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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: EU Statement on the occasion of the sixth intersessional meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-second session (Vienna, 16-18 October 2019)  
- Thematic session 1: The range of drugs and drugs markets are expanding and diversifying

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Delegations will find in annex the final version of the European Union Statement on "*Thematic session 1: The range of drugs and drugs markets are expanding and diversifying*" which was expressed, on behalf of the EU, at the intersessional meeting of the CND in Vienna on 16-18 October 2019.



**European Union Statement**  
**on the occasion of the 6th Intersessional Meeting**  
**of the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,**  
**Vienna, 16-18 October 2019**

***Thematic session 1: The range of drugs and drugs markets are expanding and diversifying***

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The European Union and its Member States wish to thank you for organizing this intersessional meeting. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive and concise background material provided for this meeting. These discussions should help us fulfil our joint commitment to effectively address the world drug situation, as stated in the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document and reiterated in the March 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

2. We all share the understanding that the range of drugs and drug markets are expanding and diversifying. We have also experienced that a trend in one part of the world today can affect another one tomorrow. In that context, sharing information, practices and lessons learned is key.

Mr. Chair,

3. Drug markets continue to be one of the most profitable areas for organised criminal groups. The impacts that drug markets have on society are correspondingly large and go beyond the harms caused by drug use: it is a threat to human security, including peace, Human Rights, democratic governance, the rule of law, socioeconomic development and to international trade.

4. Drug markets are dynamic and continuously changing. Organisational and technical complexity increases and at the same time groups involved become interconnected and. Globalisation simultaneously facilitates the expansion of drug supply, including by generally multiplying opportunities for trafficking, while hampering drug supply reduction activities. Technological developments, the Darknet and the misuse of Internet, among other things, provide ways to access customers and suppliers but also new opportunities to enhance the efficiency and security of off-line criminal activities. Recent reports from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and EUROPOL leads us to the conclusion that Europe needs greater investment and continuous innovation, if we are to keep pace with the challenges we face in this area.

5. On the positive side, the Internet creates environment for demand reduction interventions. New ways of preventing and reducing drug use are being developed and provided as well as counselling, treatment, and risk and harm reduction services. Internet-based interventions have the potential to extend the reach and geographical coverage of treatment programmes to people with drug use problems who may not otherwise access specialised drug services and create opportunities. In the EU and its Member States, a wide range of drug treatment interventions, are provided online. We must be forward-looking in our collective responses.

Mr Chair,

6. To better understand the drug markets and its changes, we need reliable data and research. We have developed tools for data collection, research, analysis and reporting on drug related matters. The EU's Drugs Agency EMCDDA, has published guidelines for a number of drug supply indicators on markets, crime and supply reduction, which streamline and improve understanding and monitoring of the drugs phenomenon in the EU.

7. Collecting relevant and reliable data is not instrumental only in the EU but also worldwide. Therefore, we welcome the ongoing work on the improvement of the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) in which EU and its Member states are actively participating.

Mr Chair,

8. In addition to reliable data to adapt our policies, and as we are preparing the 14th UN Congress on Crime and Crime Prevention in April 2020 in Kyoto, let us remind the importance of the tools we have already at our disposal:

- The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances provides comprehensive measures against drug trafficking, including provisions against money laundering and the diversion of precursor chemicals and it provides for international cooperation.
- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols provide a broad framework to support criminal justice responses aimed at preventing and addressing, among other activities, drugs trafficking, and depriving organised criminal groups of their illicit gains;
- International instruments that aim to foster measures to prevent and combat corruption, for example the work of the Council of Europe Venice Commission and the Group of States against Corruption as well as the review of the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) also play an important role in this context.
- Council of Europe Conventions on crime prevention and criminal justice.

We believe that these international instruments offer the broadest scope for effective cooperation among States to address both existing and emerging forms of transnational organised crime, including Drugs trafficking. We also support and encourage the best use of the review mechanism of UNCAC and UNTOC.

Mr Chair,

9. At EU level, in few weeks, we are going to publish our EU Drug Markets report. This report paints a concerning picture of the increasing challenges we face: increased potency and purity, record seizures and falling prices, all indicate that the illicit availability of substances is growing. The drug market concept is one where the supply of drugs interacts with the demand for these substances. In order to adequately address the negative consequences of drug use and trafficking, both for individuals and for society as a whole, the EU and its Member States strongly supports an integrated, balanced and evidence-based approach which addresses both demand reduction and supply reduction – together, with equal efforts on both sides. We wish to reiterate that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug situation are complementary and mutually reinforcing. At policy level, we are conducting the evaluation of our EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 in order to provide an adequate framework for addressing the situation in the EU, complementing Member States' national strategies and supporting joint actions.

Mr Chair,

10. The EU and its Member States believe that the international community should strengthen its action, reinforce its cooperation and accelerate the implementation of its joint commitments to address the world drug situation.

11. The UNGASS Outcome Document, which represents the most comprehensive drug policy document, and the commitments of which were reiterated in the March 2019 Ministerial Declaration, provides a comprehensive set of operational solutions to improve the world drug situation. Drug supply reduction will be ineffective unless equal vigour is devoted to addressing the illicit demand for drugs and factors that foster involvement in the drug trade. These are the conditions if we want to embrace an effective and sustainable drug policy towards 2030.

Thank you!

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