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CORDROGUE 57  
RELEX 541

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 1 June 2018  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Summary of discussions of the Dublin Group meeting

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### 1. Adoption of agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as outlined in CM 2810/18 with the addition of the following item under AOB: information from the French delegation.

### 2. General overview of the final guidelines of the Dublin Group

The Chair of the Dublin Group presented the main provisions of the revised guidelines of the Dublin Group, which were recently adopted and are set out in 9161/3/2017 REV 3.

### 3. Presentation of the 2018 regional reports by the Regional Chairs

The French regional chair gave an update on the drugs situation in West Africa. Cocaine trafficking through West Africa was on the rise, following an increase in production in Latin America. In addition, large amounts of cocaine were being stored in the region and then shipped to Europe in small quantities.

The volume of heroin transiting through the region was on the rise, and the production of cannabis and methamphetamine was also increasing. The massive presence of drugs in the region had resulted in increased drug consumption, with a variety of drugs, as well as prescribed medicines, being consumed.

The Italian regional chair gave an overview of the drug situation in Central Asia, as outlined in 9757/18 CORDROGUE 54 ASIE 25. Recent trends showed that opium production in Afghanistan was moving from northern and central parts of the country to southern areas. This had created the conditions for a shift in trafficking towards the Caucasus, the Balkans, and South Asia. The use of a so-called Caucasian route, which bypassed the Balkans route and went through a number of Caucasian countries and across the Caspian Sea, was proving to be more convenient and more cost-effective: this was confirmed by evidence of drug seizures in Central Asia in 2017. The growth in opium production might stimulate trafficking in precursors from China, and China's developed chemical industry and geographical closeness could potentially supply precursors for the production of illegal narcotics in Central Asia and Afghanistan. The speaker stressed the importance of CARICC which, as the only platform in Central Asia for sharing data, intelligence and analysis, filled an information gap on drug-related issues.

#### **4. Presentation of the 2018 Dublin Group report by the Central Dublin Group Chair**

The Chair of the Dublin Group presented the 2018 Dublin Group report outlining the major trends and challenges in the field of drugs, noting in particular that the highest drug use would continue to be in developing countries, that in the future migrants could be used as drug couriers and that drug trafficking would be a source for the acquisition of firearms, explosives and similar items from the dark markets.

#### **5. Debate on the Dublin Group's contribution to the exchange of information and good practices in reducing global drug demand and supply**

Delegations discussed issues relating to data collection for the mini-Dublin Group reports and agreed on the importance of collecting accurate and reliable data.

**6. Debate on the presentation of the Dublin Group during the XX High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs**

The President of the Dublin Group informed the meeting about the forthcoming presentation by the Dublin Group at the XX High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs to be held on 21 and 22 June 2018 in Sofia.

**7. Discussions on the proposal to organise a side event at the 62nd CND session in Vienna, in 2019**

The President of the Dublin Group proposed organising a side event on drugs and internet to be held in the margins of the 62nd CND session in Vienna in March 2019 and invited delegations to propose possible speakers by 1 August 2018.

**8. AOB: Information from the French delegation**

The French delegation informed the meeting that a third country had expressed an interest in possibly attending the Dublin Group meetings in Kabul. The President of the Dublin Group explained the procedure to be followed regarding this request.