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Subject:	EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs - Annual Report May 2017 - May 2018

Delegations will find annexed the above-mentioned annual report as adopted at the XX High Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs held from 21 to 22 June 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

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EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs - Annual Report May 2017 to May 2018

This report is the result of a regular analysis of the activities carried out and results of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) from May 2017 to May 2018. The information contained in this report is limited to inter-regional programmes and does not contain information on other funded EU programmes at the regional and bilateral levels in the field of drugs.

1. EU-CELAC Technical Committee Meetings

Three meetings of the EU-CELAC Technical Committee on Drugs took place during this period: on 21 September 2017 under the co-presidency of Estonia and Suriname, and on 18 April 2018 and 31 May 2018 under the co-presidency of Bulgaria and Suriname.

The meeting of 21 September 2017 was dedicated to discussing the results of the High Level Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The delegations reported on the drug situation and policy developments in the EU and CELAC and were updated on the EU-CELAC cooperation activities, developed under COPOLAD II (Cooperation Programme on drugs policies between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union) and EL PAcCTO (Programa de Asistencia Contra el Crimen Transnacional Organizado), as well as on EU cooperation activities with certain CELAC countries under the Cocaine Route Programme. The meeting also exchanged views on implementation of the UNGASS outcome document and preparation for the 2019 global drug policy review.

The meetings held on 18 April 2018 and 31 May 2018 dealt with preparations for the XX High Level Meeting to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 21 to 22 June 2018, identifying topics for the thematic debates during the High Level Meeting and discussing the draft political declaration. During the meeting on 18 April 2018 the delegations also exchanged views on the UNGASS follow-up and preparation for the 2019 global drug policy review process.

The Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, then held by Mexico, took part in such exchanges and reported on the 61st Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, while Bolivia in its capacity as president of GRULAC in Vienna reported on the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document. The delegations also reported on developments in the drug situation and policies in the EU and CELAC, and provided updates on EU-CELAC cooperation activities.

2. EU-CELAC Cooperation

Cooperation Programme on drugs policies between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union (COPOLAD II)¹

COPOLAD continued to work in close cooperation with CELAC countries and EU Member States towards achieving the reinforcement of National Observatories on drugs, the adoption of quality and evidence-based criteria, both in demand and supply reduction strategies, the adoption of sustainable approaches to capacity-building and bi-regional exchange of good practices and lessons learned as well as providing as much support as possible to the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs – a key instrument for dialogue and progress for the elaboration and implementation of public drugs policies in both regions.

In this framework, and during the second COPOLAD II Annual Conference (15-17 May 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina), the Programme's **Annual Action Plan** was presented and enhanced by CELAC and EU countries representatives who participated to the meeting. The activities - included in the Action Plan 2017-2018 - were developed with a very high and pro-active participation from Latin America and European Union countries and the support given by the EMCDDA to COPOLAD activities and participants. The next annual conference is scheduled to take place in Sofia, Bulgaria, in June 2018.

¹ COPOLAD II (2016-2019) is a regional cooperation programme funded by the European Commission, with a total budget of EUR 10.000.000. The first phase (COPOLAD I) ended in June 2015.

COMPONENT 1: Consolidation of National Drug Observatories

This component is aiming at the reinforcement of National Observatories on drugs, to facilitate the availability and sustainability of quality information to support evidence based decision-making in CELAC countries. Following the agreements reached in 2016 with all countries and collaborating agencies, the COPOLAD Programme activities implemented during 2017 to achieve the specific objective of this component include:

- Launching and developing **working groups** on the "promotion and facilitation of the establishment of **National Early Warning Systems** in CELAC countries", "studies to evaluate and validate scales and indicators of problematic drug use", "capacity building on problematic use and new threats".
- Edition and wide distribution of the **study on the situation of National Drug Observatories in the CELAC countries**.
- Realisation of the **2nd annual meeting of National Drugs Observatories** in Lisbon in November 2017, with capacity building activities.

