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TASK FORCE PRECURSORS AREA – BUENOS AIRES – 17TH MAY 2017

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BACKGROUND

- To prevent precursors diversion:
 - ✓ The effective cooperation between countries is fundamental,
 - Aimed to an effective control of illicit drug production.
- In response to the urgency of this problem:
 - ✓ The COPOLAD Programme has emphasised as a priority for the reduction of drug supply,
 - *A section specifically intended for control of chemical precursors used in the production of illicit drugs.*



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WHY IS THE PRECURSORS AND CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES CONTROL SO IMPORTANT?

- The diversion of precursors to the production of illicit drugs constitutes a threat characterised by:
 - ✓ A great adaptation ability of criminal organisations, which use diverse “modus operandi” and alternative non-classified substances in order to avoid supervision and control mechanisms.
 - ✓ The consequent need for the actors involved in the prevention and fight against this illegal activity to adopt a strategic and comprehensive focus as well as to maximise the cooperation and the exchange of information both nationally, regionally and bi-regionally.



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PRECURSORS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- With regard to precursors, countries from Latin America and the Caribbean lack a well amount of information necessary for keeping them up to date on the most recent advances for control of this kind of products.
- Additionally, the activities carried out along the region in this field are mostly not systematic and are not turned into information material of easy access for future replication.
- In the same way, the scarce or lack of information and documents, such as work guides, technical protocols, and updated reports on legislation, don't allow the experience exchange of good practices between experts and the education of new professionals in this field.



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PRECURSORS IN COPOLAD I

- During the first phase of COPOLAD, the programme promoted:
 - ✓ The exchange of information, intelligence and good practices on control of drug precursors.
 - ✓ With active participation of antinarcotics units, National Agencies on Drugs, and National Prosecutor's Offices.
 - ✓ As well as the contribution, experience, good practices and the active participation of the European Commission.



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PRECURSORS IN COPOLAD II

- In COPOLAD II we aim to move forward even more on the precursors subject and address the practical aspects.
- To reach its goals, COPOLAD will carry the following actions out:
 1. COPOLAD'S Annual Weeks of Precursors
 2. Creation of two Work Groups to support CELAC countries on those issues identified as priorities by them
 3. Creation and implementation of a forum on precursors on COPOLAD's website



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COPOLAD'S ANNUAL WEEKS OF PRECURSORS



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ANNUAL WEEKS OF PRECURSORS

- The weeks have been scheduled as follows:
 - ✓ Four Annual Weeks of Precursors, one each year, specifically focused on experience exchange on precursors
 - ✓ Every week consists of:
 - a workshop: about a specific subject defined by countries as a priority
 - a visit: in the field in order to reinforce and optimize the education of CELAC countries working on the matter.



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FIRST ANNUAL WEEK OF PRECURSORS

BARCELONA, 8-11 NOVEMBER 2016

- The 1st Annual Week of Precursors centred on the *promotion of exchange of information, experiences, and good practices* between CELAC's countries.
- The emphasis was on the *voluntary agreements of collaboration between the chemical and pharmaceutical industry* and the relevant authorities in the prevention of drug precursors diversion.
- It centred on the *novel trends of diversion and use of non-labelled substitute products*, in order to avoid the current mechanisms of control and supervision, as well.
- *66 representatives* took part in the meeting, coming from national Organisations of drug control and antinarcotics police units, besides those from international Organisations, and reached agreements on collaboration programmes and some other substantive issues .
 - ✓ Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, The Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela; the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD/OAS), European Commission (DG DEVCO, DG TAXUD, and OLAF), EUROPOL, EEAS, and EMCDDA; representatives from the private sector in Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, and The Netherlands.



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ON THE 1ST ANNUAL WEEK OF PRECURSORS THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGES AND NEEDS ON THE MATTER WERE RAISED:

- ✓ Need of agreements and collaboration aimed to the prevention and fight against the diversion of chemical precursors.
- ✓ Rapprochement between public and private sectors to the end of a proper legislation, useful for both parts.
- ✓ Availability of alert mechanisms suitable for the effective detection of precursors involved in the production of NPS.
- ✓ Empower forensic knowledge and study.
- ✓ Exchange of intelligence on seizures of new precursors used in drug production.
- ✓ Use of good practices in the reduction of harmful environmental impact coming from the disassembling of clandestine laboratories.



