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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: EU Statement on the occasion of the 63rd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, 2–6 March 2020
- Item 12: Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session - EU-Australia statement delivered upon the adoption of resolution L.4

Delegations will find in annex the European Union Statement which was expressed, on behalf of the EU, on the occasion of the 63rd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna.



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of
the 63rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, 2 - 6 March 2020**

Agenda item 12: Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session
EU-Australia statement delivered upon the adoption of resolution L.4

Mr. Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the sponsors of this resolution, Australia and the European Union and its member states.

We are delighted with the adoption of this resolution which addresses crucial barriers to the access to, and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. We thank all the delegations for their support and constructive cooperation.

Mr. Chair, without objective information for everyone and adequate capacities of health care professionals, patients remain without help to alleviate their suffering. We are particularly concerned about the disproportionate impact on children and the risks of use of controlled medicines that are unsafe, falsified or low quality.

Therefore providing objective and adequate information to all relevant persons, including patients, family members and caregivers on the rational use is essential. Chair, providing evidence-based guidelines and tools, comprehensive education and training programmes for health care professionals are key, and at the core of this resolution.

With further improved, coordinated and effective support from UNODC, INCB and WHO, we could make real and meaningful progress to accelerate our efforts in this area.

And in this context chair, I would like to make an additional statement now on behalf of Belgium and Australia.

Mr. Chair,

Australia and Belgium encourage all member states to consider how we can work together to reduce the global disparity in access to and availability of controlled substances; and to do more to create impact on the ground and reach those who need it most.

We encourage all member states to consider offering support to the UNODC, INCB and WHO to continue their important work in this regard. Even modest contributions can have a significant impact. We are pleased to announce a combined contribution of over half a million US dollars to support the collaborative work of the UNODC, WHO and UICC's Joint Global Programme.