Those activities were organised with the support of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the Inter – American Observatory on Drugs (OID-CICAD-OAS).

COMPONENT 2: Capacity building in Drug Demand Reduction (DDR)

The aim of this component is to strengthen the capacities of the competent authorities dealing with Drugs Demand Reduction in CELAC countries.

- **Validation of the quality criteria in the field of DDR**, agreed during the first phase of COPOLAD: progress achieved in the countries adoption of accreditation resources and processes of DDR interventions. Three working groups are performing this pilot exercise: two are led by SENDA – Chile and focussing on "advanced treatment" and "basic treatment" and one is coordinated by The Costa Rican Drug Institute (ICD) and is working on the "prevention criteria". The validation of the criteria for "quality accreditation of drug demand reduction programmes in the Caribbean countries", dealing with treatment and prevention standards is also progressing well.

- **Sustainable capacity – building strategy:** 4 online courses in Spanish and English have been edited and implemented at regional and national level including a new module on public health strategy dealing with a "comprehensive approach to the prevention and reduction of the adverse consequences of drug use in populations in situation of high vulnerability".
- **EU – CELAC exchange of best practices** on "drugs policy and criminal justice reform: alternative treatment to prison for drug related crimes" with key decision makers and professionals from both regions.

Each WG included a significant number of services selected by CELAC interested countries and bi-regional NGOs networks, Ibero-American Network of NGOs working on drug addiction (RIOD) and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC). As agreed during the first phase of the Programme, the action is being implemented with the active role of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the cooperation of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

COMPONENT 3: Capacity building in Drug Supply Reduction (DSR)

The aim of this component is to strengthen the capacities of the competent authorities dealing with Drugs Supply Reduction in CELAC countries by promoting the cooperation between agencies in charge of sectorial drug policies in the CELAC and the EU countries. To achieve this objective the following activities were developed in 2017:

- **Exchange of best practices in the field of alternative development** through "Intra regional dialogue forums on alternative development" and capacity building via "peer to peer learning in the development of value chains", supporting the establishment of new programmes and inter-institutional coordination. Participants included, among others, national drug agencies, ministries of agriculture, farmers' organizations and civil society from Bahamas, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, as well as Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, a study has been prepared on "success factors for strengthening the institutional capacities for the implementation of alternative development in Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru".

- **Best practices between the EU and CELAC countries**, by organizing the first bi regional meeting on "drugs policy and criminal justice reform: alternative treatment to prison for drug related crimes", held in San Jose de Costa Rica in July.
- **Exchange of information on "Precursors control"**: the second annual week on precursors was held in Brasilia in December 2017 with National Administrations participants from the EU and CELAC countries. This event was completed by the launch of Working Groups on "Information access" and "lessons learned for the establishment of effective legal frameworks for precursor control".

Those activities were carried out with the collaboration of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the Inter-american Commission on Drugs (CICAD – OAS), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as well as the three bi- regional networks participating in COPOLAD: the AIAMP, the IDPC and the RIOD.

COMPONENT 4: Policy Support, dialogue and consolidation of the Mechanism

This component has for objective to enhance and support existing bi-regional efforts and opportunities to promote the political technical dialogue EU- CELAC, on the nature of drugs related problems and the best way to face them. In 2017, among the activities implemented were:

- The **Second COPOLAD II Annual Conference**, that focussed on "the use of internet for the illicit sale of drugs and new psychoactive substances: challenges for their approach through coordinated and effective policies", and took place in May in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- The **meetings of the Technical Committee of the EU CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs**.
- The drafting of a **technical report on Gender approach in drugs related policies**, directed by the JND Uruguay with the participation of the CELAC interested countries, Spain and Portugal.

