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Subject : CARTAGENA DE INDIAS DECLARATION  
V Meeting on the Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation on Drug-related  
Matters between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean  
(Cartagena, 29-30 May 2003)

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## **CARTAGENA DE INDIAS DECLARATION**

### **V Meeting on the Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation on Drug-related Matters between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena, 29-30 May 2003)**

We, the delegations of the Member States of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Chairmanship of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council and the European Commission, meeting under Colombian and Greek Co-chairmanship in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 29 and 30 May 2003, during the Fifth High-level Meeting on the Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation on Drug-related Matters between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Europol, Eurojust, the Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse (CICAD/OAS), the Permanent Central American Commission for Eradication of the Production, Trafficking, Consumption and Illegal Use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (CCP), the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);

- MINDFUL of the conclusions of the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the European Union and the States of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Madrid on 17 and 18 May 2002;
- NOTING that the Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation on Drug-related Matters between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean (hereinafter referred to as the Mechanism), an initiative that originated at the meeting of the European Council in Madrid in December 1995, is consolidating its status as the framework for dialogue within which coordination and cooperation between both regions is established to deal with the drug problem and related crimes in an effective and consensual way;

- RECALLING that the Mechanism is based on the principles of shared responsibility, an integrated and balanced approach based on participation, sustainable development and compliance with international law, in particular non-interference with the sovereignty of States, the territorial integrity of States and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- IN VIEW OF the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organised crime, illegal drug trafficking and other criminal activities, as recognized in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 of 28 September 2001;
- CONSIDERING the negative impact of drug consumption, in particular its consequences for public health;
- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the effect of the world drug problem<sup>1</sup> and related crimes on destabilisation of democratic systems and institutions and on the social and economic development of the countries and regions involved;
- RECOGNISING the consequences of drug production on the environment;
- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that one of the objectives of the Panama Action Plan is to promote coordination and cooperation aimed at strengthening and developing national and regional policies to counter the world drug problem and related crimes;
- RECOGNISING the need to provide the resources needed to implement the Panama Action Plan;

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<sup>1</sup> According to the definition in the Political Declaration of the Twentieth Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the World Drug Problem: "The illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants, the diversion of precursors, and related criminal activities".

- RECALLING the areas of action included in the Panama Action Plan;
- NOTING the importance of strong institutions and appropriate legislation as the essential basis for carrying out all the anti-drug activities aimed at developing bi/inter/intra-regional policies to increase effective mutual cooperation;
- WELCOMING the new CARICOM initiatives against illegal drugs and noting the recommendations endorsed by its Heads of Government;
- WELCOMING the Regional Action Plan to reduce the demand for and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, developed by the Permanent Central American Commission for Eradication of the Production, Trafficking, Consumption and Use of Illegal Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Crimes, as an expression of the decided political willingness of the Central American countries to cooperate closely on preventing and dealing with the dangers and crimes related to the drug traffic.
- REAFFIRMING the importance of the specialised dialogue between the European Union and the Andean Community;
- AFFIRMING that the activities being promoted within the framework of the Panama Action Plan will be complementary to those undertaken by other international organisations.
- STRESSING the need for an appropriate analysis and assessment of the results achieved within the framework of the Mechanism, and in particular the monitoring of implementation of the agreements coming out of the High-Level Meetings;

## 1. Political Support

- WE RECALL the agreement in the Madrid declaration to analyse and assess the progress results achieved within the framework of the Mechanism.
- WE REAFFIRM our commitment to coordinate and evaluate action taken in the fight against the world drug problem and related crimes and to strengthen the Mechanism as one of the forums for defining policies and searching for new approaches and solutions, and to coordinate bi-regional and inter/intra-regional action in the fight against drugs and related crimes.
- WE AGREE to undertake joint efforts to dismantle the components of the world drug problem as an important contribution to the fight against terrorism.
- WE AGREE to enhance the exchange of proposals, ideas and experiences between and within the political and technical authorities of our regions for the purpose of proposing joint, concrete and sustainable actions to counter the world drug problem and related crimes, in all their manifestations, components and consequences.
- WE REAFFIRM the need for coordination and cooperation to stop illegal drug trafficking.
- WE AGREE to improve cooperation and coordination in the fight against the world drug problem and related crimes, as one of the priorities in relations between the European Commission and the Member States of the European Union and the Latin American and Caribbean States.
- WE SHALL CONTINUE to promote bi/inter/intra-regional initiatives to increase effective coordination and cooperation between our regions.
- WE CONSIDER THAT the involvement of sub-regional groups should play an important role in the development and implementation of the bi-regional, inter and intra-regional cooperation.

