



**Brussels, 27 November 2019
(OR. en)**

14579/19

**CORDROGUE 60
RELEX 1116**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 7 November 2019
To: Delegations
Subject: Summary of discussions of the Dublin Group meeting

The second bi-annual meeting of the Dublin Group in 2019 was held on 7 November, in Brussels, under the central chairmanship of Romania.

Participants: EU Member States (AT, ES, FI, FR, HR, IT, LU, PL, PT, RO, SI), Australia, Japan, European Commission, EMCDDA and EEAS.

After the adoption of the agenda, the meeting continued with an exchange of information on cross-border cooperation in the field of drug supply reduction, based on a presentation delivered by the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center - SELEC. SELEC is a treaty-based international law enforcement organization, consisting of 11 Member States (BG, EL, HU, RO, Turkey, Albania, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia), which was developed as a cooperation platform between police and customs authorities. Through an Operational Center Unit, SELEC cooperates with operational partners, as well as with observer countries and international organizations, being involved in information exchanges, joint investigations, regional projects, task forces, operational meetings, projects and in the delivery of analytical products.

Under SELEC umbrella operates also the Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG) which is a prosecutorial network, set up to facilitate and speed up international judicial cooperation in significant trans-border crime investigations and cases.

The meeting continued with the 2nd item on the agenda, when the Central Chair invited the participants to discuss the state of play of the activity of the Dublin Group and the way forward, based on the conclusions drawn up from the answers received from four members, to the questions which were sent by the Presidency following the last Dublin Group meeting, held in June 2019. The following questions were discussed: 1) data collection and analysis process for the purposes of the regional reports; 2) the timeline for sending regional reports; and 3) calendar for presenting the regional reports. During these discussions, it was agreed to divide the regional reports presentations between the two bi-annual meetings, and that reports should be sent to the Dublin Group members five weeks ahead of the meeting where they are to be presented.

Another question 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. Taking into account the date when Romania took up this position, meaning that its mandate would end in November 2020, the Central Chair encouraged the present delegations to consider submitting proposals of nominations for taking over the presidency of the group before the next meeting, planned for June 2020.

The Central Chair took note of the proposals expressed by the delegations during the meeting, and indicated that an official request to all Dublin Group members would be sent through the Secretariat, for the submission of proposals for candidacies for the next Chair, with a view to start with the new Chair as of the Dublin Group meeting in November 2020.

Under the 4th point, the Spanish, Italian, French Regional Chairs and the co-Chairs from Australia and Japan presented the main conclusions of the 2019 Regional Reports (based on 2018 data) for the regions: North Africa, South America (ES), Central Asia (IT), South East Asia and China (AU and JP) and Afghanistan / Pakistan (FR). The Central Chair expressed his gratitude and thanks to all Regional Chairs for their reports and for actively taking part in the regular activities of the Mini-Dublin Groups, which are essential for following the latest developments on the drug situation in their regions and for building in this way a broader and more accurate perspective on the global drug situation.

The Central Chair presented the 2019 annual report (based on 2017 data), under the 5th item on the agenda. The report represents a comprehensive synthesis compiled on the basis of data related to the general situation and the latest developments and trends from several regions and on the recommendations and conclusions included in each regional report.

The meeting concluded with a brief exchange of views on the WHO recommendations on the scheduling of cannabis and cannabis-related substances, data collection including the ARQ, the substances reviewed at the 42nd ECDD meeting and the follow-up to the 6th intersessional meeting of the CND (October 2019). This item was introduced by the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU and by the European Commission. During the discussions it was mentioned that the EU is currently preparing a common position regarding the WHO recommendations and that it is expected that the final proposals from ECDD will be presented at the reconvened 62nd session of the CND in December. It was also indicated that the European Commission has offered a substantial grant to support the ARQ revision process, given that collecting sound and reliable data is important for the purpose of developing evidence-based policies. Several EU Member States were involved in the piloting phase of the new ARQ modules.