

PRESS RELEASE



COPOLAD:

EU-CELAC cooperation towards an improved response to Drugs challenges

The Cooperation Programme between Latin American, Caribbean and European Union States on Drugs Policies - COPOLAD II presented at the INFOPOINT in Brussels

COPOLAD II is a 4 years' project, 100% funded by the European Commission with 10 million euros

Brussels, 28th of September, 2016. The European Commission organizes a **Lunchtime Conference External Cooperation Infopoint**. A session, introduced by M. Jean- Paul Joulia, Head of Unit DEVCO G2, Regional Programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean, and participated as speakers by Ms. Teresa Salvador-Llivina Director of COPOLAD; Ms. Allele G. Reid First Secretary/Consul, Jamaican Embassy and Mission to the European Union; and M. Juan Guzik First Secretary, Mission of Argentina to the European Union.

The many problems related to drugs conform an increasingly complex reality with new dynamics emerging that raise many concerns worldwide. Confronting those threats is a common challenge for all of us. In this framework Drugs are an important chapter of the EU-CELAC (The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) relations.

The EU has developed a comprehensive set of political, operational and technical exchanges and cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean on this issue, including the establishment of the Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies – COPOLAD.

The speakers will present the aims of COPOLAD, which focuses on the development of an integrated, balanced and evidence-based approach, to enhance public policies capable to attain a significant decrease of the health and social risks and harms related to drugs. As well as the core principles supporting the actions developed through the programme: **Shared Responsibility** between both regions UE-CELAC; respect for **Human Rights**; Gender sensitiveness and



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women empowerment, Public Health protection and promotion; **Safety and Security**; a balance between **Drug Demand and Drug Supply** approaches; and **Good governance**.

All these considerations are seen today as indispensable for an effective global drug policy, as recognised by the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) last April in New York.

COPOLAD is a cooperation programme funded by the European Commission through EuropeAid, and implemented between the Community of the Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU) countries. Helping to forge drugs policies, supported by objective monitoring instruments and based on reliable and effective strategies.

The first phase of COPOLAD (2011-2015), provided an excellent opportunity to enhance information exchange between countries, as well as to reinforce the coordination and cooperation between the National Agencies and other actors responsible for drugs policies in both regions. As a result, the Programme facilitated the development of a broad range of evidence based activities and instruments and resources useful to strengthening the bi-regional dialogue on drugs policies; to develop consensus processes; to enhancing the role of national monitoring centres; and to implement a sustainable capacity building strategy responding to professionals and decision maker's needs, from both the Drug Demand Reduction and Drug Supply Reduction fields. COPOLAD II (2016-2019) is building on its success and the consensus previously reached.

The second phase of the programme COPOLAD has a 100% European Commission budget of **10 million euros** that will be managed by the Spanish public foundation: *Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas* (FIAPP), from 2016 to 2019, with the active participation of the countries from both regions, including Argentina and Jamaica, presenting their views and contributions within COPOLAD at this Conference.

Conference Language: English

Q&A session: English and Spanish

Contact:



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