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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs on 6 and 7 November 2018

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party on Drugs (HDG) adopted the agenda outlined in CM 4936/18, with the postponement of item 4 "New EU dialogues on drugs with Iran and China" to the second day of the HDG meeting (7 November) and the addition of the following AOB item: Third European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (Lisbon, 23-25 October 2019).

2. Information on drug-related discussions at other Council bodies

- Regarding the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime (2018 - 2021), the Chair indicated that an information on the two drug-related Operational Action Plans (OPAs) for 2019 will be provided to the Working Party once they are defined, i.e. probably in time for the next HDG meeting on 28-29 November.

- The Chair and the representative of the Commission provided information on the Omnibus resolution tabled by Mexico in the United Nations in New York. Adoption was planned on 21 November 2018.

3. Process towards the 2019 CND Ministerial Segment

a) Report on the CND intersessional meeting (Vienna, 22-25 October 2018)

The Presidency reported on the October CND intersessional meeting. The representative of the Commission referred to the intervention by Catherine de Bolle, Executive Director, EUROPOL on supply reduction on 22 October, and to the intervention by Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General in Commission DG HOME on new challenges the day after. She also mentioned the side event organised by OHCHR on 23 October on the drug policy, criminal justice response and the death penalty.

The Presidency and the Commission announced that on 6 December 2018, the OHCHR, in collaboration with the UNODC and the Government of Austria, would organise a High Level Expert Panel on the implementation of the joint commitment of States to effectively address and counter the world drug problem from a human rights perspective.

b) Discussion on the preparations for the 2019 CND Ministerial Segment, including on the Outline Document for the way beyond 2019, to be presented by the CND Chair on 5 December 2018

The Chair informed HDG delegates that the Chair of the 62nd session of the CND had published a draft outline today (6 November). The Working Party discussed the preparations for the March 2019 CND Ministerial Segment.

c) Preparation for the CND intersessional meeting on 7-9 November 2018

- EU statement on CND agenda item on 7 November on “Implementation of the international drug control treaties”

WK 13195/18 was discussed and the statement was approved. The final version is contained in 14263/18.

- EU statement on Chapter 6 International cooperation

WK 11930/18 REV 2 was discussed and the statement was approved. The final version is contained in 14269/18.

- EU statement on CND agenda item on 8 November “Taking stock of the implementation of the goals set in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration 2009”

WK 11931/18 REV 1 was discussed and the statement was approved. The final version is contained in 14265/18.

- EU statement on the preparations for the Ministerial Segment

WK 13196/18 was discussed and the statement was approved. The final version is contained in 14266/18.

4. New EU Dialogues on drugs with Iran and China

The representative of the Commission, supported by the representative from the EEAS, indicated that two new dialogues would be launched in 2019: a dialogue with Iran, as mentioned in the EU Action Plan on Drugs (9960/17); and a dialogue with China, as decided at the EU-China summit that took place in Beijing in July 2018. This annual dialogue would incorporate existing consultations on drug precursors. The Commission would keep the HDG informed on the dates and agenda for these dialogues.

A discussion followed, on the dialogue with Iran, and on the modalities of the dialogues on drugs with third countries. The latter topic will be discussed further at the next HDG meeting on 28-29 November.

5. Preparation for the EU-CELAC technical committee meeting (Brussels, 28 November)

Information was provided on the preparation of the next EU-CELAC technical committee meeting which will take place in Brussels on 28 November. This meeting would be co-chaired by Austria as the EU Presidency and by Suriname. The draft agenda in 12952/18, as agreed at the last HDG meeting, was proposed to CELAC partners. An evolution of the concept of the high level meetings of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs would be discussed at the 28 November EU-CELAC meeting.

6. Preparation for the HDG and Civil Society Forum on Drugs meeting (Brussels, 7 November 2018)

The preparation for the joint meeting between the Civil Society Forum on Drugs meeting and the members of the HDG (Brussels, 7 November 2018) was further discussed, on the basis of the agenda contained in WK 11934/18 REV 1.

7. Preparation of the Dublin Group meeting (Brussels, 8 November 2018)

The Chair of the Dublin Group (RO) provided information on the meeting taking place the day after, on the basis of the agenda contained in CM 4696/18.

8. Thematic discussion on internet/darknet drug markets and the role of postal operators

The Austrian Presidency of the Council presented the issue, on the basis of WK 13197/18.

For this first discussion on this specific topic in the HDG, many delegations provided preliminary information on the phenomenon in their respective countries, noting that this emerging threat was growing and had to be met with some specific answers. This was therefore a topical discussion to have in the HDG, while ensuring coordination with other fora as appropriate. In particular, action via EUROPOL was emphasised by several delegations.

Some delegations were particularly keen to share good practices and ideas for solutions to this worrying trend. International cooperation, as well as between stakeholders within each country and in particular with postal operators, was found crucial by most delegations who took the floor.

The representative of EUROPOL referred to the report it produced in 2017 with EMCDDA on Drugs and the darknet. He mentioned various actions in the framework of EU Policy Cycle EMPACT (European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats). However, he stressed that these represented individual actions that did not provide a general response to the misuse of post and parcel services for illicit activities. Among the drug-related high priority cases, 10% had a darknet and parcel component. If postal operators had an obligation to report suspicious cases to law enforcement authorities, this would substantially benefit prevention, investigation and intelligence.

The representative from the Commission noted that the Union Customs code will require advanced electronic data submission for postal items, as is currently the case for cargo shipments. She was available to discuss the issue further in the HDG.

The Chair concluded that the discussion would be continued at the next meeting of the HDG.

9. AOB

- **Joint proposal on a draft OSCE decision on enhancing the OSCE role in addressing the world drug problem"**

The Chair drew the attention of the delegations on the above-mentioned draft decision.

- **2nd Annual Conference "Drugs in Europe: a bold law enforcement response" (6-7 December 2018, at EUROPOL, The Hague)**

The representative of EUROPOL presented the program of this conference and indicated that he would report on the key findings of the conference at the HDG meeting in the beginning of 2019.

- **Extended Reitox meeting (13 November 2018, Lisbon)**

The representative of the EMCDDA presented this meeting. He was supported by the representative of the Commission when stressing that Reitox was the backbone to the data collection system of the EU.

- **Third European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (Lisbon, 23-25 October 2019).**

The Portuguese delegate gave advance information on this conference that would be organised next year.