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BIRREGIONAL DIALOGUE
AND MECHANISM

2nd COPOLAD ANNUAL CONFERENCE **Tackling two important challenges for drugs policy** Internet illegal drug markets Synthetic drugs

Venue: San Martín Palace (Calle Arenales 761, Barrio de Retiro)
Buenos Aires, 16th-17th May 2017

BACKGROUND

Internet illegal drug markets

The growing use of the internet and easy access to new technologies brings new dynamics and possibilities for criminal organisations to count on new market options for the illegal sale of drugs.

What is known as the *Deep Web* or *Invisible Web* (also *Dark Web* or *Hidden Web*) refers to the content that is not accessible through conventional search engines, and even though it is located on the Internet, it is not part of the Surface or Public Internet. In fact, some parts of the Deep Web are, technically, inaccessible using traditional means, becoming a protected and safe place for cybercriminals or individuals to carry out illegal transactions.

The basis for this situation is provided by the use of complex cipher codes that protect the user from traffic analysis, with anonymity as its main characteristic, for those who buy as well as for those who sell, this way implying an important innovation. In this context, there is knowledge of a significant number of cryptomarkets in the hidden part of the Internet that are involved in the illegal drug trade protected by anonymity.

The recently published study by the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), [The internet and drug markets](#), shows the consequences of these changes in the purchase, sale and production of narcotic substances. "Even though cryptomarkets still represent a small percentage of the illegal drug trade, everything indicates that they could be expanding", the study points out. These markets have the characteristic of looking like legal sites, but the average price of the substances that are offered, is lower than in physical markets, their quality is generally better and they present more variety in some substances. In comparison with the traditional drug trade, the report indicates that drug traffic-related violence is less common.

The sale of drugs through the Internet represents a new challenge for the CELAC and EU countries, given that it requires fast and effective responses, through policies that can tackle this new reality efficiently. In this sense, a closer cooperation is fundamental in order to generate global and coordinated actions.

Synthetic drugs

Similarly, another topic of growing concern for countries of both regions is the challenge that synthetic drugs represent. According to the Report on [Drugs use in the Americas 2015](#), elaborated by CICAD, amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)¹ constitute the most used group of psychoactive substances after cannabis.

¹ ATS: group of substances among which synthetic stimulants like amphetamine, methamphetamine, ecstasy-type substances (for example, MDMA, MDA, MDE/MDEA), among others, are included.



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Likewise, in their last [European Drug Report](#), the EMCDDA presents an analysis of the trends in synthetic drug use, showing the return to the use of MDMA in European countries as favourite stimulant among the youth, and highlighting that “the innovation in the acquisition of precursors, the new production techniques, and Internet-mediated supply seem to favour its revival in a market characterised by a diversity of products”.

PURPOSE

The meeting aspires to gather, within the framework of COPOLAD, all those who possess the highest responsibility on drugs policies in the CELAC and EU countries, with the purpose of putting in common the current situation of the two topics of interest for the countries, with the purpose of optimising the responses to new challenges that virtual drug markets, as well as synthetic substances, pose. Additionally, the 2nd COPOLAD II Annual Conference will give the work groups of the programme the opportunity to present their progresses until date, in addition to putting in common the steps to follow during the second year of implementation of COPOLAD.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

High level Officers for decision-making in the institutions in charge of drugs policies from the CELAC and the EU.



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Tackling two important challenges for drugs policy

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Synthetic drugs

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 16th May

08:00h – 09:00h: Registration

09:00h – 09:40h **Opening Session**

09:40h – 10:00h: Family photo

10:00h – 11:00h **KEYNOTE SPEECH 1: *The Internet and the sale of illegal drugs: Analysis of the situation, main challenges and opportunities***

Chairperson: Patricio Bustos, National Director, National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use, SENDA. CHILE

- Jane Mounteney, Head of Sector, Prevalence, data management and content coordination Unit. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Abuse, EMCDDA

Open debate
11:00h – 11:15h: Coffee break

11:15h – 13:00h **KEYNOTE SPEECH 2: *Synthetic drugs: National experiences, existing policies and challenges ahead***

Chairperson: Sofia Aragón, Deputy Director of Institutional Relations Spanish National Plan on Drugs, DGPNSD. SPAIN

