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From: EU co-Presidency  
To: Delegations

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Subject: EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs  
- Annual Report June 2014 - May 2015

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Delegations will find in annex the above-mentioned document, in accordance with paragraph 46 of the Montevideo declaration to be adopted at the Technical Committee Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs to be held on 10 July 2015.

This report is the result of the regular analysis of the activities carried out and results achieved within the framework of the Mechanism in the period from June 2014 to May 2015. The information contained in this report is limited to inter-regional programmes and does not contain information on other funded EU programmes at regional and bilateral level in the field of drugs.

## **1. XVIIth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism**

The XVIIth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism was held on 11-12 February 2015 in Montevideo, Uruguay, under the co-presidency of Latvia and Uruguay. The thematic debates on “achievements, challenges and new and improved approaches that may contribute to counter the World Drug Problem” as well as on “the reduction of adverse health, social and economic consequences of drug abuse” were held. The EU and the CELAC also updated each other on recent developments of the drug situation in their respective regions and discussed the state of play of bi-regional cooperation.

The High Level Meeting approved the Montevideo Declaration, tackling the drug problem from various angles, taking into account the social and economic root-causes, as well as the negative social and economic consequences, and, among other topics, highlighting the need to increase bi-regional efforts in the fields of drug demand and supply reduction, encouraging the implementation of evidence-based, multidisciplinary, integrated and balanced strategies to address the world drug problem, highlighting the ongoing cooperation in the field of alternative development, promoting joint actions against transnational organised criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, recognising the important challenge posed by new psychoactive substances, encouraging to consider, as appropriate, within the framework of the national and international law, and of the international drug control conventions, alternatives to incarceration in the cases of minor drug-related offences and recognising that restorative justice, with regard to minor drug-related offences, may constitute, where appropriate, and in accordance with domestic laws, a complementary mechanism to ordinary criminal justice.

The Declaration also committed to strengthening judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance, emphasised the need to strengthen bi-regional cooperation to prevent the diversion of precursors and chemical substances that could be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, underlined the importance of the COPOLAD programme and the continuity of its activities in the future with the full involvement of the Caribbean countries and also recognised the important role played by civil society, in particular nongovernmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem.

## **2. EU-CELAC Technical Committee Meetings**

Two meetings of the Technical Committee took place during this period: on 11 December 2014 under the co-presidency of Italy and Uruguay, and on 15 January 2015 under the co-presidency of Latvia and Uruguay.

Both meetings dealt with preparations for the XVIIth High Level Meeting held in Montevideo on 11-12 February 2015, identifying two topics for the thematic debates during the High Level Meeting and discussing the draft Montevideo Declaration. The meeting of 11 December 2014 was also dedicated to discussing the results of the High Level Meeting in Athens held on 18-19 June 2014 and updating the delegations on the EU-CELAC cooperation activities, including on the continuation of the COPOLAD programme.

## **3. EU-CELAC Cooperation**

### **Cooperation Programme on drugs policies between Latin America and the European Union (COPOLAD)**

Since January 2011, all countries and Institutions that have participated in COPOLAD have contributed to develop a broad range of evidence based activities aiming at strengthening the bi-regional dialogue on drugs policies; developing consensus processes for enhancing the role of National Drugs Observatories, to obtain quality information gathering useful for policy making and support for better sound policies; and a capacity building strategy tailored to professionals and decision maker's needs, both from the drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction sectors.

As the first phase of the Programme will come to an end in June 2015, a Closing Conference was organized in Montevideo, Uruguay (February 2015) to analyze the achievements and consensus reached along the 4 years of work in COPOLAD, making special emphasis in all the results reached thanks to the active participation from countries of both regions.

The present report summarizes all these results, products and work developed by COPOLAD:

***Component 1. Consolidation of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs EU-CELAC to enhance bi-regional dialogue.***

- *Fostering political dialogue:*
  - The EU-CELAC Mechanism has been reinforced: confirmed by 88% of 60 Public Agencies from CELAC and the EU (Mid Term evaluation) and re-confirmed during the final evaluation of COPOLAD.
  - 581 participants in 5 bi-regional high level meetings dealing with evidence based policies, social inclusion, gender, public health and human rights.
  
- *Training / Information exchange and building up consensus processes:*
  - Information exchange and best practices: Development of 3 Seminars, with 131 participants from both regions, addressed to Drug National Agencies and Public Prosecutors in the fields of evaluation strategies, decentralization models and management approaches of seized assets from drug trafficking.
  