COMPONENT 0: Cross-cutting issues, quality and coherence

- On the occasion of the 60th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) of the United Nations, the European Union organised a **Side event about COPOLAD: "*Building support tools for evidence-based policy making on drugs*"** (15 March 2017, Austria). Tools developed during the first year of the Programme were presented, aiming at contributing to the strengthening of public policies on drugs, which are comprehensive and effective, evidence-based, respectful for Human Rights and with a Gender sensitive approach.
- **The Steering Committee of COPOLAD**, advisory body organised and led by the European Commission which defines the strategic orientation of the Programme, held its meeting on 15 May 2017 in Argentina. As a reminder, the criteria for countries to become members of the Steering Committee are the following:
 - **Countries already having a drug observatory:** commit to strengthen it, ensuring the availability of a competent/technical Focal Point for COPOLAD;
 - **Countries not having a drug observatory:** commit to establishing one, ensuring the availability of a competent/technical Focal Point for COPOLAD;
 - **Countries without an Early Warning System:** commit to establish one;
 - **Countries committed to actively participate in the COPOLAD activities.**
- **The Permanent Council of COPOLAD²**, also met on 15 May 2017 in Buenos Aires, with an active participation from countries. The Council holds advisory and follow-up functions, especially the following:
 - Participation in designing/implementing actions, including definition of sub-objectives/final contents for Working Groups;
 - Advise on programme implementation and suggest adjustments, when required;
 - Contribution to define the Annual Action Plan, and suggest adjustments when needed. Proposals and commitments on leaderships;
 - Contribute actively to the visibility of COPOLAD among stakeholders, both internationally and inside each participating country.

² Same membership criteria as the ones established for the Steering Committee.

3. Other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives in which some CELAC countries participate

The Cocaine Route Programme in CELAC countries

The multi-year Cocaine Route Programme (CRP) was launched in 2009, and since then the EU has committed over EUR 50 million to more than 40 countries along the cocaine route(s) from the countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa.

The overall objective of this trans-regional programme is to enhance the capacity for international cooperation by law enforcement and judicial services of the partner countries to contribute to the fight against international criminal networks, thereby encouraging South-South cooperation and exchanges of best practices. By providing support to partner countries through technical advice and encouraging cooperation via nine self-standing components, the CRP has been carrying out activities in four main domains, notably the interception of illicit flows of drugs, the fight against money laundering, the improvement of information sharing and criminal justice cooperation and investigations.

As the programme evolved, the focus of IcSP's Art 5 on a trans-regional approach was emphasised. Projects such as AMERIPOL-EU, GAFILAT-EU and PRELAC - which had a regional focus - ended under the CRP and have, in most cases, been integrated in different forms under regional programmes of the EU. Concentrating on its core trans-regional focus, the CRP currently retains only two "operational" components delivered through 3 projects:

- The interception of illicit flows of drugs by air (AIRCOP) and sea (SEACOP); and
- The improvement of criminal justice cooperation and investigation (CRIMJUST).

In addition CORMS, the monitoring and support mechanism of the programme, assists the EC in managing the integration of the different CRP components into a coherent, mutually reinforcing programme, as well as ensuring coordination with other relevant initiatives. It also provides the EC with advice and analysis on project implementation as well as updates on relevant trends.

a) Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP)

Implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Airport Communications Project (AIRCOP) was launched in 2010. AIRCOP aims at strengthening detection, interdiction and investigative capacities of participating international airports through sharing operational information and the establishment and training of inter-service Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) to better equip beneficiary countries in the fight against illicit trafficking and other forms of transnational organised crime. To encourage the real time transmission of information aimed at intercepting illicit shipments JAITFs are connected to international law enforcement databases and communication networks (INTERPOL I-24/7 and WCO CENcomm).

CELAC countries included in AIRCOP's geographical scope are: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Panama and Peru. With the signature of a MoU between the UNODC and the Government of Bolivia on 22 February 2018, Bolivia became the 10th country in LAC to implement AIRCOP.

Globally, as of February 2018, over 3200 participants have been trained through over 200 training and mentoring activities; 21 joint operations have taken place. The JAITFs have made seizures of 5.7 tons of cocaine, 1.6 tons of cannabis and 350 kg of heroin, as well as counterfeit medicines, ivory, currency, weapons and explosives.

