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**LIMA DECLARATION**

**Conclusions of the VIIth High-Level meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation  
Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean,**

**Lima, 3 June 2005**

We, the delegations of the Latin American and the Caribbean States and of the Member States of the European Union, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council, and the European Commission, meeting under the co-presidency of Peru and Luxembourg in Lima on 2 and 3 June 2005 at the VII<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), EUROPOL and the Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse (CICAD/OAS):

NOTING that the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean ("the Mechanism") is the only institutional bi-regional forum (existing within the framework of the LAC-EU Summit) active in the prevention and reduction of consumption as well as in the fight against the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, which is based on the principle of shared responsibility. In this context the two regions are committed to work together in discussing policies, exploring new approaches and solutions and coordinating action in the fight against illicit drugs and related crimes, in compliance with national regulations and with the principles established at UNGASS in 1998.

RECALLING that the Mechanism was established at the meeting of the Madrid European Council in December 1995, and that its principles, priorities and operational framework are based on the Panama Action Plan approved in Panama City in April 1999, which identifies the following areas for action: demand reduction; control of supply; police, customs and judicial cooperation; drugs-related arms trafficking; money laundering; judicial organisation and drugs legislation; and institutional capacity-building;

CONSIDERING the areas of bi-regional cooperation referred to in the conclusions of the Second High-Level Meeting of the Mechanism held in Lisboa in May 2000: demand reduction, money laundering, alternative development and maritime cooperation;

CONSIDERING the agreements reached in Cochabamba (Bolivia), Madrid (Spain), Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) and Dublin (Ireland) in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively.

CONFIRMING our resolve to continue to support the development of the political dialogue and the joint presentation of draft resolutions to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in line with the 2003 Cartagena commitment.

REAFFIRMING the terms of the Cartagena and Dublin Declarations concerning the need for strengthening the Mechanism as a discussion forum of policies, searching new approaches, solutions, bi-regional coordination and inter/intra regional actions in the fight against illicit drug **and related crimes.**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the worsening of the problem of production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs in the two regions, and the sophisticated trafficking methods developed by criminal organisations; and the gravity of the drugs situation, which threatens to undermine democratic institutions and affect political and economic stability.

CONFIRMING that effective bi-regional cooperation in the fight against the scourge of illicit drugs contributes to overcoming poverty, protecting the environment, security, and the strengthening of the democratic institutional framework.

REAFFIRMING the commitments set out in the Declaration of Guadalajara, particularly in Paragraphs 26, 27, 28 and 86,

WE DECLARE THAT WE AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS, ACTIONS AND COMMITMENTS:

**1. Bi-regional commitments and strengthening of the Mechanism**

We confirm that the fight against illicit drugs and related crimes is a first priority of our cooperation and we commit ourselves to continue providing the adequate resources for this purpose. In the light of that objective, we acknowledge the importance of national, regional, bi-regional as well as bi-lateral activities and, in this context, we welcome the inter-regional programs funded under the European Commission's budget line for North-South Co-operation to fight against illicit drugs.

We reaffirm the need to develop and strengthen the bi-regional Mechanism on drugs with a view to implementing bi-regional actions in accordance with the commitments set out in the Declaration of Guadalajara, taking account of the aim of the Mechanism as a forum for identifying approaches and exchanging proposals, ideas and experiences in the prevention and reduction of the consumption and the fight against the production, trafficking of illicit drugs.

We reiterate our bi-regional commitment to tackling the worldwide drugs problem in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility and based on a global and balanced focus which ensures effective results in practice.

We agree to expand the areas of cooperation within the framework of the Mechanism for activities of mutual interest, in accordance with national legislation..

We reiterate our commitment to a closer bi-regional political dialogue, as well as, where appropriate, coordinated actions in international fora, in particular, in the presentation and joint sponsoring of draft resolutions at the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

## **2. Bi-regional commitments based on the conclusions of the two thematic discussions**

### ***Initiatives and information exchanges aimed at reducing production and controlling trafficking in illicit drugs:***

- a) We will promote a balanced and integrated bi-regional focus for cooperation in the fight against illicit drugs, taking account of the different challenges faced by the various areas and sub-regions in the production and trafficking chain in order to make our efforts more effective and coordinated.

