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NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

Subject: EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs
- Annual Report June 2013 - May 2014

The EU co-presidency hereby forwards the above-mentioned report, as approved on 19 June 2014 at the XVIth High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC).

This report is the result of the regular analysis of the activities carried out and results achieved within the framework of the Mechanism in the period from June 2013 to May 2014. The information contained in this report is limited to inter-regional programmes and does not contain information on other funded EU programmes at regional and bilateral level in the field of drugs.

1. XVth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism

The XVth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism was held on 13-14 June 2013 in Quito, Ecuador, under the co-presidency of Ireland and Ecuador. The thematic debates on alternative development, prevention programmes for vulnerable groups, effectiveness of drug policies as well as possible links between illicit drug trafficking and other criminal activities were held. The EU and the CELAC also updated each other on recent developments of the drug situation in their respective regions and discussed the state of play of bi-regional cooperation.

The High Level Meeting approved the Quito Declaration, tackling the drug problem from various angles and, among other topics, encouraging the full involvement of the Caribbean countries in the COPOLAD programme, highlighting the need to increase bi-regional efforts in the field of demand reduction, encouraging the implementation of evidence-based strategies to address the whole spectrum of drug demand reduction and promoting the participatory role of the civil society in this field. The Declaration also emphasised the need to strengthen bi-regional cooperation to prevent the diversion of drug precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, recognised that active cooperation under existing bilateral agreements on drug precursors was essential in this regard, highlighted that synthetic drugs posed a significant worldwide problem affecting the EU and, increasingly, also the CELAC, agreed to promote exchange and cooperation in scientific research and knowledge generation, expressed commitment to strengthen judicial cooperation between both regions and highlighted the need to strengthen alternative development policies, including preventive alternative development. The meeting also adopted the Annual Report of the Mechanism for the period June 2012-May 2013.

2. EU-CELAC Technical Committee Meetings

Three meetings of the Technical Committee took place during this period: on 12 September 2013 under the co-presidency of Lithuania and Guatemala, and on 10 April 2014 and 6 May 2014 under the co-presidency of Greece and Guatemala.

The meeting of 12 September 2013 was dedicated to discussing the results of the High Level Meeting in Quito. The meeting also discussed the misuse of prescribed medicines and the delegations were updated on the EU-CELAC cooperation activities, developed under the COPOLAD programme, as well as on EU cooperation activities with certain CELAC countries under the Cocaine Route Programme.

The other two meetings dealt with preparations for the XVIth High Level Meeting to be held in Athens on 18-19 June 2014, identifying two topics for the thematic debates during the High Level Meeting (Institutionality looks at a public health and human rights approach to the world drug problem and New psychoactive substances) and discussing the draft Athens Declaration. Delegations shared the latest information on the drug situation in their respective regions and on-going cooperation activities and projects.

3. EU-CELAC Cooperation

Cooperation Programme on drugs policies between Latin America and the European Union (COPOLAD)

COPOLAD (December 2010 - June 2015 ¹) is a partnership cooperation programme between the European Union and Latin America, funded by the European Commission, which aims to strengthen opportunities and spaces for information exchange and coordination and cooperation between the competent authorities responsible for drugs policies in both regions.

¹ The programme was originally foreseen to end in June 2014 but was prolonged up to June 2015.

The outcomes and recommendations provided by the external Mid-Term Evaluation of COPOLAD were presented in October 2013.

As most COPOLAD activities have already been implemented, this report provides information regarding the specific and concrete results obtained so far within the Programme:

1. Consolidation of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs EU-CELAC to enhance bi-regional dialogue:

- **Dialogue:** According to the 60 Governmental Agencies from CELAC countries that participated in the Mid-Term Evaluation, COPOLAD has improved and significantly activated the Mechanism.

Responding to the CELAC request during the High Level Meeting of the Mechanism in Quito in June 2013, COPOLAD organised an EU-CELAC meeting in Athens (17 June 2014, back-to-back with the High Level Meeting), which dealt with public health and its relation with drugs policies.

- **Fostering dialogue and institutional strengthening:** 5 bi-regional Conferences organised by COPOLAD have benefited from the participation of key policy makers and planners (456 participants as a whole).
- **Opening new opportunities for bi-regional dialogue:** 12 active platforms with 185 participants are engaged in the COPOLAD “E-room” of the EU-CELAC Mechanism.