Currently AIRCOP is present in 43 airports in 39 countries. As of February 2018, 22 AIRCOP JAITFs have been established and are operational, 6 JAITFs are under establishment, with presence in 5 associate countries.

In the last 3 years (April 2015-April 2018) AIRCOP has seized 5.492,3 kg of drugs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Cocaine represents 89.4% of AIRCOP's seizures in LAC, amounting to 4,912.8 kilos, with São Paulo Guarulhos and Bogota El Dorado airports accounting for the majority of seizures.

b) Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP)

Starting in 2010, the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) is currently in Phase IV, which will run until December 2018. In addition to the 11 countries in the Caribbean from Phase III (British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago), seven priority countries in the LAC region have been included in Phase IV to include Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama and potentially Ecuador and Peru.

The overall objective of SEACOP is to support the fight against illicit maritime trafficking and associated criminal networks in the targeted countries and regions. Its purpose is to provide the means (equipment, IT tools, and the related skills) to targeted countries and regions to:

- Reinforce their seaport control and intelligence capacities by setting up, consolidating and equipping dedicated Units in seaports or sensitive coastal areas;
- Improve or set up local maritime information and control systems;
- Enhance the operational delivery and cooperation at national, regional and transregional levels.

Created to strengthen capacities to combat maritime trafficking along the cocaine route, SEACOP aims to set up Joint Maritime Control Units (JMCU) and Maritime Intelligence Units (MIU) in key ports.

Throughout 2016 scoping missions were carried out to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and Panama which participate in Phase IV of SEACOP since January 2017. Additionally, in November 2017 scoping missions were carried out to Ecuador and Peru. The “First regional workshop on Maritime Intelligence Units in Latin America” was held in Panama in February 2018 and brought together all Latin American Maritime Intelligence Units supported by the project to improve relations, promote regional cooperation and reinforce intelligence capacities related to illicit maritime trafficking.

MoUs have been drafted for all Phase IV countries; four have already been signed with Guyana, Argentina, Colombia and Panama. The MoUs with the rest of the countries are expected to be signed shortly.

JMCU mentoring to the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, St Vincent and Antigua is planned to take place from 5 to 27 May 2018.

c) Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS)

The Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS) project was created to assist the European Commission in managing the integration of the different CRP components into a coherent, mutually reinforcing programme, as well as ensuring coordination with other relevant initiatives, regardless of whether they are planned or implemented by the EU, EU member states or other international and regional actors. CORMS is currently in its third phase, which will run until May 2020.

The CRP Steering Committee organised by CORMS will take place in Brussels on 16 May 2018, bringing together Team Leaders of all the CRP components to offer an update on project activities and to improve coordination. The Steering Committee is also a platform for presentations of other relevant activities related to the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime.

d) Strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the Cocaine Route (CRIMJUST)

In December 2015, the EU and UNODC signed an agreement for the implementation of CRIMJUST, a four-year project with a geographical scope on selected countries in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Implementation is carried out by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and Transparency International.

The CRIMJUST project aims to build synergies and complementarity with the other projects of the Cocaine Route Programme (primarily AIRCOP, SEACOP), and support the Programme in its strategic approach against organised crime and drugs trafficking. To do this, the CRIMJUST project carries out work in the following main domains:

- Complementary and coordinated action with other projects of the Cocaine Route Programme
- Capacity building of criminal justice entities in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (law enforcement and the judiciary) to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate organised crime and drug trafficking cases
- Effective inter-regional criminal justice action to tackle organised crime and drug trafficking (including South-South cooperation and the exchange of relevant experience with EU countries)
- Re-enforcement of institutional integrity, accountability and anti-corruption related practices of criminal justice entities when dealing with organised crime and drug trafficking cases.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, CRIMJUST is active in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as associate countries, and the Dominican Republic and Panama as beneficiary countries. In agreement with the European Commission, the geographical scope of the project has recently been extended to include Bolivia.

