



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: Athens Declaration

The EU co-presidency forwards herewith the Athens Declaration as adopted in Athens on 19 June 2014 by the XVIth High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC).

1. The delegations from the Member States of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC); Member States of the European Union, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council, the European Commission, the European External Action Service met in Athens on 18 and 19 June 2014, under the co-presidencies of Greece and Guatemala, at the XVI High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and CELAC.
2. RECALLING the Declarations of the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union at the Summits that were held in Rio de Janeiro (1999), Madrid (2002), Guadalajara (2004), Vienna (2006), Lima (2008), Madrid (2010) and Santiago de Chile (2013) and the EU-CELAC Action Plan adopted in 2010 and its continuity in which theme VI dedicated to the World Drug Problem was ensured, as well as the commitments made in the bi-regional Declarations adopted at the High Level Meetings of the Mechanism.
3. RECOGNISING that the principle of common and shared responsibility guides the individual and joint actions of all CELAC and EU States and ensures their equal commitment to countering the World Drug Problem in all its dimensions, and that encourages ever greater international cooperation in strengthening national capacities on the basis of a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach.
4. WE RECOGNISE that in order to address the drug problem efficiently, the efforts should follow an evidence-based, integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach combining drug demand, reduction and drug supply reduction measures, in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, as well as in full respect of all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.

5. WE UNDERSCORE that the United Nations Drug Conventions and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system, and welcome the efforts to comply with the provisions and ensure the effective implementation of those conventions.
6. RECOGNISING the importance of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between CELAC and the European Union, a bi-regional framework, carried out on the basis of dialogue, common and shared responsibility, coordination and cooperation, to tackle in an effective and balanced approach the World Drug Problem that affects both regions.

MAKE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:

BI-REGIONAL COOPERATION

7. FULLY AWARE that the World Drug Problem affects all States and, in order to confront it, WE AGREE that global strategies directed at each and every one of its underlying causes are required. WE REITERATE the value of further uniting efforts in multilateral fora dedicated to this matter.
8. WE REGOGNISE that an integrated perspective that emphasises social inclusion and reintegration as a means to guarantee a full exercise and enjoyment of human rights, is essential in tackling the World Drug Problem.
9. WE AGREE to continue tackling the World Drug Problem, with full respect of human rights, in order to reduce the negative effect it has on individuals, society, societal structure and cohesion, development, democratic institutions, social inclusion, public health, the environment and on the security of citizens.
10. WE RECOGNISE also the need to develop and implement in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner structural policies, that address the multiple risk factors of the drugs problem, by fostering social development considering, *inter alia*, prevention strategies, the strengthening of social fabric, improving access to justice, social inclusion, and the needs of drug-related crime victims when developing those policies, in accordance with national law.

11. WE REAFFIRM our commitment to strengthen the principle of Common and Shared Responsibility, as was agreed by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/9 "Strengthening of the principle of common and shared responsibility as the basis for guiding international action in combating the World Drug Problem with a comprehensive and balanced approach", and as further expressed in the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drugs.
12. WE RECOGNISE the need to implement in a balanced manner the Political Declaration and Action Plan of the United Nations, taking into account new challenges and national realities, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, with a vision that integrates the efforts aimed at preventing and reducing the negative effects of the World Drug Problem on the social, economic and political development of our societies, and by promoting and strengthening, *inter alia*, policies aimed at reducing demand focused on the individual and the prevalence of human rights.
13. WE WELCOME the decision of the General Assembly to convene a special session on the World Drug Problem, we reiterate our encouragement for a fruitful, wide-ranging and pragmatic debate and therefore WE STRESS the importance of bi-regional cooperation to be fully engaged in the process established by UNGA Resolution 67/193 to hold a General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) in 2016. WE ENCOURAGE the contribution of specialised agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant international organisations in this process.
14. WE AGREE to discuss the achievements, challenges and new and improved approaches that may contribute to counter the World Drug Problem in both regions at the XVII High Level Meeting of the coordination and cooperation mechanism on drugs between the European Union and CELAC, to be held in 2015.

