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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Working procedures for European Union and Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI) cooperation

Delegations will find in annex the EU-CLASI working procedures agreed by the members of the Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI) and the members of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI) at the EU-CLASI senior officials meeting on 30 May 2024.

**Working procedures for European Union and
Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI) cooperation**

PART I – MAIN PRINCIPLES

1. Background and mandate

Following the creation on 2 March 2022 of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI) as an instrument to better coordinate efforts in the fight against cross-border organised crime in Latin America, on 3 March 2022 the Ministers of the Interior of the Member States of the European Union and the Ministers in charge of security matters of the Member States of CLASI agreed a first Joint Declaration¹. The deepening of sectorial dialogue between the European Union and CLASI is aimed at enhancing law enforcement cooperation both within and between Europe and Latin America. Both regions are facing increasingly complex and intense security threats from criminal networks, which are transnational, multifaceted, highly flexible, and increasingly violent in nature. Ramping up efforts to disrupt criminal activities can directly contribute to a safer and more stable environment for our citizens, ultimately fostering better quality of life for all.

The second EU-CLASI Joint Declaration from 28 September 2023² sets the framework for future cooperation in the fight against transnational serious and organised crime. Through a multidisciplinary approach, both Parties commit to reinforce cooperation on combating the illicit trafficking and financing of drugs, trafficking in human beings, the smuggling of migrants, the design, manufacture and illicit trafficking of firearms, child sexual abuse, cyber, environmental and financial crimes, the illegal trade in cultural goods, including money laundering and the criminal use of cryptocurrencies, as well as corruption, and the illicit profits generated by such crimes. The EU and CLASI also agree to increase the exchange of information and undertake strategic, tactical, and operational measures in the region.

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6762-2022-INIT/en/pdf>

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13575-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

Since 2017, the EL PAcCTO³ programme has fostered a strategic partnership between the EU and Latin America in the fight against organised crime. In its second phase of implementation, EL PAcCTO 2.0, running from 2024 to 2027, continues to be a crucial instrument for supporting the launch and implementation of key initiatives within and between the two regions. EL PAcCTO 2.0 is expected to provide direct support to EU-CLASI strategic relation in the coming years.

The last Summit of the Heads of State or Government (Brussels 17-18 July 2023) agreed to consolidate and strengthen EU-CELAC cooperation initiatives in the field of citizen security and social justice, such as the EU-LAC Partnership on Justice and Security, by combatting organised crime in all its forms. The La Paz Declaration (Bolivia 22 February 2024) agreed at the XXIVth High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs reaffirmed a balanced, comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based approach in effectively addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem.

2. EU-CLASI meeting cycle

Regular discussions at the level of both ministers and senior officials will serve to oversee, steer, stimulate, and facilitate cooperation and coordination, in order to provide an effective response to fighting transnational serious and organised crime. Specifically, the Joint Declaration calls for the organisation of regular meetings to build on the dialogue that began with the creation of CLASI.

Following the ministers' call for regular meetings, it is proposed that an EU-CLASI meeting cycle be established. The EU-CLASI meeting cycle would cover 18 months (three consecutive semesters) and would comprise three meeting configurations:

1. EU-CLASI ministerial meeting, during the first semester;
2. EU-CLASI senior officials meeting, during the second semester;
3. EU-CLASI institutional meeting, during the third semester.

³ Europe Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime.

Considering the needs of both regions, and on the basis of the EU-CLASI Joint Declaration, the Parties agree:

1. to ensure coordination, coherence and synergies between the different configurations in line with their specific tasks as outlined in part II as well as with other bi-regional cooperation initiatives;
2. to ensure an adequate level of participation in the respective meetings;
3. that the above-mentioned meetings should take place under the auspices of the respective Council and CLASI presidencies;
4. that EU-CLASI cooperation should respect and consider the different institutional structures of the EU and CLASI;
5. that all agreements reached during the meetings require consensus;
6. that all documents of the EU-CLASI meetings under the responsibility of the EU and CLASI Presidencies should be made available by the originator at least in English, Spanish and Portuguese;
7. that the co-presidencies will keep a record of the meetings;
8. to review the progress made on implementing the Joint Declaration and to jointly assess the effectiveness of EU-CLASI cooperation.

PART II – MEETING CONFIGURATIONS

1. EU-CLASI ministerial meetings

Composition

- a. Ministerial meetings will be composed of the ministers for home affairs of the Member States of the EU and the ministers in charge of internal security matters of CLASI.
- b. The European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council, the European External Action Service and the relevant EU and Latin American agencies and bodies are also invited.
- c. Observers may be invited with the prior agreement of the Parties.

Meetings

- a. Ministerial meetings should preferably be held in person every 18 months either in Brussels or in the country holding the Council or the CLASI presidency.
- b. The co-chairs of the ministerial meeting (Council and CLASI presidencies) should meet as appropriate before each meeting to prepare the discussions and the working agendas and facilitate consensus between the Parties.
- c. Under extraordinary circumstances, contacts at ministerial level could take place virtually.

Main functions

The ministers will, *inter alia*:

- a. exchange views about current affairs, new developments, and substantial matters relevant to EU-CLASI cooperation in line with the commitments of the Joint Declaration;
- b. review the progress made on implementing the commitments laid down in the Joint Declaration;
- c. agree at the end of the meeting on a final document to give political steering and guidance to enhance cooperation between the two regions.

2. EU-CLASI senior officials meetings (SOM)

Composition

- a. Senior officials meetings will be composed of high-level officials competent in the field of internal security from the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security of the Council of the European Union (COSI) and from the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI).
- b. The European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council, the European External Action Service and the relevant EU and Latin American agencies and bodies are also invited.
- c. Observers may be invited with the prior agreement of the Parties.

Meetings

- a. Senior officials meetings should preferably be held in person every 18 months, either in Brussels, or in the country holding the Council or the CLASI presidency.
- b. The co-chairs of the senior officials meetings (Council and CLASI presidencies) should meet as appropriate before each meeting to prepare the discussions and the working agendas and facilitate consensus between the Parties.
- c. Under extraordinary circumstances, contacts at senior officials level could take place virtually.

Main functions

The senior officials will, *inter alia*:

- a. identify ways to ensure implementation of the commitments agreed at ministerial level, while promoting the exchange of experiences and best practices and the identification of areas where bi-regional operational cooperation can be further improved;
- b. discuss and propose possibilities to develop new areas of strategic, operational, and technical EU-CLASI cooperation, where relevant taking into account the threats from serious and organised crime as described in reports such as SOCTA and IDEAL;
- c. follow up on the cycle of meetings and adopt and review the working procedures of EU-CLASI cooperation.

3. EU-CLASI institutional meetings (IM)

Composition

- a. Institutional meetings will be composed of the Council and CLASI presidencies, together with representatives of the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council, the European External Action Service, the relevant EU and Latin American agencies and bodies and the two incoming Council and CLASI presidencies. Observers may be invited with the prior agreement of the Parties.

Meetings

- a. EU-CLASI institutional meetings should be held every 18 months in person or in hybrid/VTC format, as agreed by the Council and CLASI presidencies.
- b. The co-chairs of the institutional meetings (Council and CLASI presidencies) should meet as appropriate before each meeting to prepare the discussions and the working agendas and facilitate consensus between the different Parties.

Main functions

Participants in the institutional meeting will, *inter alia*:

- a. prepare the programme for the ministerial meetings, including a draft agenda, topics, and documents that will be addressed at ministerial level;
- b. take stock of the progress made during the cycle and report the outcome to the following ministerial meeting;
- c. determine the venues and dates for the next cycle of ministerial, senior officials and institutional meetings.