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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 12 June 2019
To: Delegations

Subject: Summary of discussions of the Dublin Group meeting

The first bi-annual meeting of the Dublin Group in 2019 was held on 12 June, in Brussels, under the central chairmanship of Romania (Deputy Director of the National Anti-drug Agency, Mr Cristian DUȚĂ).

Participants: EU Member States (AT, CY, CZ, EL, FR, FI, HR, IT, MT, PT, SI), Australia, Japan, European Commission, EMCDDA, INTERPOL.

After the adoption of the agenda, the Central Chair invited the participants to discuss the current activity of the group, in particular communication flow, cooperation with mini Dublin Groups, cooperation between regional chairs and other stakeholders, reporting deadlines, and difficulties encountered in the data collection and analysis process.

The Central Chair proposed that, after the meeting, a request for written comments and possible suggestions on how to improve the interaction with other institutions, the data collection and analysis process, and the current communication flow should be sent to the Dublin Group members.

Another aspect which was brought to the attention of the group members was the length of Romania's mandate as Central Chair of the Dublin Group. According to the group's current guidelines, the Central Chair is appointed for a four-year mandate. Romania took up the position in November 2016, while the new guidelines were adopted in November 2018. The chair proposed that a written consultation procedure should be launched after the meeting to ask the group members for concrete proposals and to clarify the issues surrounding the length of the Central Chair's mandate.

Another issue raised was deciding on the most appropriate deadline for sending regional reports. The guidelines state that regional reports have to be submitted at least one month before the first bi-annual meeting of the Dublin Group. The Central Chair invited members to put forward proposals for a suitable timeline for sending the reports in order to allow enough time for the data collection and analysis process, without it being necessary to formally revise the guidelines. The European Commission emphasised the importance of these reports, which provide valuable data, and suggested that in future a calendar should be drawn up dividing the presentation of reports between the two bi-annual meetings. The EMCDDA pointed out that, since its creation, the main role of the Group had been to provide upfront, reliable and quality analyses from hard-to-reach areas where drug-related data was not collected. Initially, the role of the mini Dublin Groups was to collect data and include stakeholders in a light peer-reviewing process in order to produce useful reports. The Central Chair proposed that a written consultation procedure should be undertaken in order to decide upon deadlines and on a suitable calendar to divide the presentation of the reports between the two bi-annual meetings.

France, the regional chair for Western Africa, presented its 2019 report (based on 2018 data). France highlighted the main trends revealed by the data, and put forward recommendations such as supporting national and regional plans, contributing to alternative development solutions and supporting training etc. The group members exchanged views on the recommendations put forward, and some expressed support for the idea of dividing the presentation of the reports between the two bi-annual meetings.

The meeting also included a presentation of the *European Drug Report 2019*, published by the EMCDDA in Brussels on 6 June, which was a good occasion for the participants to discuss ways to enhance data collection, the importance of homogenous data collection tools (FI, HR, IT) and the trends of the drug phenomenon at European level (European Commission).

Participants expressed the importance of exchanging data and information on drug supply reduction and trafficking cases, following a presentation delivered by Mr Victor NISTOR, chief of the anti-drug unit within the Romanian Police. The case illustrated concrete and successful cross-border cooperation and was highly appreciated by participants (FI, INTERPOL, European Commission, EMCDDA).

The meeting included a presentation by the Romanian Presidency team on the follow-up to the 62nd session of the CND in Vienna and on the Ministerial Declaration. The presentation was followed by an exchange of views on accelerating the implementation of the commitments made by the international community in order to improve the world drug situation by 2030.

At the end of the meeting, the Central Chair thanked participants for their active contribution to the discussions and reminded them that written contributions on working procedures would be requested from them in order to ensure an efficient meeting in November 2019.
