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CORDROGUE 161
SAN 453

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 10 November 2017
To: Delegations
Subject: Dublin Group

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 4387/17.

2. Discussion on the revised Dublin Group Guidelines

Delegations further discussed the revised Dublin Group guidelines, contained in doc. 9161/2/17 REV 2, including as regards data collection for Dublin Group reports. The Chair informed the meeting that the revised guidelines will be prepared, on which delegations will be invited to comment further.

3. Presentation of regional reports by the regional chairs

The Spanish Chair gave an overview of the situation in the South America (doc. 13421/1/17 REV 1 CORDROGUE 127, COLAC 106) noting that since the group's last report, there have been significant developments in the fight against drug trafficking in Bolivia, including the recent approval of the regulation implementing the general law on coca and progress made in the development of a sector plan on the reform of the justice sector. Brazil was an expanding market for synthetic drugs. In Peru the situation was not much different from the previous reporting periods.

The Uruguayan authorities consider that the cannabis market was already regulated thanks to the new legislation, although some details may still needed to be worked out, such as the issue of medical cannabis. According to the UNODC sources, in 2016 the total area under coca cultivation in Colombia increased to 146 000 hectares, thus representing an increase of 40 % since 2014. Argentina has resumed publication of official data on drugs. Paraguay continued to be the major producer of marihuana and there were serious concerns over the fact that the majority of cocaine base paste users were underage.

The Spanish Chair gave an overview of the situation in the North Africa (doc. 13335/1/17 REV 1 CORDROGUE 125) explaining that the number of drug addicts was growing each year in Algeria and that Egypt continued to be regarded as a transit country, and not a producer country. There were indications that in Morocco cannabis resin consumption was being replaced in large part by marijuana consumption. In Mauritania Indian hemp was still the only drug consumed on a significant scale, and this was linked to traditional practices.

The US Chair presented their efforts to address drug challenges in the Central America (doc. 14182/17 CORDROGUE 144 COLAC 121), noting that the US was the primary donor supporting Central America on drugs, including through the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), which provided training, technical assistance, and equipment to professionalize and improve the capabilities of law enforcement and justice institutions.

The Australian Chair gave an overview of the drug situation and responses in the South East Asia (doc. 13600/17 CORDROGUE 132 ASIE 47) noting that drug production, trafficking and use has been growing throughout the region and that the increased connectivity of the region also acted as a facilitator for drug trafficking. The speaker also noted that there was an increased use of different regional cooperation instruments so as to address the challenges posed by drugs. The recommendations put forward to improve the drug-related situation in the region included promoting alternative development in the region, using treatment as alternative to coercive sanctions, making treatment available in prisons as well as coordinating donor assistance.

The Italian Chair updated on the situation in Central Asia (doc. 13392/17 CORDROGUE 126 ASIE 46) noting that despite the growing opium production, there was a three-fold decrease in heroin seizures in Central Asia in 2016, which might signal that drug traffickers bypass Central Asian routes. He also noted that issues of trafficking and controlling new psychoactive substances are becoming urgent and require changes in legislation. Among the major disadvantages of the regional anti-drug action was the insufficient information on drugs - at the moment, CARICC was the only data-sharing and analysis-sharing platform and the speaker hoped that the newly appointed Director would reinvigorate the work and activities of the Center. The representative of the EEAS recalled that the EU supported drug demand reduction activities in the region through the CADAP programme and border management through the BOMCA programme.

The French Chair updated on the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, noting that Pakistan was one of the major transit zones for drugs. There were serious security concerns in Afghanistan, which remained the largest opium producer and exporter, and drug consumption in the country was one of the highest in the world.

The Hungarian co-Chair presented the report on the situation in Western Balkans drafted by the Austrian co-Chair (doc. 14137/17 CORDROGUE 143 COZEB 132). The speaker informed the meeting that a number of strategic documents have been approved or were in the process in the region: a new National Action Plan against Cannabis Cultivation and Trafficking 2017 - 2020 in Albania, a National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Hercegovina and a Law on the Prevention of Drug Abuse in Montenegro. He also noted that cooperation with the EU was good, however, there was a lack of communication in the region while addressing drug-related challenges.

The Polish Chair gave an overview of the situation in Eastern Europe informing the meeting about the reform of the Ukrainian institutions dealing with drug policy. He also noted that the role of Ukraine as a transit country has been growing. Belarus had quite a quick procedure for changing the list of controlled substances and recently a number of new drugs and their precursors were put under national control in Belarus. Russia was very active in drug-related cooperation on international level.

4. Evaluation of the Regional Chairs' contribution to regional reports

Delegations discussed the Regional Chairs' contribution to regional reports including as regards the fields covered by regional reports and the nature of information provided as well as the feedback to Regional Chairs.

5. Discussion on the proposal to organize a side event at the reconvened CND session

Delegations further discussed the Chair's proposal to organise a side event so as to raise awareness about the **Dublin Group** activities at the forthcoming 61st CND session in March 2018. The Chair requested delegations to propose concrete topics for the event by 17 December 2017.

6. AOB

No issues were discussed under this agenda item.