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Subject: EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs  
- Annual Report July 2011 - May 2012

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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 July 2011 to May 2012.

**1. XIII High Level Meeting of the Mechanism**

The XIII High Level Meeting of the Mechanism was held on 28-29 June 2011 in Bogota, Colombia, under the co-presidency of Hungary and Colombia.

The thematic discussions during the meeting focused on drug demand and supply reduction under the topics "Exchange of experiences in the management of knowledge of drug consumption: observatories, information systems, early warnings" and "Articulation of bi-regional cooperation to face new challenges arising from the World Drug Problem". 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. Ecuador proposed to initiate a dialogue regarding the creation of the global stamp for products of alternative development and preventive alternative development.

The High Level Meeting approved the Bogota Declaration, tackling the drug problem from various angles and among other topics mentioning the need to prevent the diversion of precursors, money laundering, new threats represented by synthetic drugs, the importance of the COPOLAD programme, cooperation in alternative development and triangular cooperation. The meeting also adopted the Annual Report of the Mechanism for the period July 2011-May 2012.

## **2. EU-CELAC Technical Committee Meetings**

Four meetings of the Technical Committee took place during this period: on 13 July 2011 and 15 December 2011 under the co-presidency of Poland and Dominican Republic, and on 6 March 2012 and 23 May 2012 under the co-presidency of Denmark and Dominican Republic.

The meeting of 13 July was dedicated to discussing the results of the High Level meeting in Bogota; the delegations agreed on a need to improve the functioning and efficiency of the EU-CELAC Mechanism on drugs. On this occasion, during the meeting of 15 December the EU co-presidency tabled a document containing some proposals on improving the Mechanism, in reaction to which the CELAC co-presidency on 25 April 2012 presented a document with their proposals in this regard.

The other two meetings dealt with preparations for the XIV High Level meeting to be held in Brussels on 4-5 June 2012 and a number of topics were identified for the thematic debates during the High Level meeting. Subsequently the two regions agreed on the topics for the thematic debate: the CELAC proposed the topic of alternative justice, the EU proposed judicial cooperation and both regions suggested discussing synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances.

The delegations also discussed the draft Brussels declaration and shared the newest information on the drug situation in their respective regions and ongoing cooperation activities and projects.

### **3. EU-CELAC Cooperation**

#### ***3.1. EU cooperation projects for CELAC***

#### **Cooperation Program on drug policies between Latin America and the European Union (COPOLAD)**

COPOLAD is a cooperation program on drug policies between Latin America and the European Union that aims to improve coherence, balance and the impact of drug policies in participating countries by strengthening the exchange of mutual experiences and bi-regional cooperation.

The Programme focuses on four main components:

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

The Programme has been awarded to the consortium led by the Spanish FIIAPP (Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamerica de Administración y Políticas Públicas) and the Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs for an amount of almost € 6 million. Other partners of this consortium are: SEDRONAR (Argentina), SENAD (Brazil), SENDA (Chile), Ministerio de Justicia y del Derecho (Colombia), DEVIDA (Peru), JND (Uruguay), GTZ (Germany), IDT (Portugal), CIFAD (France). Associated bodies in this Program are ICD (Costa Rica), PCB (Poland), ANA, (Romania), CONSEP (Ecuador), CONADIC (Mexico), CICAD, OPS, RIOD and the EMCDDA. The implementation period started on 4 December 2010 and has a duration of 42 months. The programme was formally launched on 31 January 2011 in Madrid. After the First Annual Meeting held in Bogotá, Colombia, on 30 June – 1 July 2011, the Second Annual Meeting of the Programme will take place in Brussels, on 6-7 June 2012, just after the High Level Meeting of the Mechanism. The participation in the Programme is open to all Latin American and Caribbean countries and 27 EU Member States. Nonetheless, Caribbean countries' participation shall be covered by the EDF on a case by case basis. The COPOLAD Consortium highly encourages the participation of all CELAC countries.

All actions undertaken are being developed - as initially expected - through the adoption of an integrative and participatory approach, based on bilateral working groups (LA - EU) which, according to the needs of each activity, includes all key stakeholders: representatives of the competent authorities in the field of policy making (at a national, regional, or local level); COPOLAD Collaborating Agencies; as well as experts, researchers and/or representatives of non-governmental networks working in this field. At the end of April 2012, 47% of the total activities planned were completed, 26% were in development, and 4% were in its initial phase.

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

Under the Instrument for Stability, the European Commission initiated in 2009 the project PRELAC, which is implemented and co-financed by UNODC with an approximate amount of € 2,5 million. In February 2012 the second phase allocating an additional budget of € 3 million has been signed within the framework of the Cocaine Route programme.

The project's general objective is to contribute to the fight against the manufacture of drugs and its trafficking by assisting the region to tackle the diversion of precursors from the licit trade in collaboration with private sector operators. It will complement and closely work with other European Commission financed actions such as the Project on Anti-illegal drugs in the Andean Community (PRADICAN).

