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NOTE

from :	IX th Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs EU/LAC (Port of Spain, 22-23 May 2007)
to :	Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
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Subject :	Port of Spain Declaration

PORT OF SPAIN DECLARATION

**Conclusions of the IX High-Level Meeting of the
Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between
Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union:
Port of Spain, May 22 – 23, 2007**

1. The delegations of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the Member States of the European Union (EU), 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-presidencies of Trinidad and Tobago and Germany in Port of Spain, May 22 – 23, 2007 at the IX High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, with the participation of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

2. RECALLING that the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union (“the Mechanism”) is a unique bi-regional forum for identifying new approaches and exchanging proposals, ideas and experiences in combating the challenges posed by the global drug problem.
3. REITERATING our bi-regional commitment to act against the global drug problem in the framework of the principle of shared responsibility, an integrated and balanced approach and in conformity with national and international law, and particularly in full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of states, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the principles reflected in the Panama Action Plan and the commitments of the UNGASS on Drugs of 1998.
4. REITERATING the Declarations of the Mechanism of Panama City (Panama, 1999), Lisbon (Portugal 2000), Cochabamba (Bolivia 2001), Madrid (Spain 2002), Cartagena de Indias (Colombia 2003), Dublin (Ireland 2004), Lima (Peru 2005) and Vienna (Austria 2006).
5. REAFFIRMING 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 commitments.
6. RECALLING the commitment of the Heads of State and Government of LAC and the EU, meeting in Vienna in May 2006, to strengthening cooperation to make full use of existing schemes for dialogue and cooperation between the two regions, mainly through the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union and the Andean Community-European Union High Level Dialogue on Drugs and their endorsement of the proposal to conduct a full review of the Panama Action Plan agreed in 1999 and the Lisbon areas for action.

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIII HIGH LEVEL MEETING
OF THE MECHANISM IN VIENNA (MARCH 2006)**

7. Acknowledge the follow-up that has been given to the recommendations and conclusions of the Vienna Declaration. In this context we welcome the outcome and endorse the conclusions of the Extraordinary Meeting of Experts of the Mechanism which was held in Cartagena, Colombia on 20-22 February 2007. We express our gratitude to the host, the Government of Colombia;
- (i) Appreciate the progress achieved by the EU-LAC Intelligence-Sharing Working Group which is an initiative launched within the framework of the Mechanism and financed by the European Community;
- (ii) Welcome the initiatives promoted by the Mechanism that are supported financially by the European Community through the North/South Drugs Budget Line. The EU informed that these are the launching of a partnership between EU and LAC cities to reduce the use of and harm from drugs, a project to address the trafficking of cocaine from the LAC region through West Africa, in co-operation with the UNODC, and the inter-regional initiatives launched by the European Community in the area of drugs in cooperation with UNESCO to lessen the harm from drugs in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia.

FROM CARTAGENA TO PORT OF SPAIN - THE WAY AHEAD

8. On the basis of the conclusions reached at the Extraordinary Meeting held in Cartagena on 20-22 February 2007, the European Union and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, working within the framework of the Mechanism on Drugs, and in pursuance of the Panama Action Plan, hereby agree to identify the following priority areas:

8.1. Demand Reduction

- (i) To create networks of experts, with due respect to national legislations, to support the training of professionals in the field of demand reduction (prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and the reduction of harm caused by the use of drugs);
- (ii) To create a mutual technical assistance programme to train national experts in the design and application of impact evaluation mechanisms of the demand reduction programmes;
- (iii) To strengthen the exchange of knowledge, within the Drug Observatories framework, as well as the support for the creation of observatories in those countries which still do not have one;
- (iv) To advance exchanges of information, experiences, best practices and research in the field of demand reduction with a view to identifying programs and projects designed to promote the reduction of the use of drugs and harm from drugs, and extending and improving networks of assistance for drug addicts in both regions;
- (v) To design and to apply cooperation strategies, within and between LAC and EU countries for the demand reduction of illicit drugs, either natural or synthetic.