## 2. Priority Areas and Concrete Objectives

- WE AGREE to concentrate our efforts on the areas identified in the Panama Action Plan concerning the problems of demand, supply, precursor chemical diversion and the criminal networks that control the drug traffic and related illegal activities.
- WE AGREE to afford special attention to the four priority areas identified in the Lisbon conclusions (demand reduction, money laundering, alternative development and maritime cooperation). Special attention will also be given to control of precursor chemical diversion, criminal networks and exchange of information and experiences on new illicit drugs trends, in particular synthetic drugs.
- WE ALSO REAFFIRM the need to strengthen prevention and raise awareness programmes to reduce the demand for drugs and its negative consequences and agree to promote the exchange of best practices in this regard.
- WE AGREE, as part of our strategic partnership, as stated at the Madrid Summit of Heads of State, to continue to hold ad hoc meetings during the annual meetings of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs to examine and reach a consensus on initiatives and proposals of interest for the Members of the Mechanism. We also agree to hold consultations in order to develop proposals for resolutions and other initiatives on matters of mutual interest and to coordinate efforts between the Members of the Mechanism in view of common positions in other international forums dealing with drug related matters.

## 3. Analysis and Assessment

- WE ARE CONVINCED that, on the basis of the annual report, regular analyses and assessments of the results achieved within the framework of the Mechanism will enhance its efficiency. Actions should be based on the principle of shared responsibility.

- WE INVITE the Co-chairs to prepare the Annual Report, with the cooperation of the Technical Committee, in which the regular analysis and assessment of the Mechanism will be a central aspect.
- WE AGREE, based on the annual report, to make all necessary adjustments in our policies in order to tackle the drug situation more effectively.

#### 4. **Institutional Strengthening**

- WE ARE AWARE of the importance of institutional and legal strengthening for the development of regional and national policies and the setting-up of information systems on the production, manufacture, illicit traffic of drugs and related crimes. Within this framework, national competent authorities will coordinate joint actions in different bi-regional, regional, inter-regional or intra-regional fora to provide for effective cooperation in exchanging information and to assist in the evaluation of drug policies.
- WE AGREE to provide, in accordance with the respective budget procedures, the resources required for the initiatives contained in the Panama Action Plan, through the bilateral and regional cooperation programmes.

#### 5. **Results of the Fifth High-level Meeting of the Mechanism**

WE EXPRESS our concern about the serious situation as regards the demand for and supply of illicit drugs and welcome the agreement to analyze and assess, through the annual report, the results obtained within the Mechanism.

WE WELCOME the intention of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to develop relations with Europol and with Eurojust.

WE ALSO NOTE the interest of the Latin American and Caribbean States to examine the possibility of adhering to the Strasbourg Convention on money laundering and the search for, seizure and confiscation of the products of this crime.

WE AGREE to strengthen cooperation between Latin American and Caribbean customs authorities and those of the European Union, through the designation or the existing network of liaison officers, training, exchange of information and technological assistance for better control of the drug traffic.

WE AGREE to improve cooperation between national liaison officers in Latin America and the Caribbean and those of the European Union by facilitating technical information exchanges and best practices.

WE ASK the Technical Group to examine, in conjunction with Europol, the European Monitoring Center of Drugs and Drug Addiction and the countries that put forth concrete cooperation proposals during this meeting of the High-level Mechanism, the best way to apply them in practice.

WE STRESS the importance of concluding the negotiation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and agree to make the necessary efforts to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, so as to strengthen the actions of the parties in the fight against illegal drug trafficking and related crimes.

WE AGREE to approve ad referendum the annual report of the 2002-2003 co-chairmanship.

## **6. Sixth High-level Meeting**

WE AGREE to hold the Sixth High-level Meeting on the Mechanism in Europe during the year 2004 under Irish and Chilean co-chairmanship.

In Cartagena de Indias, 30 May 2003.