2. Consolidation of National Observatories (NO):

- **Needs assessment:** 4 reports were produced in order to tailor activities to existing needs of NO and National Information Systems.
- **Training:** 512 experts (directors of NO, epidemiologists and data analysts) from 18 NO (17 LA countries and 1 Caribbean) were trained.

- **Institutional strengthening:**
 - ✓ 1 Early Warning System has been created (Colombia).
 - ✓ 1 NO has been established (Bolivia). The role of NO already existing in other beneficiary countries has been reinforced.
- **Tools:** 2 protocols (in Demand Reduction and in Supply Reduction) have been agreed and are being adopted by NO in Latin American countries.

3. Capacity building in Drug Demand Reduction (DDR)

- **Needs assessment:** 1 report was produced in order to tailor activities to existing needs.
- **Training:** 3 on-line courses with 176 participants (planners and expert-managers from 17 Latin American countries) were implemented. National editions: Peru, Mexico and Argentina (growing number of countries interested).
- **Accreditation criteria:** 169 Latin American-EU experts have identified 336 standards for DDR programmes: 11 countries have adopted a resolution to implement them, and CICAD-OAS will include them in their DDR developments with Latin American Member States of the OAS.
- **Fostering institutional strengthening:** 18 Latin American countries are participating in the development of a Directory of Services. It is useful for planning services, implementing accreditation of services and intervention protocols, professional training, and information gathering by NO.
- **Publications:** Best practice guidelines on “alternative treatment to prison” are being developed.

4. Capacity building in Drug Supply Reduction (DSR)

- **Training:**
 - ✓ **Alternative Development:** 229 coca-leaf producers and beneficiaries of projects from all the Andean countries have participated in workshops, roundtables and forums for information exchange, best practices and lessons learned in this field.
 - ✓ **Prevention, Control and Police Investigation on Precursors, Synthetic Drugs and Cocaine trafficking:** 233 experts and policy makers in DSR (Anti-Narcotic Police Units and other National Drug Control Bodies) have been trained. In the specific case of Precursors, the COPOLAD meeting in Buenos Aires (November 2013) was organised back to back with the annual meeting of the Joint follow-up group on precursors, which proved to be very positive.
 - ✓ **Money Laundering from Drug Trafficking - Asset Management:** 119 experts from Police Units against money laundering and drug trafficking, Financial Intelligence Units, Officials from Asset Recovery Offices and other related institutions in Latin American and EU countries as well as regional and international organisations working on these issues, have benefitted from training.
- **Publications:** A manual on Alternative Development on planning and evaluation protocol and three monographs on DSR (amphetamines and control of illegal trafficking) were published.

Synergies were developed in the area of supply reduction between COPOLAD and the relevant components of the Cocaine Route Programme with a view to ensuring the coherence and complementarity of the various EU-funded programmes in CELAC countries.

4. Other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives in which some CELAC countries participate

The Cocaine Route Programme

The multi-year Cocaine Route Programme (CRP) was launched in 2009, and since then the European Union has committed almost €35 million to over 38 countries along the cocaine route from the countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa, essentially West Africa.

The overall objective of this trans-regional action is to enhance the capacity for international cooperation of law enforcement and judicial services of the partner countries to contribute to the fight against international criminal networks. By providing support to partner countries' capacities, technical advice and encouraging coordination via eight self-standing components, the CRP is carrying out activities in three main domains, notably the interception of illicit flows of drugs, the fight against money laundering and the improvement of information sharing.

The Cocaine Route Programme has undergone an independent mid-term review in the first semester of 2013. The review concluded that the CRP constitutes a response to a problem and to needs that have been widely recognised as urgent by stakeholders in the EU and in partner countries. Overall, the CRP has had so far a “preventative effect and has contributed to raising the cost of business for organised crime”. Most of the projects have come a long way in building up local and regional capacities by forming, training, equipping, in encouraging inter-agency cooperation and information sharing, in adapting national legal frameworks when needed, in promoting an intelligence-led approach to investigation, and in enhancing regional, and to a certain extent trans-regional, cooperation. As awareness is growing and connections are being made in partner countries, the Programme “carries the promise of yielding exponential benefits in participating countries over time”. As such, “there is a real opportunity in the Cocaine Route Programme to contribute to the organisational development of local law enforcement agencies and to evolve into a platform for South-South cooperation.”

