



**Brussels, 11 June 2021
(OR. en)**

9516/21

**CORDROGUE 26
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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: Draft EU Drugs Action Plan 2021 - 2025

1. The EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025¹ was approved by the Council by written procedure which was completed on 18 December 2020². It provides the framework, aim and objectives for the European Union's drugs policy for the period 2021-2025. The EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025 specifies that the EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025 is to provide a list of actions on the basis of the Strategy.
2. The former EU Action Plan on Drugs covered the period 2017-2020³ and had been approved by the Council in June 2017 on the basis of the former EU Drugs Strategy which covered the period 2013-2020⁴.

¹ OJ C 102 I, 24.3.2021, p.1.

² CM 5447/20.

³ OJ C 215, 5.7.2017, p. 21.

⁴ OJ C 402, 29.12.2012, p. 1.

3. In 2019, the Commission launched the evaluation of the EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020) and of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020 ("the Evaluation"). The Evaluation was published on 24 July 2020⁵. On the same day, the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions EU Agenda and Action Plan on Drugs 2021 - 2025⁶ was published ("the Communication").
4. At the informal videoconference of the members of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) on 9 September 2020, the Evaluation and the Communication were presented by the Commission and discussed. On the basis of this discussion, the Presidency prepared a work plan for the development of a EU Drugs Strategy 2021 - 2025 ("the Strategy") and for the development of a EU Action Plan on Drugs 2021 - 2025 once the Strategy is approved⁷. This work plan was supported by the HDG members at their informal videoconference on 29 September 2020.
5. On this basis, and on the basis of the EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025, the Presidency prepared a draft EU Drugs Action Plan⁸, which was then amended to take into account the comments expressed by the HDG members at their informal videoconferences on 19 January, 9 February, 2 March, 15 March and 4 May 2021, and on the occasion of written consultations, which ended on 24 May 2021. Following the last written consultation, the Presidency assessed that consensus on the EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025 had been reached. Consensus on the EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025 as contained in ST 9373/21 was confirmed at the informal videoconference of the HDG on 8 June 2021.

⁵ 9944/20 + ADD 1.

⁶ 9945/20 + ADD 1.

⁷ WK 10130/2020.

⁸ WK 326/2021.

6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited:

- a) to confirm its agreement on the text of the EU Drugs Action Plan 2021 - 2025 as set out in ST 9373/21;
- b) to recommend to the Council that it approve the EU Drugs Action Plan 2021 - 2025 as set out in ST 9373/21, as an 'A' item at one of its forthcoming sessions.
