EMCDDA evaluation;
- update on the Civil Society Forum on Drugs;
- Amnesty International report on death sentences and executions 2017;
- international seminar on refugees and drugs.

2. Thematic debate on the darknet and drugs

The Presidency noted that one of the threats in the field of drugs was the emergence of the internet (surface web and especially the darknet) as an online marketplace for drugs, and gave an overview of this phenomenon and new challenges posed by it. At the same time the speaker recalled that the internet had great potential for awareness-raising and drug prevention activities. Delegations presented national measures to address drugs on the internet and especially on the darknet and shared their experience regarding the dismantling of darknet market vendors. They also discussed possible actions to be taken on the EU level to address the challenge.

3. Presentation of the risk assessment report on new psychoactive substances cyclopropylfentanyl and methoxyacetylfentanyl

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the main conclusions of risk assessment reports completed on the above-mentioned new psychoactive substances (7488/18 and 7489/18), which together have contributed to around 100 deaths. The representative of the Commission informed the meeting that on the basis of the reports the Commission would come forward with a proposal in the beginning of May and the Presidency noted that the written procedure would be used at the working party to deal with this Commission proposal.

4. Discussion on implementation of the EU common position on the process towards 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. She also noted the need to align drug policies and relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to improve drug statistics, ensure interagency cooperation and active civil society participation. The CND Chair expressed her determination to engage in a broad discussion on this topic with all interested parties.

The Chair also noted that significant progress had been achieved in drug policies in recent years, with many different aspects of drug phenomenon being currently tackled.

Delegations echoed the Chair's points about the need to implement the UNGASS recommendations, improve drug-related statistics and ensure interagency cooperation and civil society inclusion, as well as about the links between drugs policies and SDGs.

5. Preparation for the EU-Western Balkans dialogue on drugs

The Presidency reminded the Working Party about the above-mentioned meeting, to be held on 18 April 2018 (CM 1872/2018).

6. Preparation for the EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting (18 April 2018) and the XX High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

The Presidency presented the framework agenda of the high-level meeting to be held on 21-22 June 2018 in Sofia (7553/18) and suggested that the influence of new technologies on the illegal distribution of drugs and on social and health responses to drug problems could be topics for discussion at the meeting. The speaker also informed the meeting that the draft Sofia declaration had been shared with the CELAC side and the Presidency was looking forward to receiving CELAC comments on the proposed declaration. She also noted that the draft annual EU-CELAC cooperation report would soon be issued and delegations would be consulted on that document through a written procedure.

7. Report on the 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Chair and the Commission representative reported on different activities undertaken at the above-mentioned CND session held on 12-16 March 2018 in Vienna, including a number of bilateral meetings organised in the margins of the session.

8. Report on the EU-Brazil dialogue on drugs

The representative of the Commission reported on the above-mentioned meeting held on 16 March 2018, in Vienna, in the margins of the 61st CND session (7629/18).

9. Information on the National Drug Coordinators' meeting

The Presidency informed the delegates about the forthcoming National Drug Coordinators' meeting, to be held on 3 May 2018 in Sofia.

10. AOB

- ***3rd Brandenburg Forum on Drugs and Development Policies – the run-up towards 2019***

The DE delegation reported on the above-mentioned well-attended meeting, held on 13-15 February 2018, the participants in which concluded that the focus should be placed on UNGASS implementation and that the involvement of civil society in the drug-related discussions was crucial.

- ***Evaluation of EU drug precursor legislation***

The representative of the Commission informed the delegates about the preparation for the forthcoming evaluation of EU drug precursor legislation and noted that there would be various opportunities for Member States to contribute to this consultation.

- ***Swedish candidacy for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 2020-2023***

The SE delegation informed the meeting of their intention to seek CND membership during the period 2020-2023.

- ***National Strategy on Addictions 2017-2024***

The ES delegation gave an overview of the recently adopted third national strategy on addictions, which included not only drugs, but also some licit substances like alcohol and tobacco. She also noted that they were currently working on the first of the two action plans which will implement the strategy.

– ***Forthcoming EMCDDA evaluation***

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting about the forthcoming evaluation of the EMCDDA, noting that the members of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs would also be consulted during this evaluation.

– ***Update on the Civil Society Forum on Drugs***

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting that a number of proposals had been received in response to the call for membership of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSF), which were now being analysed. She also added that two plenary meetings of the Forum would be held this year.

– ***Amnesty International report on death sentences and executions 2017***

The representative of the Commission drew the delegates' attention to the above-mentioned report, summarising the main conclusions of the report.

– ***International seminar on refugees and drugs***

The EL delegation presented the above-mentioned seminar organised in cooperation with the Pompidou group on 24-25 April 2018 in Athens, and invited the delegates to attend the seminar.