8.2. Supply Reduction

- (i) To promote intelligence sharing, among the countries of respective regions and also inter-regionally, and the multi-agency approach which is critical to the process of controlling precursors;

- (ii) To strengthen cooperation against the diversion of precursors with concrete actions in the short term, and to support the technical capacity building of the authorities and the private sector, including at national and intra-regional levels, with a view to improving the effectiveness of controls on the flow of precursors;
- (iii) To facilitate exchanges of experiences and technical assistance by way of capacity building and intelligence gathering capabilities, including those of an intra-regional nature, with officials in cooperating countries to achieve the effective implementation of existing agreements on drugs between LAC and the EU;
- (iv) To promote and finance initiatives on alternative development, including preventive alternative development, with an integrated and sustainable approach, with participation of all relevant parties to assist in generating effective and long-lasting structural changes in areas of crop cultivation prone to illicit use, including technical assistance in the chain of production and commercialisation of products of alternative development. To assess the impact of alternative development programs;
- (v) To promote, implement and support sustainable cooperation initiatives aimed at generating profitable legal employment both in rural and inner-city areas to prevent vulnerable communities from becoming involved in the illicit activities closely linked to the production, distribution and trafficking of drugs, encouraging the participation of all relevant parties, including the donor community.

8.3 Other drug related issues including money laundering and customs, police and judicial cooperation

- (i) To maintain maritime cooperation, one of the priorities of the Panama Action Plan, including exchange of information among the competent authorities dealing with illicit drug trafficking by sea and by air, as a priority area and to further develop operational cooperation between interested groups of LAC and EU countries, in the framework of relevant regional and sub-regional agreements and arrangements. The San José Agreement was referred to by the signatories and the EU countries present as an example of maritime and air cooperation;
- (ii) To strengthen cooperation in container traffic control and control in the most vulnerable ports. To give more attention, in particular, to the cooperation between the police and customs authorities and between such authorities and the private sector;
- (iii) To create an EU Drugs Liaison Officers Network in the LAC region for the purpose of intensifying police cooperation and intelligence exchanges among authorities of interested countries in both regions;
- (iv) To ensure continued co-operation, exchange of information and best practices on counter-drugs action, for example through the *ad hoc* EU-LAC Intelligence-Sharing Working Group, and to promote capacity building and training programs at specialised regional centres;

- (v) To encourage the continuous professionalisation of police, customs and other active service authorities in drug fighting operations, including: technical assistance in interested countries, supply of equipment, support for specialised regional training centres and partnerships between those centres, such as the Andean Community Regional Counter Drugs Intelligence School (ERCAIAD), the Caribbean Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Centre (REDTRAC) and the Inter-ministerial Anti-Drugs Training Centre (CIFAD), among others;
- (vi) To promote the establishment of interregional activities to comply with the Financial Action Task Force's 40 plus 9 Recommendations, through training programmes and anti-corruption technical assistance to combat money laundering. To interact with Intelligence Units in South America and in the Caribbean countries in cooperation with El Grupo de Acción Financiera del Sudamérica (GAFISUD), Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (GAFIC/CFATF) and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
- (vii) To strengthen judicial cooperation among regions as well as institutional capacity in interested countries that are facing increased demands on their justice administration as a result of the fight against illicit drug traffic;
- (viii) To promote the exchange of knowledge on judicial cooperation rules in order to improve court procedures;
- (ix) To promote professional training and to improve the skills of technical experts involved in combating drug trafficking through courses at the graduate and post-graduate levels for LAC countries;

- (x) To promote specific support and cooperation measures for those countries affected by the transshipment of illicit drugs, whose citizens are direct victims of organized crime and the violence produced by international drug trafficking, leading to significant increases in drug consumption with its following human, economic and social costs;
- (xi) To consider creating multi-agency investigative teams within the countries affected by international criminal networks involved in drug trafficking.

9. Expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the IX Meeting of Senior officials of the Mechanism and, recalling the offer of the Government of Austria to host the X High Level meeting of the Mechanism, we agree to hold the meeting in the city of Vienna under the co-presidency of Slovenia and Bolivia at a date to be announced.