Among the components of this programme, the following projects are currently being implemented in some CELAC countries.

1. Prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region (PRELAC)

Started in 2009, the project's purpose is to contribute to curtailing the manufacture of drugs and their trafficking by assisting partner countries in combatting the diversion of precursors from the licit trade in collaboration with private sector operators. It covers seventeen CELAC countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Its specific objectives are to strengthen the capacities of national administrative control authorities to prevent the diversion of precursors and to enhance the cooperation between partner countries as well as mutual exchange of information (via a precursor information sharing system at regional level).

Outputs achieved so far (until December 2013) include: almost 1950 officers trained; 84 training events organised; 18 colloquia held with the private sector; 3 studies completed.

As regards activities carried out in the last year, these included capacity strengthening workshops such as that in El Salvador (June 2013), which focused on improvements to be made to the national legal framework and on operational controls and the strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation, and one in Paraguay (December 2013) to review the findings and recommendations of PRELAC assessment on the national Precursor Chemicals Control System. Precursor identification field kits (along with relevant training) have also been delivered to specific partner countries.

2. *Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP)*

Launched in 2009, the project's purpose is to strengthen drug interdiction capacities at selected international airports in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and to connect them to international law enforcement databases and communication networks (Interpol 24/7 and World Customs Organisation CENComm) so as to encourage the real time transmission of information aimed at intercepting illicit shipments.

CELAC countries included in AIRCOP's geographical scope are: Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Panama, and Peru. Implementation in CELAC countries is at inception phase.

3. *AMERIPOL-EU project*

Started in 2011, the project aims at enhancing the capacity for international cooperation of law enforcement, judicial and prosecuting authorities of partner countries by strengthening the exchange of information and of intelligence and improving prosecutors and law enforcement agencies' capability to carry out complex investigations at regional and trans-regional levels, mainly via the AMERIPOL Community.

Countries covered are: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela.

Activities carried out so far include (until November 2013) the set-up of 6 National Units of AMERIPOL (NAU); the promotion of good practices such as Joint Investigation Teams, capacity building through training, technical assistance and mentoring (230 officers trained via 10 training courses and 2 inter-institutional seminars) and the set-up of a secured platform to foster the exchange of information and intelligence between the AMERIPOL countries.

In particular, over the last year, training seminars addressing police officers, prosecutors and judges have been held, such as one on fighting money laundering and organised crime (Italy, July 2013), one on strategic and prospective intelligence applied to drug trafficking (Colombia, August 2013), one on institutional reinforcement in international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking between institutions from Latin America, Africa and Europe (Brazil, December 2013) and one on international police cooperation between Latin America, Africa and Europe (Madrid, April 2014). Two international joint operations have also taken place in November and December 2013 and a report on “Situational Analysis of Drug Trafficking - A police point of view” was issued.

4. *GAFISUD project*

Started in 2009 and directly implemented by the Financial Action Task Force of South America (GAFISUD), the project covers all GAFISUD Member States and aims at supporting their coordinated action to fight organised crime and financial crimes. In particular, it supports compliance with the new FATF international standards, improves the preventive systems in the areas where mutual evaluations show greater weaknesses; strengthens existing capacities and procedures in the field of asset laundering as well as administrative and judicial cooperation, and law enforcement cooperation.

Outputs achieved so far (until November 2013) include: 536 officials trained thanks to 10 training courses and 2 larger international conferences and 2 joint international operations.

Activities carried out over the last year, a number of capacity building shops were almost monthly organised in several Latin American countries (including in Uruguay, Panama, Costa Rica, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras) and addressed, inter alia, police officers, prosecutors, officers from the GAFISUD Member States’ Financial Intelligence Units as well as from European Member States, other donors and regional organisations (FATF, OAS-CICAD, UNODC, etc), other EU-funded projects like COPOLAD. Topics discussed were process of investigation and international/inter-institutional cooperation, asset recovery, cross-border cash and value transport, and mutual evaluations.

In order to give a greater coherence and wider complementarity effect to this trans-regional action, the Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS) component was established. Its mandate is to liaise and create synergies among the different components of the Cocaine Route Programme.