15. WE TAKE ACCOUNT of the need for indicators and tools for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of the World Drug Problem regarding supply and demand reduction, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, and, where appropriate, the enhancement or development of such new indicators and tools; WE RECOGNISE the importance of drug observatories in providing comparable data that can assist in the formulation of effective public drug policies, and the need to continue strengthening the capacities of the observatories, where appropriate.
16. WE EMPHASISE that bi-regional cooperation should complement efforts undertaken at local, national, bilateral, sub-regional, regional and multilateral levels and RECOGNISE the importance of ensuring that such cooperation aligns with agreed priorities and objectives.
17. WE WILL CONTINUE to support bi-regional projects, in the areas of both demand and supply reduction, based on jointly defined criteria of effectiveness and efficiency, sustainability, relevance and impact, and jointly designed and implemented by both regions in full acknowledgement of their respective priorities, rules and responsibilities. WE WILL CONTINUE to support evaluations of projects and their results.
18. WE ENCOURAGE the sharing of experiences, knowledge and best practices, as well as capacity-building activities that reinforce national policies, and WE EMPHASISE the value of triangular and South-South cooperation initiatives that seek to build institutional capabilities through the sharing of expertise, experiences and lessons learned, and through the provision of capacity building.
19. WE VALUE the developments in the activities undertaken and the outcomes within the framework of the Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies between Latin America and the European Union – COPOLAD as reflected by the external mid-term evaluation, which aim to improve the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies in participating countries by strengthening the exchange of mutual experiences, bi-regional coordination and the promotion of multisectoral, comprehensive and coordinated responses and WE SUPPORT the continuity of such activities in the future with the full involvement of the Caribbean countries in this regard.

20. WE ALSO REAFFIRM our commitment to promoting bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation in countering the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and the production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances as well as new psychoactive substances, by sharing experiences, lessons learned, intelligence and information, as appropriate and in accordance with national law.
21. WE COMMIT OURSELVES to promote the continued cooperation between Member States, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization, while respecting their specific mandates, to ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control, for medical and scientific purposes, while concurrently preventing that they are used for illicit purposes, pursuant to relevant international legal instruments.

DEMAND REDUCTION

22. WE REITERATE our commitment to promote, develop, review and strengthen effective demand reduction strategies in order to protect our societies from drug abuse by developing integrated evidence-based prevention strategies combining universal, selective and indicated prevention programs, involving communities and addressing families, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups especially children and youth within the framework of respect for human and intercultural rights.
23. WE HIGHLIGHT the importance of comprehensive drug demand reduction policies to address the challenges posed by the use and abuse of drugs, including synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances, especially those aimed at the decrease in consumption while ensuring treatment and social inclusion of dependents.

24. WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT the potential impact of economic depression in countries experiencing that situation on their drug demand and supply reduction policies, thus, we ENCOURAGE the States, in cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant stakeholders, to endeavour to ensure that measures taken at the national and local levels in response to long-term and sustained economic downturns do not disproportionately affect the implementation of comprehensive and balanced national drug demand and supply reduction policies, including adequate provision of related health measures, in accordance with national legislation, and of sufficient efforts for supply reduction.
25. WE ENCOURAGE work within respective national legal frameworks and in compliance with applicable international law in order to consider, as appropriate, alternatives to incarceration in the cases of minor drug related offences. WE INVITE the participants of this bi-regional mechanism to consider the possibility to promote evidence-based treatment, care, rehabilitation, and social re-integration practices and community-based support services for drug dependent persons in prisons, as appropriate, as well as from the transition from penitentiary institutions to the community, securing continuum of care.
26. WE SUPPORT the inter-sectorial collaboration among judiciary, criminal justice system, and public health and education related institutions, for implementation of practices on social reintegration and rehabilitation of offenders, as appropriate, in the framework of ensuring a widespread full enjoyment of human rights. In that regard, restorative justice programs may constitute, as appropriate, a complementary mechanism to ordinary criminal justice.
27. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that public health issues should be addressed by national governments as a priority, bearing in mind the importance of treatment and social reintegration, WE ENCOURAGE efforts to ensure that measures taken at national level include the resources needed to implement comprehensive and balanced drug demand and supply reduction policies, tailored by human rights, equal access to health and basic treatment, particularly on the most vulnerable, and to guarantee broad coverage, accessibility, quality of essential services and an evidence-based data monitoring system to strengthen public policies.

28. WE HIGHLIGHT that a main objective when dealing with the World Drug Problem is guaranteeing health and social wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, within the framework of human rights and social inclusion.
29. WE ENCOURAGE the implementation of evidence-based strategies to address prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, and the reduction of the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse in accordance with national law and within the national drug-control strategies, as well as the continuous training of professionals, technical experts and other actors involved in the implementation of initiatives aimed at reducing the demand for drugs.
30. WE RECOGNISE that the responsibility for addressing the World Drug Problem rests within States. WE ENCOURAGE States to ensure that civil society plays a participatory role, where appropriate, in prevention and rehabilitation through consultation and partnerships, within the framework of national strategies, in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, in particular with regard to aspects of demand reduction.
31. WE HIGHLIGHT the need to increase bi-regional efforts in the field of demand reduction. In this respect WE RECOGNISE the importance of evidence-based policies and, therefore, WE COMMIT to promoting research to implement sound drug prevention strategies and treatments for drug abuse, particularly among vulnerable populations. Additionally, WE HIGHLIGHT the need for and WE ENCOURAGE joint efforts to improve and implement such health and social promotion strategies and treatments.
32. FOSTERING contemporary evidence-based drug policies in addressing World Drug Problem, WE SUPPORT initiatives focusing on ensuring balanced, drug policies based on a Public Health and Human Rights approach; integrating prevention, treatment and recovery support services into public health programs; supporting access to medication assisted therapies; adopting principles of common and shared responsibility and aligned with relevant international legal instruments.