- Juan Carlos Araneda, *Task Force* COPOLAD / Precursors

Open debate
13:00h – 14:30h: Lunch offered by COPOLAD

14:30h – 16:00h **Panel 1: *Options for public policy to tackle the challenge that the illegal market for drug sales on the Internet represents***

Chairperson: Miguel Angel Alonso, Head of Service International Cooperation, Intelligence Centre Against Terrorism and Organized Crime, CITCO. SPAIN

- João Goulão, Director, General-Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies, SICAD. PORTUGAL
- David Ramsey, Deputy Director, National Anti-Drug Secretariat, NADS. Ministry of National Security. THE BAHAMAS
- Marisol Palacio Cepeda, Head of Drug Policy and Associated Activities. Ministry of Justice and Law. COLOMBIA
- Michael Tucker, Executive Director, National Commission on Drug Abuse, NCDA. JAMAICA

Open debate
16:00h – 16:15h: Coffee break

16:15h – 18:00h **Panel 1: *Options for public policy to tackle the challenge that the illegal market for drug sales on the Internet represents (cont.)***

Chairperson: Domingo García, Information Officer National Council of Drugs, CND. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- Carmen Valeria Solís Rivera, Director for Drugs and Cybersecurity, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs. MEXICO
- Zara Snapp, Consultant, International Drug Policy Consortium, IDPC
- Martín Verrier, Subsecretary, Fight against drug trafficking, Ministry of Security. ARGENTINA
- Yoni Dekker, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. THE NETHERLANDS
- Andrés Ramírez, Executive Director, National Anti-Drug Commission, CNA. EL SALVADOR

Open debate
19:00h: Cocktail offered by COPOLAD



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Wednesday 17th May

09:00h – 11:00h

Panel 2:
Synthetic drugs:
Strategies and policies in this area

Chairperson: Manuel González, Director of International Relations,
National Anti-Drug Office, ONA. VENEZUELA

- Roberto Moro, State Secretary, Secretary on Comprehensive Drugs Policies of Argentina, SEDRONAR. ARGENTINA
- Cécile Martel, Head of Sector International Cooperation, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Abuse, EMCDDA
- Evika Siliņa, Vice Minister, Ministry of Interior. LATVIA
- Jaime Antonio Vanegas, General inspector, National Police. NICARAGUA
- Luis Alfonso Bello, Regional Advisor, Pan American Health Organization, PAHO/WHO

Open debate
11:00h – 11:15h: Coffee break

11:15h – 13:00h

Panel 2:
Synthetic drugs:
Strategies and policies in this area (cont.)

Chairperson: Karimu Byron, Director,
National Council on Drug Abuse Prevention Secretariat, NACDAP. SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

- Rafael Parada, Supply Reduction Unit, Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse, CICAD/OAS
- Abraham Herrera Pinzón, National Executive Secretary, National Commission for the Study and Drug Related Crimes Prevention, CONAPRED. PANAMA
- Tomas Sadilek, International cooperation, Office of the Government of the CZECH REPUBLIC
- Charmaine Hippolyte-Thomas, Director, Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat, SAACS. SAINT LUCIA

Open debate
13:00h – 14:30h: Lunch offered by COPOLAD

14:30h – 16:00h

COPOLAD:
Achievements, advancements and results obtained in the first year of the programme (2016-2017)

Chairperson: Cejana Passos, General Coordinator,
National Secretary on Drugs Policy, SENAD. BRAZIL

Task Forces (TF) COPOLAD:

- Graciela Ahumada. TF Observatories
- Olga Toro. TF Validation of quality criteria on DDR
- Elisabet Arribas-Ibar. TF Capacity-building Strategy on DDR
- Klaas Grimmelmann. TF Alternative Development
- Juan Carlos Araneda. TF Control of Precursors

Questions & answers
16:00h – 16:15h: Coffee break

16:15h – 17:45h

COPOLAD:
Next steps for the second year of the programme (2017-2018)

Chairperson: Danielle Veira, Director of Cabinet of the President,
Directorate National Security, SURINAME

- Thierry Dudermeil, Minister Counsellor, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Brazil
- Teresa Salvador-Llivina, Director, COPOLAD

Questions & answers

17:45h – 18:00h

Closing session