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2nd ANNUAL WEEK OF PRECURSORS, BRASILIA, 27 NOV. – 1st DEC. 2017

- Among the priorities for the holding of regional workshops we can highlight the
 - ✓ ***“new hazards related to synthetic drugs and their chemical precursors, which are an ever increasing issue in CELAC and a field of broad experience for the EU”.***
- In this sense, it is important to mention that as far as late 2015, 644 NPS were reported by 102 countries worldwide, a much higher number than the 300 controlled substances.
- Furthermore, for drug production, especially synthetic ones,
 - ✓ different countries get increasingly involved in the diversion of chemical substances –precursors- that enable the production of new drugs .



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WHY BRAZIL?

- The Federal Police of Brazil is resourced with a high level of expertise along its different specialized sections, such as
 - ✓ “Divisão de Controle de Produtos Químicos” (DCPQ)
 - ✓ “Serviço de Perícias em Laboratório e Balística (SEPLAB), do Instituto Nacional de Criminalística do Departamento de Polícia Federal”, in the field of chemical analysis of psychoactive substances and their precursors.
- Furthermore, Brazil counts on specialized forensic laboratories, duly certified according to the highest international standards for analysis of chemical substances.
- Additionally, the Brazil National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) will contribute with its experience and knowledge on control and monitoring of chemical and pharmaceutical inputs.
- That experience –in cooperation with that of the European Union on detection and chemical analysis of new psychoactive substances and their precursors, will result in a highly successful COPOLAD’s 2nd Annual Week of Precursors.



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OBJECTIVES

2nd ANNUAL WEEK OF PRECURSORS - BRASILIA

- Get to know and exchange experience in legislation matters on new precursors and NPS.
- Learn the experience of Brazil on clandestine laboratories for cocaine production in the jungle of Mato Grosso.
- Get to know *experiences and form of* approach of involved authorities to manage the waste material coming from precursors used in illegal drug production.
- Implement communication channels to alert involved authorities and private sector about the location of new precursors and NPS, preventing their diversion thanks to collaboration.



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METHODOLOGY

2nd ANNUAL WEEK OF PRECURSORS - BRASILIA

- **A dynamic workshop** to increase expertise on:
 - Tracing of seizures and requests of suspicious orders
 - Sample gathering, protocol's use
 - Forensic intelligence
 - Substance analysis and information
 - Legal competence
 - Environmental impact
 - Waste management
- **Field visits** in order to get to know Brazil's experience with regard to specialized forensic laboratories certified for analysis of new substances.



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METHODOLOGY (2)

2nd ANNUAL WEEK OF PRECURSORS - BRASILIA

Methodology:

- ✓ Group of experts present study cases in different format for discussion based on current legislation.
- ✓ A number of groups working simultaneously to arrive at different solutions to be shared, according to the needs that arise.
- ✓ To bring proposals of improvement actions and activities to be met.
- ✓ Work with small groups to general plenary meeting.



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CREATION OF TWO COPOLAD'S WORK GROUPS ON PRECURSORS



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CREATION OF TWO WORK GROUPS ON PRECURSORS

- COPOLAD is working on the implementation of two Work Groups on precursors, providing this way an answer to the conclusions of the 1st Annual Week on Precursors, carried out in Barcelona (Spain), in November 2016, where countries identified primary aspects:
 - “Motivational” group for legislation enactment on precursors:
 - ✓ Aimed to Caribbean countries that still do not have legislation on this matter (will work in English)
 - ✓ To represent the threat of precursors diversion and the legislation needs for their prevention.
 - ✓ Will set up a workshop with experts on legislation development and professionals specialised in precursors diversion problems (INCB, INTERPOL, EUROPOL).



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CREATION OF TWO WORK GROUPS ON PRECURSORS (2)

- Group for the adaptation of available resources to prepare education material that responds to the needs/reality of countries:
 - ✓ Intended for the Latin American countries that are most advanced in this area.
 - ✓ **Objective:**
 - ✓ Increase collaboration between involved authorities and private sector through the adaptation of different education materials provided by participant countries.
 - ✓ Develop education material adapted to and responding to real needs of Latin American countries (taking advantage of what already exists, work on it and adapt it in order to create new standardised education material).



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CREATION AND LAUNCH OF A FORUM ABOUT PRECURSORS ON COPOLAD'S WEB



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CREATION AND LAUNCH OF A FORUM ABOUT PRECURSORS ON COPOLAD'S WEB

- The usefulness of a Forum:
 - ✓ Gather information and documents of interest for the countries. Countries will be able to upload and share documents on precursors on their own.
 - ✓ Provide the chance to every country's people in charge to be in direct contact with each other to exchange information via the forum.
 - ✓ Promote information exchange between countries through the creation of discussion topics of mutual interest.



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