



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 May 2004

9744/04

**CORDROGUE 37
AMLAT 57
COLAT 11**

NOTE

from : VIth meeting of co-ordination/cooperation Mechanism on drug EU/LAC (Dublin 18–19 May 2004)

to : Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

Subject : Annual report June 2003 – May 2004 of the coordination and cooperation mechanism on drugs EU/LAC

1. At the Vth High-Level meeting on 29–30 May 2003 of the coordination and cooperation mechanism on drugs related matters between the EU/Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena 29–30 May 2003) it was agreed that on the basis of the annual report, regular analyses of the results achieved within the framework of the mechanism would enhance its efficiency (cf doc 11094/03 CORDROGUE 71, PAGE 6).
2. The Italian and Chilean co-chairs met in presence of interested EU delegations on 11 July 2003. Pursuant to the Cartagena Declaration it was agreed at this meeting that a list or matrix of activities being carried out or foreseen would be drawn up. This matrix would be created with a view of helping the next High-Level meeting analyse cooperation trends, particularly those of a bi-regional nature, and contribute to the overall debate on this subject. The matrix is contained in document 9255/04 CORDROGUE 32 AMLAT 48 COLAT 8.

3. Since June 2003, the technical committee met on 3 December 2003, 5 February 2004 and 23 April 2004.
4. These meetings dealt, among other topics, with the matrix, the meeting of the CND and with the preparation of the VI High-Level meeting.
5. During these meetings LAC countries expressed their interest in reinforcing the co-ordination aspects of the Mechanism, as well as initiating the future co-operation projects within the framework of the Mechanism. In this regard, the Colombian delegation, with LAC endorsement, presented its twin cities project as a significant initiative.
6. Pursuant to an offer made by Europol in July 2003, the LAC co-presidency offered to use the Mechanism to determine a venue for a seminar on the dismantling of synthetic drugs laboratories. It was determined that this course would be held in Argentina in June 2004. Both El Salvador and Nicaragua offered to host regional seminars in collaboration with Europol.
7. An interest in exchanging experiences and stronger collaboration between EU and LAC observatories has been expressed. LAC countries have expressed their desire to hold a bi-regional meeting of national monitoring centres to be held in 2005. Venezuela has offered to host this meeting.
8. The Mechanism also recommended the initiation of bi-regional consultations in the framework of the CND. These consultations under Irish and Colombian presidencies were held in the margin of the 47th Session of the CND from 15-19 March in Vienna. The EU and LAC carried out a number of constructive consultations and negotiations on items of common concern. Fruitful discussions took place, which led for the first time ever to the joint sponsorship of all the resolutions presented by the EU and LAC, and which were adopted by the members of the CND.

9. It was also agreed that the Mechanism be informed of the results of the 7th High-Level specialised dialogue on drugs between the EU and the Andean Community held in Brussels on 21 April 2004. At this meeting the seriousness of the problem of synthetic drugs and the need to exchange information and share experiences/best practices were stressed. The importance of and the need for an integrated approach to alternative development was underlined.
10. In the course of the preparation of the VIth High-Level Meeting the technical committee also agreed that a thematic debate could be used to hold ad-hoc workshops/discussions on certain issues. It was agreed that special attention could be given this year to community capacity building and to drug prevention.
11. It was also agreed that the Mechanism should continue to give special attention to future initiatives within the scope of the Panama action plan and the Lisbon priorities.