The activities of the project take place on a regional and subregional level and involve establishing a web-based system of information exchange between all participating countries; standardising 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. It is foreseen to have a regional meeting involving the national counterparts and the private sector operators (major companies and chemical consortiums) organised on 23-24 May 2012 in Lima.

### *3.2. Other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives*

#### **Cooperation between CELAC countries and the countries of West Africa: the Cocaine Route Programme**

The multiyear Cocaine Route programme was adopted as part of the global action "Fight against trafficking on the cocaine route" of the Instrument for Stability. Two phases of this programme are currently ongoing: Cocaine Route I and II, each one with a budget of € 6,5 million and Cocaine Route III has been approved in 2011 for an amount of € 6 million.

The overall objective of this 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. The project consists of six components with the aim to link them up progressively, thus contributing to the creation of trans-regional synergies to tackle organised crime along the cocaine route.

Among these components, the following programmes are dedicated to CELAC:

1) *Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP)*

The main objective of this programme is to strengthen the anti-drug capacities at selected airports and its activities are focused on fourteen selected international airports in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to intercept cocaine shipments by air. The project is implemented jointly by UNODOC, WCO and INTERPOL, with participation of EU experts and officers. The following airports are covered: Brazil (Sao Paulo, partner), Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Argentina, Benin, Cameroon, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Kenya, Venezuela, South Africa (Johannesburg, associate), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, associate) and possibly Gambia.

Within the framework of this programme, operation Cocair II was conducted on 14-20 June 2010 in 22 countries resulting in significant seizures (1,8 tonnes of cannabis, 3 tonnes of precursors, 15 kg of cocaine were seized and several interceptions of capital, weapons and works of art were made). Operation Cocair III took place from 28 November 2011 to 4 December 2011 in 22 countries leading to 45 seizures including this time also ecstasy, amphetamine, methamphetamine and almost € 2,9 million of cash.

2) *Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP)*

The main objective of this project is to strengthen cooperation in contrasting maritime trafficking in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Under this component, the scoping missions were realised in Togo, Benin, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau from July until September 2011. It was decided to concentrate on West-Africa and increase the capacities for future exchanges with CELAC. The following countries are covered by the project: Senegal, Ghana, and Cape Verde (within phase I) and Sierra Leone, Togo, Benin, Guinea-Bissau and Gambia (within phase II)

3) *AMERIPOL project*

This project supports AMERIPOL, consisting of 20 member states and 11 permanent observers. The main aim of the project is to contribute to strengthening cooperation of law enforcement, judicial and prosecuting authorities of Latin America and Caribbean countries and the EU in tackling transregional organised crime. The contract of the project was signed in December 2010.

Among the foreseen activities, this project provided AMERIPOL a gap analysis in each participating country, design and setup of a Capacity Building Programme, help establish a secure information platform and develop transnational joint operations (missions were performed in Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Panama, Martinique, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Argentina).

The signature of the Polices' Memorandum of understanding took place on 21 August 2011 and the signature of the Prosecutors' Memorandum of understanding on 6-7 December 2011 in Brasilia, during the general meeting of AIAMP (Iberoamerican Association of Public Prosecutor's Offices).

Countries covered by this project include Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Panama, Martinique, Venezuela, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Argentina.

#### 4) *GAFISUD project*

This project started in 2009 for a period of 36 months with the main objective to support the fight against money laundering and financial crime in Latin America and the Caribbean countries. The funds are directly awarded to GAFISUD.

So far, this project has elaborated a primary diagnosis on the non-banking financial sector according to seven sub-sectors in the twelve countries of the GAFISUD Group. In addition, several training activities have been organised. Countries covered by the project include Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, México, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, joined by Costa Rica and Panama.

In order to give a greater coherence and wider complementarity effect to this transregional action, the Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS) component has been established. Its mandate is to liaise and create synergies among the different components of the Cocaine Route Programme, among all relevant national actors involved, as well as among Latin American, Caribbean, African countries and European counterparts by sharing experiences.

The first global conference on the Cocaine Route Programme is taking place in Buenos Aires on 10-11 May 2012. PRELAC is from now on integrated in the Cocaine Route Programme.

### 3.3. *Agreements*

#### **EU agreements on drug precursors with Latin American countries**

In the nineties, the EU concluded bilateral agreements on precursors and chemical substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances with Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela and Peru.

Joint Follow-up Groups are established by these Agreements and should meet annually to discuss issues of common interest. As no meetings of these Groups were held over the last few years, two meetings were organised in April 2012 in order to re-launch the cooperation in the drug precursor area in the region. A regional meeting between the EU and Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru took place on 19-20 April 2012 in Lima and a bilateral meeting between the EU and Mexico took place on 23 April 2012 in Mexico City.

These meetings were an excellent opportunity for all Parties to re-establish contact and to get to know each other's priorities and needs. As a result, the Parties drew up roadmaps outlining the future cooperation in the drug precursor area, setting specific training activities, enhancing the exchange of information both at bilateral and international level and organising regular meetings of the Joint-Follow-up Groups.