- b) We agree to promote integrated and sustainable alternative development, including preventative alternative development and comprehensive anti-poverty programs as a principle means to creating conditions to facilitate the substitution and prevention of illegal crops, as well as to generate viable and sustainable economic activities for communities affected by the world drug problem.
- c) Both sides discussed the exchange of intelligence information in order to fight against illicit drug trafficking. In this context, the existing models of EUROPOL and CIMA and the CLACIP project were presented. On this basis, the possibilities for further cooperation in this area would be explored.
- d) We will strengthen the necessary communications and procedures within the Mechanism through exchanges of information and experience, in order to further develop effective control over chemical precursors used in the production of drugs.
- e) We intend to continue to work within the framework of the Mechanism on initiatives to improve air and maritime control of drug trafficking within and between the two regions. We acknowledge the specific challenge to the Caribbean countries posed by the traffic and use of illicit drugs and related crimes. To this end, we note the need for closer maritime cooperation within the Caribbean and with Central America and we welcome the adoption of regional and bilateral cooperation agreements in that field.
- f) We will make every effort to implement effective bi-regional cooperation aimed at improving port control capacities, by providing expertise and by making the exchange of information more flexible.
- g) We agree to reinforce international cooperation to promote closer co-operation between the competent national authorities and with bodies such as Europol and Eurojust, according to mutual interest.

- h) We welcome the results and commitments reached within the framework of the VI<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Follow Up group of Chemical Precursor Agreements and the VIII<sup>th</sup> High Level Specialized Dialogue on Drugs between the Andean Community and the European Union, held in Lima, Peru, from May 30 through June 1, 2005.
- i) We welcome the efforts made by Central America to reinforce regional cooperation in the fight against drugs, particularly as regards the exchange of information, by strengthening the regional police intelligence network and by implementing plans at Central American level on the control of illicit drugs and against organised crime and young criminal gangs.
- j) We also welcome the coordinated efforts made by the MERCOSUR member and associated countries to reduce drug demand and to fight production and trafficking of illicit drugs in the sub-region, in the framework of their Specialized Meeting of Drugs Authorities, which next session will be held on June 6 and 7 2005 in Asuncion, Paraguay.
- k) We welcome the continued support of the European Union and its Member States in helping to address the problem of illicit drugs and related crimes through its co-operation activities in areas ranging from alternative development, demand reduction, money laundering and precursor control to policy development. The EU and its Member States have devoted significant resources to the support of initiatives in these areas.

***Strengthening local capacities to reduce demand and risks:***

- a) In the context of the fight against illicit drugs, we acknowledge the devastating effects of drugs on society and, accordingly, we agree to use the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism to promote additional initiatives in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and integration of addicts.

- b) We confirm our commitment to working within the framework of bi-regional cooperation to strengthen the capacities of local communities and give them a major role in the fight against drugs, and to organising bi-regional exchanges of experience on local capacity building.
- c) We reiterate our commitment to promoting initiatives at bi-regional level to increase and improve cooperation between and within regions, and to facilitating the creation of jointly-financed bi-regional projects.
- d) We will promote bi-regional exchanges of information in the fight against drugs by organising new initiatives aimed at increasing expertise and effectiveness, and to explore ways to build up capacity in this area.
- e) We will seek to promote the development and exchange of scientific knowledge in order to make prevention, treatment and risks reduction more effective.
- f) As regards demand reduction, we emphasize the importance of extending cooperation to school and community based prevention, including experience sharing.

**3. Bi-regional cooperation initiatives implemented in accordance with the VI<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mechanism in Dublin, and those planned for the second half of 2005**

We welcome the success of the first and second training courses on dismantling illicit synthetic drug laboratories, given by EUROPOL in Buenos Aires (from June 22 through 30 2004) and El Salvador (from April 18 through 27 2005). The dynamic format and content of the courses enabled the two regions to carry out significant exchanges of expertise and experience in this field.

We support the organisation of the first ever bi-regional meeting on drugs observatories to be held in Venezuela in the second half of 2005 within the framework of the Mechanism. This will enable observatories from the two regions to benefit from exchanges of information and technical experience in the field of collection and analysis of data related to the drugs phenomenon. In this context we welcome the co-financing of the event by Venezuela, the UK and the European Commission.

We recognise the importance of developing closer bi-regional links by organising further contacts to facilitate the exchange of information in such a way as to benefit both regions.

#### **4. Programming of the VIIIth Meeting of the High-Level Mechanism in Austria and formal agreement on the new LAC Co-Presidency**

We agree to hold the VIII<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting of the Mechanism of Cooperation and Coordination in matters of drugs between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean in the city of Vienna under the co-presidency of Austria and Costa Rica on 6 and 7 March 2006.

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