



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 July 2005

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**CORDROGUE 26
AMLAT 28
COLAT 2**

NOTE

from : Council Secretariat
to : Meeting of the Technical Committee of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs EU/LAC (Brussels, 15 July 2005)

Subject : Annual Report May 2004 – June 2005 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 drug-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 and assessments of the results achieved within the framework of the mechanism will enhance its efficiency (cf doc 11094/03 CORDROGUE 71, page 6).

The first annual report was approved at the VIth High Level meeting of the cooperation/coordination mechanism on 18-19 May 2004 in Dublin (cf. doc. 9744/04 CORDROGUE 3).

In this second annual report, the activities cover the period May 2004 - June 2005.

2. In this period a very important event has been the adoption of the Guadalajara Declaration on 28-29 May 2004 (cf. doc. 9662/04), in which the paragraphs 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 86 refer, inter alia, to cooperation on drugs. In this regard, based on the principles of common and shared responsibility and subject to national law, both regions recognised the essential role of international cooperation in addressing the global problem of illicit drugs and their health consequences, as well as crimes related to their production and trafficking; through a balanced, multilateral, inclusive and non-selective approach to this issue. Both regions also recognised the need to fully understand the causes of this problem in order to reduce drug consumption and addiction in our societies. As a result, both regions underlined the commitment to strengthening cooperation in order to address problems caused by illegal drugs and to make full use of existing schemes for dialogue and cooperation between the two regions, endeavour to further develop the EU-LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs as a forum for identifying new approaches and exchanging proposals, ideas and experiences.
3. Regarding the commitments of the Lima Declaration, and in the light of the above mentioned from the Guadalajara Declaration, both regions acknowledged the importance of national, regional, bi-regional as well as bi-lateral activities, welcomed the inter-regional programs funded under the European Commission's budget line for North-South Co-operation to fight against illicit drugs, and confirmed their commitment to continue providing the adequate resources for this purpose.
4. The Technical Committee met on 25 October 2004, 19 April and 12 May 2005. The meetings dealt with the preparation, contents, thematic debates and draft documents of the VIIth High Level meeting of the Mechanism held in Lima on 2-3 June 2005, information of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2005 in Vienna, information by the EU on the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012, bi-regional cooperation initiatives within the framework of the mechanism, and the matrix of activities (cf. doc. 9255/04 CORDROGUE 32 AMLAT 48 COLAT 8).

5. Particular attention was given to the Seminar organised by Europol and Argentina on dismantling of synthetic drugs laboratories that took place in La Plata, Argentina from 22 to 30 June 2004. The Seminar, intended to instruct Security Forces on methods to face the threats posed by such laboratories and on how to preserve the evidences eventually found, was attended with great interest by several countries from Latin America and the Caribbean. A second Seminar was held in El Salvador in April 2005.

Another example of concrete cooperation among countries of both regions is the Agreement concerning Cooperation aimed at suppressing Illicit Maritime and Aeronautical Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area, opened for signature in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 10 April 2003, as has been noted by the Guadalajara Declaration in its paragraph 25.

6. In preparation of and during the 48th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs from 7 to 11 March 2005 in Vienna, the partners met in order to discuss themes of common concern and to coordinate their views on resolutions being discussed. In particular the EU and GRULAC cooperated closely in order to merge two draft resolutions on alternative development which were in the end co-sponsored by both groups. Joint efforts also took place in order to approve resolution proposed by GRULAC, on harm reduction.
7. On 8 March 2005 a meeting took place, in the margin of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, between CONACUID, the European Drugs Monitoring Centre, the UK and the Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to confirm arrangements and commitments between the three sides (Venezuela, UK, Commission) that intend to co-finance the meeting between the Drug Monitoring Centres of Latin America/Caribbean and the EU. The meeting will take place in Caracas in the second half of October 2005 in the context of the EU-LAC Drugs Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism.

8. During the VIIth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism held in Lima thematic debate discussions on production and trafficking of illicit drugs, intelligence sharing as well as on strengthening local capacities for demand and risks reduction were held.
