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NOTE

from :	Council Secretariat
to :	Technical Committee of the EU/LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs
Subject :	Annual Report May 2006-May 2007 of the EU/LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

1. At the Vth High Level meeting of the EU/LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (Cartagena 29–30 May 2003), it was agreed that an annual report on the activities undertaken within the Mechanism should be prepared. Regular analyses and assessments of the results achieved within the framework of the Mechanism carried out on the basis of the annual report should enhance its efficiency¹.

The activities in this annual report cover the period May 2006 - May 2007.

¹ doc. 11094/03 CORDROGUE 71

2. EU-LAC Summit

A very important event has been the EU-LAC Summit of Heads of States and Government that took place on 12 May 2006 in Vienna where drugs and organised crime were one of the items discussed. In the Declaration of Vienna the Heads of States and Government reiterated their commitment to strengthen cooperation and to make full use of existing schemes for dialogue and cooperation between the two regions in the area of drugs, mainly through the EU-LAC Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation on Drugs and the EU-Andean Community High Level Dialogue on Drugs. In particular, they reiterated their commitment to promote initiatives on the sharing of criminal intelligence on drug trafficking, and on alternative development, including preventive alternative development, in interested countries, as a means to generate cost-efficient and long lasting structural changes in areas prone to illicit crop cultivation.

3. Review of the Panama Action Plan

Heads of State and Governments meeting at the EU-LAC Summit endorsed the proposal made by the VIIIth High Level meeting of the Mechanism in Vienna on 6-7 March 2006², which called for conducting a full review of the Panama Action Plan (PAP) agreed in 1999 and the Lisbon areas for action.

At subsequent Technical Committee meetings, the procedures for conducting the review of the PAP were discussed. Both sides agreed that the review should be seen as a process rather than a single undertaking.

² Vienna declaration - doc. 7202/06 CORDROGUE 20 COLAT 3 AMLAT 28

This process was launched at the Extraordinary meeting of the Mechanism that took place on 20-22 February 2007 in Cartagena, Colombia, following an invitation by the vice foreign Minister of Colombia. The participants examined in depth by means of three Working Groups (Prevention and reduction of demand, Prevention and reduction of supply, and Other drug related issues) the aforementioned areas of activities and debated proposals for priorities and actions in these fields. The Conclusions of the three Working Groups were adopted³, and were further studied and developed by both sides in the run-up to the High Level Meeting.

The process was brought to an end at the IXth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism in Port of Spain on 22-23 May 2007 by endorsing new priorities for future actions. The Port of Spain Declaration⁴ identified priority initiatives in the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction and other drug related issues including money laundering and customs, police and judicial cooperation.

4. Inter-regional Cooperation initiatives

a) EU-LAC Intelligence Sharing Working Group

Following the inaugural meeting of the Working Group in Port of Spain on 4 April 2006, the reply submitted by the UK together with Spain, the Netherlands, France, Guatemala and Colombia to the call for proposals launched by the European Commission to that effect under the EC 2005 North-South Drugs Budget Line, was selected by the Commission. The objective of the initiative, which was launched following discussion at the 2006 High Level meeting of the Mechanism in Vienna, is to help Latin American and Caribbean countries increase their effectiveness in combating drug trafficking and other organised crime by increasing the exchange of operational intelligence between these countries and among them and the EU members of the Mechanism. Its specific objective is to provide a regular forum where national representatives from law enforcement agencies can agree and adopt best practice in the sharing of operational intelligence.

³ Doc. 6934/1/07 REV 1 CORDROGUE 19 COLAT 5 AMLAT 19

⁴ Doc. 10451/07 CORDROGUE 34 COLAT 9 AMLAT 54

Subsequent meetings of the ISWG took place in R o de Janeiro on 17-18 October 2006⁵ and in Curacao on 22-23 May 2007⁶.

b) Twin-cities project

The project Improving drug treatment, rehabilitation and harm reduction in European, Latin American and Caribbean cities in partnership was launched under the auspices of the EC North-South Drugs Budget Line and in a response to a long-held wish of the LAC partners in the Mechanism. Its objective is to set up a network of contacts among cities and promote the exchange of information and best practices on drug policies existing at the level of cities. It will focus on the cities' needs for treatment, harm reduction and training. To that effect, the European Commission signed in December 2006 a project contract with CICAD as its partner and implementing agency.

c) Cooperation between LAC countries and countries of West Africa

This initiative which targets the new and increasing phenomenon of cocaine trafficking from Latin America to West Africa, was launched in 2006 following discussions at last year's High Level meeting of the Mechanism, and is also financed by the EC North-South budget line. Several countries on both the African side (Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Togo) and the Latin American side (Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela) take part in the project, as they have been identified as key countries. The project, implemented by the UNODC office in Colombia, aims at the creation of a network for the intelligence sharing and law enforcement cooperation between the two regions. It mainly involves training and capacity building of law enforcement officials on both sides of the Atlantic.

⁵ 16893/06 CORDROGUE 116 AMLAT 113 COLAT 27

⁶ 11276/07 CORDROGUE 41 AMLAT 63 COLAT 11

d) Other inter-regional initiatives

An inter-regional initiative to promote the mainstreaming of alternative development in national and regional development efforts continues to be implemented by the GTZ (German Council for Cooperation) with funds from the EC North-South Drugs Budget Line. It has involved, for now, the production of documents and the holding of a workshop attended mainly by representatives from countries in South/East Asia and the Andean region/Latin America in which alternative development efforts are implemented or need to be carried out.

A number of Latin American countries participate also in two EU initiatives, also under the EC Drugs Budget Line, which are implemented, and partly financed, by UNESCO. Both seek to provide services and promote the exchange of experiences in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia in the area of harm reduction.

6. European Community instruments for external assistance

a) Stability instrument

Following a reorganisation of the EC instruments for external assistance, the North-South Drugs Budget Line, which was established in 1987 and evolved from the financing of pilot projects to the support of inter-regional and global initiatives, ceased to exist in December 2006. It has been replaced by a broader budgetary mechanism, The Instrument for Stability, which aims to tackle crises and instability in third countries and address trans-border challenges including nuclear safety and non-proliferation, the fight against trafficking, organised crime and terrorism.

Technical and financial assistance shall cover, inter alia, measures to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and judicial authorities involved in the fight against the illicit trafficking drugs. With regard to assistance relating to the problem of drugs, due attention shall be given to international cooperation aimed at promoting best practices relating to the reduction of demand, production and harm.

b) Financing agreement between the Commission and Cariforum for the 9th EDF Caribbean Integration Support Programme

The abovementioned agreement was signed between the Commission and the Cariforum in late 2006. Two million euros were earmarked for Supply and Demand for Illicit Drugs with three main components: demand reduction, capacity building for law enforcement agencies and implementation agency for crime and security (IMPACS).

7. Coordination initiatives

- a) The EU played a constructive role in the negotiation, and supported by unanimity the approval of the omnibus resolution on drugs, which Mexico (as it traditionally does every year) submitted to the General Assembly of the UN in September 2006.
- b) During the 50th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 12-16 March 2007 in Vienna the partners jointly sponsored the resolutions presented by the EU and LAC adopted by the CND.

8. Meetings of the Technical Committee of the Mechanism

The Technical Committee met on 8 June⁷ and 28 September 2006⁸, 12 January⁹, 12 February¹⁰ and 19 April 2007¹¹. The meetings dealt mostly with the preparation of the review of the PAP and of the High Level meeting in Port of Spain and discussed various cooperation initiatives and other ongoing activities such as preparations for CND 2007 or new Stability Instrument.

⁷ Doc. 10857/06 CORDROGUE 63 COLAT 13 AMLAT 54
⁸ Doc. 14201/06 CORDROGUE 93 COLAT 23 AMLAT 86
⁹ Doc. 5508/07 CORDROGUE 9 COLAT 1 AMLAT 6
¹⁰ Doc. 6639/07 CORDROGUE 16 COLAT 4 AMLAT 17
¹¹ Doc. 9318/07 CORDROGUE 28 COLAT 7 AMLAT 43