CRIMJUST has been actively working on supporting law enforcement and other justice sector institutions in strengthening integrity, accountability and resilience against corruption and influence of organised crime. In October 2017 the project organised a study visit to Colombia for law enforcement agencies from Panama, Dominican Republic and Peru, in order to present and replicate best practices of the country's Inspector General Unit and Observatory of Transparency and Integrity.

In addition CRIMJUST has provided a range of activities in LAC in the last six months, to include:

- "Regional Training to Strengthen the Technical Knowledge related to Coca Cultivation, Cocaine Production and Laboratory Criminal Techniques" held in Colombia in November 2017
- Seaport Working Group meeting was held in Brazil in November 2017
- "Regional Specialized Training Course on Cash Couriers" held in Argentina in December 2017

- Training courses on disruption of financial flows and crypto-currency investigation, held in Colombia in January 2018
- Workshop aimed at supporting and enhancing the implementation of property confiscation on assets seized from illegal drug trafficking, held in Bolivia in March 2018.

A variety of activities in LAC are planned throughout 2018, to include:

- Workshop on International Judicial Cooperation Cases of Organized Crime, Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering in June in Peru;
- A specialised training course for Airport insiders is planned to take place in Brazil May/June.
- A general aviation meeting for all CRIMJUST LAC countries is planned for June/July 2018

Implementation of Chapter 10 (Citizen Security) of the EU-CELAC Action Plan

According to Chapter 10 (Citizen Security) of the EU-CELAC Action Plan two inter-governmental seminars and a workshop are to be organized on citizen security.

The first EU-CELAC seminar on citizen security was held on 27-28 September 2017 in The Hague, the Netherlands, while the second one on 16-17 January 2018 in Panama City, Panama. A third event is planned in 2018. The events were co-organised by the EU (DEVCO and EEAS) and CELAC (Panama and Belize in their capacity of Chapter 10 Coordinators).

The first event was attended by delegations from 28 CELAC countries and 4 EU MS, while the second one by 24 from CELAC and 10 from EU MS. Certain regional organisations also attended.

The first seminar was a sort of kick off of this new sectorial dialogue and proved that participants had a genuine wish to exchange information and establish contacts at technical level. It included also a visit to Eurojust and a meeting with Europol staff. Its agenda included sharing best practices on enhancing citizen security, tackling the lack of capacities of state institutions and lack of means to fight organized crime, as well as new technologies used by criminals (such as cyber-crime). The topics of measuring the effectiveness of fight against organized crime (indicators) and the importance of building trust between countries and regions in information sharing were also mentioned. The new El PACCTO programme was also presented.

The second seminar was already more substantial both in terms of participation and content of discussions. It also featured a more technical focus on specific topics such as Joint Investigation Teams, Asset Recovery, intelligence sharing and criminal databases. Substantial attention was dedicated to EU-funded regional/sub-regional actions, with presentation of the implementation state of play of the following programmes: EL PAcCTO, COPOLAD II, The Cocaine Route Programme and the most recent I-CRIME. The Lisbon-based Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (MAOC) also presented its mandate and activities.

As far as Law Enforcement Cooperation is concerned, the unique experience of the so called “Joint Investigation Teams” was presented from the national perspective by Spain and from the EU perspective by EUROJUST. Reference was made to similar existing cooperation networks and mechanism in the framework of CARICOM and MERCOSUR.

The crucial issue of Asset Recovery was presented by both Spain (CITCO - Intelligence Center Against Terrorism and Organized Crime) and Italy (Guardia di Finanza). On trans-border intelligence cooperation the host country presented its experience on exchange of information.

During the discussion it was agreed that a reference should be made to the results of the seminars in the EU-CELAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting Declaration and the FMs could task the Senior Officials to set up a permanent dialogue. The dialogue could also build synergies with the EU programmes in the field of citizen security.
