



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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from : XI<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs EU/LAC  
(Quito, 26-27 May 2009)

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to : Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

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Subject : Quito Declaration

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**QUITO DECLARATION**

**XI<sup>th</sup> HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION  
MECHANISM ON DRUGS LAC-EU**

1. The delegations from the States of Latin America and the Caribbean region (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 Ecuador and the Czech Republic in the city of Quito, on 26 and 27 May 2009, at the XI<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between Latin America, the Caribbean region, and the European Union, with the participation of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community.

2. HAVING REGARD to the Summits of LAC-EU Heads of State or Government, that were held in Rio de Janeiro (1999), Madrid (2002), Guadalajara (2004), Vienna (2006) and Lima (2008), and that in the last one was reiterated the necessity to deepen “our cooperation, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, in confronting the world drug problem”, and also was expressed that the LAC-EU “Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs should be strengthened as a framework for a more efficient bi-regional dialogue”.
3. REITERATING, in this regard, our bi-regional commitment to act against the world drug problem in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, with an integrated and balanced approach, and in conformity with international law, and particularly with full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the principles reflected in the Panama Action Plan and the priorities identified in Port of Spain, as well as the commitments of the UNGASS on Drugs of 1998 and those of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of the High Level Segment of the 2009 CND.
4. RECOGNIZING the importance of the LAC-EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs - initiative which originated at the Madrid European Council meeting of December 1995 and was formalized by both regions in Brussels in March 1998- as the framework for bi-regional dialogue, coordination and cooperation to tackle effectively the illicit drug problem.
5. RECALLING the overall objectives of the Mechanism identified in the Panama Action Plan of 1999 which are the development in the regions of policies and institution building at the national level which will enable States to better tackle the drug problem; the improvement of information systems between the regions; the enhancement of cooperation between the relevant LAC and EU institutions and agencies; and sharing of accumulated experience between the regions.

6. REAFFIRMING that the Declarations of the High Level Meetings - held in Panama (1999), Lisbon (2000), Cochabamba (2001), Madrid (2002), Cartagena (2003), Dublin (2004), Lima (2005), Vienna (2006), Port of Spain (2007), and Vienna (2008) – particularly the Panama Action Plan of 1999, include the principles, priorities and framework for the political dialogue, the coordination and the cooperation of the Mechanism.
7. RECALLING that the Panama Action Plan, after its adoption in April 1999, was endorsed by the LAC-EU Heads of State or Government in Rio de Janeiro in June 1999.
8. ALSO RECALLING the review process of the Panama Action Plan which was launched at the Extraordinary Meeting of Experts of the Mechanism in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in February 2007, that has led to the determination of several priorities for the bi-regional cooperation in the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction and other drug related issues, including the laundering of assets, as well as customs, police and judicial cooperation, as it is recorded in the Declaration of Port of Spain of May, 2007.
9. REAFFIRMING the need that the bi-regional cooperation in the fight against the world drug problem focuses on the priority areas as set out in the Port of Spain Declaration.
10. NOTING with concern the existing links between drugs, violence, organized crime and criminal organizations as a combined threat to stability, democratic processes and institutions and as an obstacle to social and economic development.

### **POLITICAL COORDINATION**

11. WE REAFFIRM our commitment to strengthen the LAC-EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs and we further commit ourselves to work in conformity with its Working Procedures. In this context both parties will also analyze the possibility to jointly assess the effectiveness of the cooperation and the coordination in the framework of the Mechanism.

12. WE AGREE to continue our effort to tackle the underlying causes of the world drug problem with the objective to eliminate the consequences for citizens, including health and social ones, as well as for the environment, security and democratic institutions.
13. In view of the threat posed by criminal organizations, involved in the trafficking in illicit drugs, WE PLEDGE to promote international cooperation in the framework of the United Nations to prevent illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition, in order to improve the security of our nations, according to international law.
14. WE ALSO REAFFIRM our commitment to continue supporting the development of the political dialogue and joint presentations of draft resolutions to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and other initiatives on subjects of mutual interest, in conformity with the 2003 Cartagena commitment, as well as the importance to agree on efforts between the two regions in upholding common positions in other international fora concerned with the world drug problem.
15. WE AGREE to maximize our joint efforts with a view to support and to implement the commitments adopted during the XX. Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations dedicated to joint action addressing the world drugs problem (UNGASS 1998).
16. WE APPROVE the Working Procedures of the Mechanism submitted for our consideration by the Technical Committee.
17. WE APPROVE the report of activities for the period 2008-2009.

### **BI-REGIONAL COOPERATION**

18. WE AGREE to continue strengthening the bi-regional LAC-EU cooperation, without exclusions, in the fight against the world drug problem, and within the framework of the Mechanism.

19. WE REITERATE also the importance of bi-regional cooperation which is additional and complementary to the efforts at national, bilateral, sub-regional, regional and multilateral levels.
20. WE AGREE to take into account the economic, political and cultural specificities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the respect for indigenous people, in our effort to promote integral development policies in the region, in the framework of LAC-EU cooperation on drugs.
21. WE APPRECIATE, in this respect, initiatives promoted by the Mechanism, with regard to the priorities of cooperation agreed to at the bi-regional level in pursuing an integrated and balanced approach to the drugs problem, such as those funded by the European Commission to support policy development and capacity building.
22. WE SUPPORT activities that build upon the intelligence sharing work done by the LAC and EU countries, including that done within the Intelligence Sharing Working Group.
23. WE AGREE to promote LAC-EU cooperation within the framework of the Mechanism in follow-up of the Panama Action Plan, and the progressive implementation of the priorities identified in the Declaration of Port of Spain.
24. WE AGREE to maximize the efforts to continue promoting the funding and co-funding of projects with a bi-regional scope.
25. WE AGREE to strengthen the role of the Mechanism in promoting cooperation in the area of supply reduction, as well as in the area of demand reduction at the bilateral, sub-regional, and more importantly, bi-regional levels.
26. WE STRESS the importance of cooperation on alternative development, including preventive alternative development, with an integral and sustainable approach, and comprehensive anti-poverty programmes, as essential elements to generate viable social and economic activities for both vulnerable and affected communities

- 27.** WE EXPRESS our interest in maintaining cooperation in combating trafficking in illicit drugs along the entire cocaine route, in synthetic and other drugs and in precursors, through the exchange of information among the competent authorities who request it and continue developing operational cooperation between the LAC and the EU, within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.
- 28.** WE WELCOME and take note of the results of this meeting, particularly those on the exchange of views regarding the challenges derived from the commitments to tackle the world drug problem and our bi-regional cooperation priorities. We also welcome the adoption of the Working Procedures of the Mechanism that constitutes an important improvement for its strengthening.
- 29.** WE AGREE to hold the XIIth High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean regions in May 2010 in Madrid.

Quito, May 27th, 2009

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