33. WE ALSO HIGHLIGHT the necessity to develop contemporary evidence-based drug demand reduction strategies in accordance with the best practice and their contextual applicability in order to correspond more efficiently to the new threats related to the use of psychotropic substances, new psychoactive substances, prescription drugs and their abuse; co-morbid conditions and differential drug users' profile and severity levels. WE UNDERLINE the importance that such interventions should be tailored by the individualised needs, scientific evidence and respect of human rights, while incorporating, where appropriate, the involvement of civil society in the formulation and implementation of drug demand reduction policy.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

34. WE WILL PROMOTE joint actions in order to identify, disrupt and dismantle transnational organised criminal groups involved in any illicit activities relating to drugs trafficking, with a continued commitment to work together to develop comprehensive capacities to counter the challenges posed by new and existing drug trafficking routes and new technologies and methods used by traffickers.
35. WE STRESS the need to implement joint preventive and enforcement measures, where appropriate, to combat all forms of criminal activity that may be linked to the trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances such as money-laundering, trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and arms trafficking. WE WILL ENHANCE joint actions, where appropriate, aimed at sharing information and transferring technologies among law enforcement authorities in order to better trace international money laundering and precursors deviation routes, and WE ARE COMMITTED to strengthening judicial cooperation to better identify, investigate, prosecute and sanction individuals and organisations engaged in money laundering and other drug-related criminal activities in accordance with internal legal frameworks including, where possible, the seizure and recovery of the assets involved.

36. WE EMPHASISE 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, including amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic drugs, and RECOGNISE that active cooperation under existing bilateral agreements on such precursors is essential in this regard, as these provide a platform for coordinating policies and exchanging information in the framework of mutual administrative assistance.
37. WE NOTE with satisfaction that, since the re-launch of the existing bilateral agreements on precursors, the Parties established a fruitful, regular dialogue and WE WILL EXPLORE the possibilities for negotiating new agreements.
38. WE ENCOURAGE the implementation of control and preventive measures in sea ports and airports in order to tackle the use of the various transport means for drug trafficking, including shipment containers, in accordance with national law.
39. WE WELCOME initiatives aimed at ensuring the availability of evidence, including the development of any project aimed to set up a traceability system of precursors through an analysis of seized drugs, which, among other data, will assist in the determination of the purity, the elements used in their manufacture, the processing methods and the geographical origin.
40. WE RECOGNISE that new psychoactive substances pose a significant worldwide problem affecting our countries. At the same time, noting the challenges posed by the involvement of organised criminal groups in the production and distribution of new psychoactive substances, WE WELCOME new initiatives focusing on combating illegal production, manufacture and trafficking of new psychoactive substances and support capacity-building, as needed, to improve, surveillance and response in this matter, as well as to promote public awareness.
41. WE COMMIT to continue promoting the exchange of intelligence and best practices among the two regions while encouraging the effective use of existing instruments, including exchange platforms, in the area of drug supply reduction. WE WILL FOSTER the development of new instruments for cooperation among law enforcement authorities, such as forensic laboratories, in order to strengthen our response against existing and emerging drug related threats, in accordance to national policies and priorities.

42. WE WILL PROMOTE, where appropriate, joint actions that contribute to the development and success of investigations and policies on money laundering, on the means used to carry out illicit activities of this kind and on the criminal proceeds produced by them as an indispensable element for tackling the problem of illicit trafficking of drugs.
43. WE RECOGNISE the importance of reinforcing judicial cooperation between CELAC countries and the Member States of the EU and, where appropriate, the EU on drugs trafficking, to complement the satisfactory cooperation already progressing in other areas, in accordance with national law.
44. WE HIGHLIGHT the great importance of the on-going cooperation between CELAC countries and the EU in the field of alternative development, addressing the root causes that lead to the settlement of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and the manufacture of psychotropic substances and seeking to replace it by licit livelihoods. We welcome the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and commit ourselves to contribute to their implementation in the framework of bi-regional cooperation between CELAC countries and the EU.
45. WE AGREE to promote initiatives to tackle the negative consequences of the World Drug Problem on the environment, in accordance with national policies.
46. WE APPROVE the 2013-2014 Annual Report of Activities.
47. WE AGREE to convene the XVII High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between CELAC and the European Union in 2015 under the co-presidencies of Latvia/Luxembourg and Uruguay.
