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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Joint Declaration of 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 the Latin American Committee on Internal Security

Delegations will find attached the final version of the Joint Declaration adopted following the lunch of 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 the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI) on 3 March 2022.

Joint Declaration of 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 the Latin American Committee on Internal Security

We, the Ministers of the Interior of the Member States of the European Union and Ministers in charge of security matters of the Member States of the Latin American Committee for Internal Security (CLASI);

Aware of the major criminal threats that are facing our continents and countries, and their impact on the security and well-being of our citizens;

Stressing that many activities related to transnational organised crime jointly affect our two regions and represent challenges that we must face together;

Particularly concerned about the damage caused by drug trafficking to the public health, security and economy, and its alarming evolution since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic;

Certain that, in this context, strengthening the political dialogue and developing the regional and international law enforcement cooperation are essential to more effectively fight organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, but also human trafficking, arms trafficking, financial crime, cyber-crime and environmental crimes;

Welcome the creation of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI), which, on the model of the European Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI), constitutes a major step towards a better concentration of efforts and coordination between the Latin American countries to fight against transnational organised crime;

Affirm the importance of joining forces to provide appropriate and concrete responses to the many security challenges we face;

Insist on the unique nature of the CLASI, which, in line with an operational and regional logic, will ensure the coherence of the work of all the existing structures;

Recall that the European Union has adopted the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025 targeting, inter alia, the illicit drugs trafficking, cross-border drug markets and other drug-related organised crime and promotes international cooperation in this regard;

Recall that the European Union has established various agencies and instruments to promote cooperation with third countries, in particular Europol and EMCDDA, as well as Eurojust, Frontex and the EU Policy Cycle for organized and serious international crime (EMPACT), and bilateral and regional dialogues on drug policies, strategies and cooperation programs, such as the Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) and EL PAcCTO;

Underline the importance of reinforcing the role of Ameripol as the Latin American Police Office in the operational, tactical and strategical fight against specialized, serious and organized crime in the region;

Welcomes the development of the Latin American Documentation and Threat Assessment Instrument (IDEAL), inspired by the European experience of SOCTA, which has permitted an assessment of serious threats, specific but also common to our two regions;

Consider in the short term to establish a temporary counter narcotics Task Force, whose mandate will be to launch joint operations, on the basis of a shared threat assessment, particularly on the maritime vector in close collaboration with the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre - Narcotics (MAOC(N)) and its actors and operational means, as well as on the identification and seizure of criminal assets linked to drug trafficking within the framework of the EMPACT cooperation platform;

Consider on the basis of the results of the Task Force to launch a network of law enforcement officers specialised in the fight against drug trafficking between the Latin American States and the EU Member States to strengthen the cooperation, based on the model of the networks already implemented;

Consider to organise, within the framework of this new network, joint operations and technical level meetings, particularly on the fight against the use by organized criminal groups of encrypted networks and other digital tools;

Finally, we intend to continue and expand this new dialogue started today, at the political, technical and operational levels, with a view to further develop a common cooperation culture in order to guarantee the security and well-being of our citizens.