- *Development of tools for the design of public policies:*
  - E-room of the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs: with all the documentary archives of the Mechanism (working procedures, Declarations, Annual Reports) and with active platforms available for countries to exchange information at a national, regional and bi-regional levels. With 10 Forums created with 2.539 working accesses in different fields such as drug precursor diversion, alternative development, managing seized assets, among others.

- Ibero-American Library on Drugs and Drug Addictions (BIDA): 10 founder countries (Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, Peru, Portugal and Uruguay). From 2015 BIDA offers researchers, professionals, key decision makers and the general public, a decentralized collective catalogue with direct access to a comprehensive digital repository made up of specialized journals and a documentary bank of publications and materials related to drugs and addictions. In a future second phase of COPOLAD, BIDA should continue with the possibility of including many more countries inclusive of the Caribbean region to widen the scope and impact in the region.
- Report on Gender: During the III Annual Conference of COPOLAD (Quito, June 2013), the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs highlighted the need to address two subjects of special importance to all countries in the process of defining their policies on drugs: the Gender perspective and the focus on Public Health and Human Rights. To better address both issues, countries recommended to assess the feasibility of undertaking new activities in the framework of the Programme.

Responding to this demand, COPOLAD implemented two new exercises: a review of the state of the play regarding gender approaches, which is summarized in the report *Drugs Programmes and Gender perspective: Dealing with inequalities*, published in 2014; and setting up the COPOLAD bi-regional meeting Evidence based approaches for drugs policy: the Public Health perspective, held in Athens in June 2014, and already mentioned under component 1.

## ***Component 2. National Drug Observatories (NDO)***

### ***- Training:***

- Bi-regional thematic twinnings organized through 4 workshops in the fields of treatment, problematic drug use, as well as for analysing, interpreting and disseminating data with 195 participants (directors of NDO, epidemiologists and data analysts).

- Strengthening scientific capacities with 2 training courses in Epidemiology and for the elaboration of scientific documents with 92 participants.
- *Information exchange and building up consensus processes:*
  - Consensus on indicators: 5 working meetings organized with the participation of 119 delegates.
  - Contact between LA-EU research networks with the organization of 1 meeting with 77 participants, with 9 regional/bi-regional networks available.
- *Development of tools for the design of public policies:*
  - 4 needs assessment reports to tailor activities considering existing needs of NDO and National Information Systems.
  - New protocols available on attributable mortality and supply indicators.
  - 3 Early Warning System created (Colombia, Costa Rica and Uruguay).
  - 1 NDO established (Bolivia). Collaborative work among NDO from 21 countries.

### ***Component 3. Drug Demand Reduction (DDR)***

- *Training and Development of tools for the design of public policies:*
  - Directory of Services and Centres in Latin America: with 1.574 validated Centres from 18 countries. It provides information on the different Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Centres and Services available in the different countries (address, contact telephone number, post code, country, department/province, city/locality, e-mail and an institutional web site for each service registered). There is also a restricted zone, accessible only to COPOLAD authorised users, with information on the professional team profiles of the service, data on annual budget and funding sources, etc.  
Available at: <https://www.copolad.eu/directorio-de-centros-y-servicios>

- Interactive planning system Paso@Paso: content development finished and to be implemented during the future phase of COPOLAD. This instrument was created to facilitate the work of those responsible for the planning of Drug Demand Reduction Programmes (DDRP), especially at provincial/departmental and local levels. The objectives that guided the creation of the system were: a) disseminate key concepts for the design and planning of DDRP amongst professionals and non-professionals; b) offer a planning, design and evaluation process based on methodological principles that guide and orientate the development of DDRP; c) provide examples of DDR good practices based on proven models and on available evidence.
- On-line training:
  - 3 international editions for Latin-American planners and expert-managers in the fields of Primary health care and Evidence-based prevention (176 participants).
  - 3 national editions already implemented (Peru, Mexico and Argentina). Material available to all countries to reply the courses at a national level.
- Other implementation support tools available:
  - 1 gap analysis report on research needs.
  - Glossary (*Glosario de conceptos teóricos y operativos sobre las adicciones y el consumo de sustancias*): foreseen to be published by June 2015.
  - Monograph on Drug treatment alternative to prison ("*Guía de buenas prácticas sobre tratamiento alternativo a las penas de prisión para personas con adicciones en conflicto con la ley*"): a first draft of the document is expected to be available by the end of COPOLAD I. Further developments are envisaged during a second phase of the Programme.

- *Information exchange and building up consensus processes:*
  - o Accreditation: consensus of basic and advanced criteria in prevention, treatment, harm reduction and social integration. An Accreditation criteria monograph has been published and presented in December 2014 (*Quality Criteria for Evidence in Drug Demand Reduction. Reference framework for programme accreditation*). The publication summarizes the work carried out during the first phase of the Quality and Evidence Project, focusing on the identification —through a wide consensus exercise— of quality criteria and evidence basis for the accreditation of Drug Demand Reduction Programmes (DDR). The report presents the project objectives, studies conducted and the results obtained, detailing the criteria agreed on between more than 160 experts from 10 Ibero-American countries in the areas of prevention, risk reduction, treatment, harm reduction and social inclusion. It also includes a chapter reviewing the available evidence in DDR and considerations about potential options for progressing towards accreditation in the different countries. The aim of the publication is to promote and facilitate the use of these criteria as benchmarks in all those countries willing to use tools which can facilitate the optimization of programmes and services implemented in DDR.  
Available at: <https://www.copolad.eu/otras-novedades-de-interes/2014>
  
- *Synergies with other EU-funded projects in the field of DDR:*
  - o COPOLAD developed synergies and areas of mutual coordination with other projects such as PREDEM. This was done in order to avoid duplicities, and to ensure the coherence and complementarity of the actions.



#### ***Component 4. Drug Supply Reduction (DSR)***

- *Training:*
  - Alternative Development (AD): 5 Workshops, Regional Forums and roundtables for information exchange, best practices and lessons learned, with the participation of 213 coca-leaf producers, ex-producers involved in AD projects and delegates from National Drug Agencies.
  - Air and maritime trafficking: 2 Seminars on cocaine routes from LA to the EU, with 138 high level officials from National Police, Specialized Prosecutors' Offices and Ministries of Interior.
  - Other training activities: 4 Conferences in the fields of precursor diversion, synthetic drugs and money laundering, with 179 participants from National Police (Anti-Narcotic Police Units), Specialized Prosecutor's Offices, Customs, Asset Recovery Offices and Ministries of Interior.
  
- *Information exchange and building up consensus processes:*
  - COPOLAD has highly contributed to strengthened, and in some cases create, institutional relations and contacts among National Police (Anti-Narcotic Police Units), Specialized Prosecutor's Offices, Customs, Asset Recovery Offices and Ministries of Interior in order to establish joint operations in the fight against illicit drugs.
  
- *Development of tools for the design of public policies:*
  - A Livelihood analysis and evaluation Manual on Alternative Development (applied pilot study in the VRAE region, Peru).
  - Audio-visual resources for Gender-based policies in the field of Alternative Development: 2 didactic videos and 1 itinerant photographic exhibition.

- Research and reports:
  - Cocaine routes from LA to the EU: Study on maritime cocaine routes (September 2013) and Study on air cocaine routes (to be published by June 2015).
  - Drugs catalogues, monographs and dissemination of the advances made by chemical experts groups.
  
- *Synergies with the Cocaine Route Programme (CRP):*
  - In the field of DSR, COPOLAD developed synergies and areas of mutual coordination with relevant projects of the CRP such as AMERIPOL-UE, AIRCOP, CORMS, GAFILAT-UE, PRELAC and SEACOP. This was done in order to avoid duplicities, and to ensure the coherence and complementarity with the various EU-funded programmes in CELAC countries.

Due to the encouraging evaluation from countries of both regions, the high added value and positive impact obtained in the first phase of COPOLAD, the European Commission launched, in April 2015, the Call for Proposals for a second phase of the Programme. The continuity of the activities and future works will be implemented for four more years under COPOLAD II, expected to start in the first Semester 2016.

#### **4. Other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives in which some CELAC countries participate**

##### **The Cocaine Route Programme**

The multi-year Cocaine Route Programme (CRP) was launched in 2009, and since then the European Union has committed almost €50 million to over 38 countries along the cocaine route from the countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa, essentially West Africa.

