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Delegations will find in the Annex the Joint Statement by CELAC and the EU on the holding of the XXIIInd High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, 22 June 2021 (videoconference).

*Joint Statement**by CELAC and the European Union on the holding of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> High-Level Meeting of the  
Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (22 June 2021, videoconference)*

We, the Member States of the European Union, and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, and the European External Action Service, and the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), had jointly decided to host the XXII<sup>nd</sup> High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs in Zagreb (Croatia) on 2 and 3 April 2020. However, owing to the spread of the Covid-19 virus and the resulting precarious health situation around the world, the holding of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> High-Level Meeting in 2020 had to be postponed.

Reiterating our commitment to the objective of further strengthening the bi-regional dialogue and deepening our cooperation as agreed in the Brussels Declaration<sup>1</sup> including the effectiveness of joint efforts to address the world drug problem, we are committed to swiftly resuming CELAC-European Union meetings in the framework of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs.

In view of the abovementioned considerations and due to the travel restrictions in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the co-presidencies, Mexico, and Portugal, will co-chair the XXII<sup>nd</sup> High-Level Meeting on 22 June 2021 by videoconference. On this occasion, we will reflect and exchange our views on the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) as well as on the drug situation and policy developments in EU and CELAC countries, focusing in particular on drug demand reduction, drug supply reduction and EU-CELAC political cooperation and programmes.

We express our desire jointly to adopt, on the occasion of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> High-Level Meeting, the Biennial Report for June 2019 to May 2021 of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, as well as the Outcome Document of the High-Level Meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Brussels Declaration 2015 "Shaping our common future: working together for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizen".