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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Working Party on Drugs

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Subject: EU/LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs
- Draft Annual Report May 2009 - April 2010

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 May 2009 to April 2010.

1. XI High Level Meeting of the Mechanism

The eleventh High Level meeting of the Mechanism was held on 26-27 May 2009 in Quito, Ecuador, under the co-presidency of Ecuador and the Czech Republic.

The EU and the LAC updated each other on recent developments of the drug situation in their respective regions and continued the analysis of the bi-regional cooperation priorities identified in the previous meetings in a thematic debate entitled 'Challenges in the framework of the commitments on the world drug problem: LAC-EU cooperation and coordination priorities of the Port of Spain declaration'.

The High Level meeting approved the Quito Declaration¹, the Working Procedures of the EU/LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs², an important element contributing to the strengthening of the Mechanism, as mandated by the Heads of State and Government in Lima, in 2008. The meeting also adopted the Annual report of the Mechanism for the period March 2008 - May 2009³.

2. EU/LAC Technical Committee Meetings

Four meetings of the Technical Committee took place during this period: on 12 November 2009 under the co-presidency of Sweden and Uruguay, and on 2 March and 8 and 22 April 2010 under the co-presidency of Spain and Uruguay.

At these meetings, aiming to progressively implementing the cooperation priorities agreed in the Port of Spain declaration, two priorities were identified for discussion at the High Level meeting. These priorities are, for the area of demand reduction, ‘the challenge of social insertion on drug policies: from prevention to treatment’ and in the area of supply reduction ‘intelligence and information exchange’.

Furthermore, the meetings dealt with preparations for the High Level meeting in Madrid in April 2010 and discussed ongoing cooperation activities and projects.

3. Coordination in the framework of the Mechanism

During the meetings of the Technical Committee there were exchanges of information from both sides about the 53rd Session of the CND, both about the general debates and about the Resolution Drafts presented for adoption at this Session.

¹ 10758/09 CORDROGUE 32 COLAT 20 AMLAT 56

² 5545/1/09 REV 1 CORDROGUE 9 AMLAT 9 COLAT 4

³ 10766/09 CORDROGUE 33 COLAT 21 AMLAT 57

4. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: ‘The European Union and Latin America: Global Players in Partnership’

In the above-mentioned Commission Communication⁴ of October 2009, which assessed the state of play of the Strategic Partnership with regard to Latin America and the results of the Commission's actions in Latin America, the success and added value of the EU-LAC dialogue on drugs was recognised and drugs were identified as one of the main policy priorities of the partnership. Among the different recommendations contained in the mentioned Communication, there is an explicit mention to the development and strengthening of the EU-LAC Co-ordination and Co-operation Mechanism on Drugs under the heading ‘Stepping up Bi-Regional Dialogue’.

5. EU-LAC Cooperation

5.A. Cooperation in the framework of de Mechanism

Cooperation programme between Latin America and the EU on anti-drugs policies (COPOLAD)

COPOLAD is a bi-regional project that aims specifically at strengthening capacities and encouraging the process of elaborating anti-drugs policies in its different stages in Latin American countries by improving the dialogue and reinforcing the cooperation of the national agencies and other actors responsible for global and sectoral anti-drug policies in the countries of Latin America and the EU.

The Programme will focus on 1). Consolidation of the EU-LAC Anti-Drugs Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism; 2). Consolidation of the national Observatories of Latin American countries; 3). Capacity-building on demand reduction and 4). Capacity-building on supply reduction.

⁴ 14120/09 + ADD 1

The Programme will be implemented through a grant contract amounting to 6,000,000 €. The call for proposals for the COPOLAD Programme was launched on the 2nd of March, 2010⁵, and the deadline for the submission of proposals is the 31st of May, 2010.

5.B. EU cooperation projects for LAC

EU-LAC cities in partnership (CICAD)

Officially launched at the Santo Domingo European, Latin American and Caribbean City Forum in April 2008, the amount of the project's fund is €1,400,000 and it is implemented and coordinated by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). The overall objective of the project is to contribute to improved provision of care and policy decisions on the quality and coverage of drug treatment, rehabilitation and harm reduction for diverse populations in the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that the care provided to them is appropriate.

A major EU-LAC City Summit has been held in Lugo, Spain, from the 21st to the 23rd of April 2010. The project is due to end in October 2010.

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

Under the Instrument for Stability, the European Commission has initiated in 2009 the project PRELAC, Prevention of the diversion of drugs precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which is implemented and co-financed by UNODC with a total amount of 2,487,075 €. The project's general objective is to contribute to the fight against the manufacture of drugs and its trafficking by assisting the region in struggling against the diversion of precursors from the licit trade and will complement and closely work with other EC-financed actions such as the Project on Anti-illegal drugs in the Andean Community (PRADICAN).

⁵ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1267612002280&do=publi_detPUB&searchtype=QS&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=129786

The activities take place on a regional and subregional level and involve establishing a web-based system of information exchange between all participating countries; standardizing precursor control mechanisms and legal frameworks; improving inspection and investigation techniques; developing synergies between the control agencies and chemical operators in both the public and private sector and enhancing the effectiveness of Customs administrations in the control of precursor chemicals.

In its first year of implementation, focus lay on activities such as the baseline study on types, volumes and prices of precursors, assessment of the existing information exchange platforms and their possible integration with PEN-online and NDS as well as bi-national border trainings.

5.C. Other Community-funded inter-regional initiatives

Law Enforcement and Intelligence Cooperation against Cocaine Trafficking from Latin America to West Africa

This is a joint project of the European Commission and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and it is funded by both institutions. The total amount of the project is €1,200,000 The intervention is also referred to as “COLACAO” (Latin America, Caribbean/West Africa Cooperation).

The project covers (in principle) the following countries in West Africa: Cape Verde, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Senegal and Togo; and in Latin America and Caribbean: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

The project achievements are:

- 1) A secure network for exchange of information on cocaine trafficking among target countries and Europe: Secure Information Exchange System (SIES) involving 43 users;

- 2) 24 MoUs signed during the last month of January between countries from the Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa regions to carry out joint investigations;
- 3) Capacity building for 834 law enforcement officers, leading to optimisation of the interdiction process.

The project was agreed by the European Commission and UNODC in April 2007, with a duration of 3 years, therefore, it is due to end in April 2010.

Cooperation between LAC countries and the countries of West Africa: the Cocaine Route Project

Following the objectives of the Indicative 2009-2011 Programme for the Instrument for Stability, a decision has been adopted on the first phase of the global action called "Fight against trafficking on the cocaine route".

The overall objective of the global action is to enhance the capacity for international cooperation of law enforcement and judicial services of the partner countries for contributing to the fight against international criminal networks. In the first phases of implementation the interventions focus more on Western Africa, where the threat has appeared more recently and the gap in capacity is very high, and Morocco. The total amount of the first stage is €6,500,000. The trans-regional link will be gradually established with Latin America and Caribbean, as the West Africa region and Morocco could benefit from the experiences already developed there. The project will also strengthen the already existing capacities in Latin America and the Caribbean to fight against organised crime, and seek establishment of links with Caribbean, West Africa and Morocco. With time more countries will be involved in this programme.