The overall objective of this trans-regional action is to enhance the capacity for international cooperation of law enforcement and judicial services of the partner countries to contribute to the fight against international criminal networks, thereby encouraging South-South cooperation and exchanges of best practices. By providing support to partner countries' capacities, technical advice and encouraging cooperation via eight self-standing components, the CRP is carrying out activities in three main domains, notably the interception of illicit flows of drugs, the fight against money laundering and the improvement of information sharing.

Among the components of this programme, the following projects are currently being implemented in some CELAC countries.

***1. Prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region (PRELAC)***

Started in 2009, the project's purpose is to contribute to curtailing the manufacture of drugs and their trafficking by assisting partner countries in combatting the diversion of precursors from the licit trade in collaboration with private sector operators. It covers seventeen CELAC countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela. It is implemented by UNODC.

Its specific objectives are to strengthen the capacities of national administrative control authorities to prevent the diversion of precursors and to enhance the cooperation between partner countries as well as mutual exchange of information (via a precursor information sharing system at regional level).

Outputs achieved so far (until March 2015) include: almost 3650 officers trained; 109 training events organised; 18 colloquia held with the private sector; 10 studies completed.

Over the last year a number of activities were conducted under four main areas:

1) Development of a precursor information sharing system, whereby PRELAC has supported beneficiary countries by developing a compact, stand alone and low cost IT solution and platform for information exchange to handle basic registry requirements to be used in countries that lack the technical means, and /or budget to build a self-made solution. To this purpose, the IT team collected information to analyze requirements to design an IT solution for precursor control on a domestic level that could co-exist with other IT solutions to strengthen the capacities of precursor control agencies and improve registry procedures.

2) Strengthening of interagency – cooperation, whereby a number of assessment missions and technical meetings have been conducted in concerned countries to identify institutional and technical weaknesses and possible alternative solutions. National and international workshops have been also held in this regard, including on legal aspects. Precursor identification field kits (along with relevant training) have also been delivered to specific partner countries.

3) Encouraging national and regional cooperation, under which the Second International Symposium LAC and EU on precursors was held in Lima in October 2014. A number of studies were also conducted and/or updated to assess in specific countries the institutional, operational, and functional capacities, as well as degree of knowledge and awareness to address the diversion of synthetic drug precursors. During the implementation of the study, the study team carried out some training sessions and workshops to provide guidelines and technical knowhow to administrative control staff to help improve mechanisms, methodologies, tools, resources and technical capacity for a better control. In addition, PRELAC presented in May 2014 the first study ever that analyses and reviews the sentencing practices linked to the diversion of chemical precursors in countries in Latin America.

4) Encouraging cooperation with the private sector, whereby during 2014 PRELAC held coordination meetings and exchange of views with representatives of private chemical associations and operators of controlled substances in a number of countries, such as Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Uruguay.

## 2. *Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP)*

Implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, the Airport Communications Project (AIRCOP) was launched in 2010. AIRCOP aims at strengthening detection, interdiction and investigative capacities of participating international airports through the sharing of operational information and the establishment and training of inter-service Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) to better equip beneficiary countries to fight against illicit trafficking and various other forms of transnational crime. JAITFs are connected to international law enforcement databases and communication networks (Interpol 24/7 and World Customs Organisation CENComm) so as to encourage the real time transmission of information aimed at intercepting illicit shipments.

CELAC countries included in AIRCOP's geographical scope are: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Panama and Peru.

So far (March 2015), 809 officers have been trained over 48 training actions; 6 joint operations have been conducted; 11 JAITFs are operational (Benin, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Dominican Republic and Panama); seizures made by JAITFs include: 263 (614 kg of cocaine, 449 kg of cannabis, 83 kg of heroin, 336 kg methamphetamines, 1,396 kg counterfeit drugs, 461 kg of ivory).

### *Dominican Republic*

Dominican Republic was the first country in the region to formally join the project, following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in October 2013. The JAITF office at Las Americas International Airport in Santo Domingo was set up in February 2014 and the JAITF personnel underwent two initial trainings with the support from the Dutch National Police and Royal Military and Border Police, INTERPOL and WCO respectively in February/March and November 2014. The Santo Domingo JAITF started operations on 23 June 2014 and the JAITF in Punta Cana is expected to start operations in 2015.

### *Panama*

The Republic of Panama was the second country in the region to formally join the project, following the signing of the MoU in April 2014. The JAITF personnel underwent the initial training, training on the use of I-24/7 and CENcomm training with the support from the Dutch National Police and Royal Military and Border Police, INTERPOL Regional Office in El Salvador and WCO respectively, in December 2014. The JAITF office at Tocumen International Airport in Panama City started operations in January 2015.

