



**Brussels, 6 December 2017**  
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## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	28 November 2017
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

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

The meeting adopted the agenda as outlined in doc. **CM 5141/17** with the addition of a point under AOB on "Changes in the Iranian drugs legislation".

### **2. International scheduling of new psychoactive substances: discussion on the substances reviewed**

Delegations further exchanged views on the new psychoactive substances listed for the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) review, and which might be proposed for international scheduling at the 61st CND session in March 2018. The representative of the Commission noted that this exercise was very useful in the view of the preparation of the proposal for a Council decision on international substance scheduling at the 61st CND session in March 2018, even if the results of the ECDD review were not yet publically available. Delegations were informed that the proposal for a Council decision will be issued in the beginning of the next year.

The speaker also informed the meeting that on the 18 December 2017 the Commission will adopt a proposal as regards scheduling of seven new psychoactive substances on the EU level, five of which appear in the list of the substances examined by the expert committee.

### **3. Preparations for upcoming 60th reconvened CND session and 61th CND session**

The representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the CND intersessional meeting held on 16-17 November 2017, where a number of EU statements were delivered. Delegations regretted that some states at the CND intersessional meeting announced the wish to reiterate the targets of 2009 Political Declaration as a result of 2019 global drug policy review, as this would mean a step back from more balanced and humane drugs policies, introduced by UNGASS 2016. Stressing the essential role of civil society in drugs policies, delegations also regretted that some states were against the involvement of civil society in discussions leading to and at the 2019 global drug policy review. Delegations also further discussed the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document as well as the preparation for the 2019 global drug policy review.

Delegations finalised the discussion on the FI proposal for the draft CND resolution on laboratory support for the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs (CND) and agreed to table this resolution on behalf of the EU at the forthcoming CND session in March 2018.

The EL delegation presented the proposal for the draft CND resolution as regards drugs and refugees and delegations exchanged views on the proposal. A deadline of 12 December 2017 was set for providing written comments on the document. The CZ delegation asked delegations' views as regards their initiative for a CND resolution. Delegations also shared information about the planned side events to be held at the forthcoming CND session.

### **4. Alternatives to coercive sanctions**

Stressing the need to agree on a common position on alternatives to coercive sanctions, the Presidency presented a new document on the subject, which would be further discussed under the incoming Bulgarian Presidency. A deadline of 12 December 2017 was set for providing written comments on the document.

## **5. Dialogue on research**

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the funding opportunities for initiatives in drugs research from the EU funding programmes. The speaker recalled that the Justice programme (2014-2020) included a specific chapter on drugs and that two research-related projects were selected for funding under the 2016 call: TWIST and EUROSIDER. He also informed the meeting that the proposals provided within the 2017 call for proposals were currently under evaluation and publication of awards was foreseen in the second quarter of 2018.

The speaker informed the meeting that the 2017 call for proposals within the Internal Security Fund – Police (2014-2020) has been published with a deadline of 12 March 2018 and that a budget of 2 million euro has been allocated for this call. As regards the Health programme (2014-2020), which among other priorities funds drug demand reduction-related initiatives, no new projects were selected for funding in 2017. The speaker also explained that even if the Horizon 2020 programme did not include drugs among the priorities of the programme as a thematic area, some funding opportunities for drug-related projects existed under health and security areas.

The Chair of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee gave an overview of the research priorities in the different areas covered by the expertise of the Scientific Committee members and also elaborated on the ways and mechanisms to promote synergies and complementarity and to prevent overlaps in drug research funding. The speaker informed the meeting that based on criteria of appropriateness, relevancy, chance of success, impact of the research outcome and the probability of stakeholders applying/implementing the research outcome, research priorities were settled in a number of areas. Among these priorities were assessing the prevalence of cannabis use disorders in young people and psychiatric comorbidities, examining the relationship between drug policy and drug consumption, evaluating supply-reduction interventions and assessing the acute harm (toxicity) related to new psychoactive substances.

## **6. Report of the EU-US dialogue on drugs**

The Presidency reported on the above-mentioned meeting held on 9 November 2017, the outcomes of which are outlined in doc. 14644/17.

## **7. Report of the Dublin Group meeting**

The Romanian delegation gave an overview of the proceedings of the Dublin Group meeting held on 10 November 2017.

## **8. Preparation for HDG and Civil Society Forum on Drugs meeting**

Delegations prepared for a meeting with the Civil Society Forum on Drugs to be held on 29 November 2017. The representative of the Commission recalled an important role of the civil society played in UNGASS 2016 and presented the Forum position paper as regards the 2019 global drug policy review, which stressed the importance of UNGASS and implementation of the UNGASS outcome document.

## **9. Preparation for the EU-Eastern Partnership dialogue on drugs**

The Presidency recalled that the forthcoming EU-Eastern Partnership dialogue on drugs was to be held on 29 November 2017.

## **10. Information on relevant international events**

The representative of the Commission informed the meeting about the invitation received from the Israeli cannabis agency for a conference to discuss the medicinal cannabis use, to be held on 18 April 2018.

## **11. Presentation of the priorities of the upcoming Bulgarian Presidency**

The incoming Bulgarian Presidency presented their priorities in the area of drugs and the calendar of foreseen working party meetings and dialogues on drugs with third countries.

## 12. AOB

- *Information by the Spanish Delegation on the draft Annual Work Plan of 2018 in the framework of the third Programme of the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020)*

The ES delegation expressed concern about the lack of drug-related funding in the above-mentioned Work Plan.

- *Update on new psychoactive substances legislation*

The representative of the Commission recalled that the new EU legislation concerning new psychoactive substances was adopted and issued in the Official Journal.

- *Update on new psychoactive substances under the EU review*

The Presidency informed the meeting that Council adopted a decision to ban on the EU level the new psychoactive substance furanylfentanyl and that risk assessment reports have been prepared on seven new psychoactive substances, including carfentanil, which as a result of the EU review could also be scheduled at the EU level.

- *Changes in the Iranian drugs legislation*

The DE delegation informed the meeting about a new antidrug law passed in Iran on 14 November 2017 which will no longer impose the death penalty in certain drug-related cases and is also applied retroactively.

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