### *Jamaica*

Following the joint assessment mission in May 2013, Jamaica was the third country in the region to formally join the project, with the signing of the MoU on 10 December 2014. The JAITF personnel will participate in the initial training scheduled in May 2015 and led by the Dutch National Police and the Dutch Customs in view of the establishment of two JAITFs respectively in Kingston and Montego Bay in 2015.

Negotiations with national authorities are ongoing in El Salvador, Argentina, Brazil, Barbados, Colombia and Peru and activities are expected to be launched by the end of 2015.

### **3. *AMERIPOL-EU project***

Started in 2011, the project aims at enhancing the capacity for international cooperation of law enforcement, judicial and prosecuting authorities of partner countries by strengthening the exchange of information and of intelligence and improving prosecutors and law enforcement agencies' capability to carry out complex investigations at regional and trans-regional levels, mainly via the AMERIPOL Community.

Countries covered are: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela.

So far (March 2015), 300 officers have been trained over 17 training actions; 10 joint operations have been conducted leading to seizures of over 850 kg of cocaine, over 11 million euros in cash, boats, vehicles, property; 6 AMERIPOL units are now operational ((Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru).

In particular, over the last year, training seminars for police officers, prosecutors and judges have been held, including one on international police cooperation between Latin America, Africa and Europe (Madrid, April 2014), one Course on Anti-corruption (Nanterre, France, May 2014), another course to fight against money laundering (Buenos Aires, July 2014), one Seminar on Drug trafficking via containers, Origin-Transit-Destination - Study visit to Europol and Rotterdam Port Police Offices (The Hague, October 2014), one Internship in Eurojust (December 2014) and one training on the Pilot Information Exchange System (Bogotá, February 2015). After this last training, a pilot information exchange system (SIPA) was officially presented and launched for the six countries where national AMERIPOL Units (AUs) have been set-up. Operational information would be shared via the SIPA after the conclusion of the pilot phase and following final agreement reached at political level by the countries concerned. The SIPA adds to a secure encrypted mail system developed by the project and already in use.

#### **4. *GAFILAT-EU project***

Started in 2010 and directly implemented by the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT, formerly GAFISUD), the projects covers all GAFILAT Member States and aims at supporting their coordinated action to fight organised crime and financial crimes. In particular, it supports compliance with the new FATF international standards, improves the preventive systems in the areas where mutual evaluations show greater weaknesses; strengthens existing capacities and procedures in the field of combat asset laundering as well as administrative, judicial and law enforcement cooperation.

Outputs achieved so far (March 2015) include: 536 officials trained thanks to 10 training courses and 2 larger international conferences and 2 joint international operations (GAFISUD I); 661 officials trained thanks to 19 training courses, 6 larger international conferences and support to the Recovery Assets Network of GAFILAT (GAFISUD II).

A number of capacity building workshops, were organised almost on a monthly basis in several Latin American countries (including in Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Panama, Costa Rica, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras) and addressed, inter alia, police officers, prosecutors, officers from the GAFILAT Member States' Financial Intelligence Units as well as from European Member States, other donors and regional organisations (FATF, OAS-CICAD, UNODC, etc.), other EU-funded projects like AMERIPOL, AML/WA and COPOLAD. Topics discussed were process of investigation and international/inter-institutional cooperation, asset recovery, cross-border cash and value transport, and mutual evaluations.

### **5. *Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP)***

Started in 2010 and implemented so far in selected countries in Western Africa, the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) has been extended as of January 2015 to the Eastern Caribbean States and Trinidad and Tobago.

The overall objective of SEACOP is to support the fight against maritime illicit trafficking and associated criminal networks in the targeted countries and regions. Against this, its purpose is to provide the means (equipment, IT tools, and the related skills) to targeted countries and regions to:

1. Reinforce their seaport control and intelligence capacities by setting up, consolidating and equipping dedicated Units in seaports or sensitive coastal areas;
2. Improve or set up local maritime information and control systems;
3. Enhance the operational delivery and cooperation at national, regional and transregional levels.

Needs assessment missions are currently on-going in the new beneficiary countries leading to actual implementation of activities in the coming months.

In order to give a greater coherence and wider complementarity effect to this trans-regional action, the Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS) component was established. Its mandate is to liaise and create synergies among the different components of the Cocaine Route Programme.