



SEGUNDO SIMPOSIO
INTERNACIONAL
de LAC - UE sobre PRECURSORES
Del 29 al 31 de octubre / Lima - Perú



OUTCOMES

The Second International Symposium LAC - EU on Precursors was held in Lima (Peru) from the 29th to the 31st October 2014, as a follow up to the first International Symposium of the European Union that took place in 2010.

The symposium aimed to conduct a joint review regarding the progress and difficulties experienced in PRELAC countries since the Symposium held in 2010, to assess the benefits and suitability of strategies in place, and update the agenda as well as identifying current needs in the region.

The Second symposium provided a forum that allowed to outline, share and discuss progress and problems identified in several aspects of control of substances in countries of the region; namely: regulatory frameworks, criminal justice, administrative controls, and regional cooperation and voluntary cooperation with the private sector. This event gathered together senior national authorities and experts from fourteen Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela), representative of the European anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), of the European Taxation and Customs Union (TAXUD), the EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate-General (DEVCO), representatives of the European Union delegation in Peru, European External Action Service (EEAS), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), CICAD / OAS, AMERIPOL, AIRCOOP, The National Tax Superintendence (Peru) and regional representatives of the chemical industry, among other participants.

The presentations focused on the following aspects:

- a) The global situation and trends in the control of substances
- b) The new legislation in the European Union
- c) The “Cocaine Route” program of the European Union
- d) Legal frameworks and criminal justice sentencing in the region and challenges



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e) PRELAC countries experience in institution building, administrative controls and voluntary cooperation with the private sector.

f) The international and interagency cooperation and interdiction.

Participants discussed the mentioned issues in the light of progress and difficulties experienced facing a highly dynamic problem which has a big adaptive capacity such as the diversion of chemical substances; They identified outstanding issues and challenges that need attention, and that countries should incorporate into national development agendas and action.

Participants have arrived to the following conclusions:

(1)

It is recognized that, in recent years there have been significant changes in strategies and methods in the international scenario with regard to illicit drug manufacture, both natural and synthetic. This also implies changes in relation to diversion, substitution, including non-controlled chemicals, traffic and use of chemical substances in the illicit manufacture of drugs and an increase in the number of seizures of chemical substances. The increasing priority that countries have given to the control of chemical substances as reflected in the anti-drug policies and strategies was also highlighted.

(2)

There have been reforms in EU norms aiming to implement more strict measures and rapid reaction controls. Among others, mechanisms to control non-scheduled substances, stricter control of the domestic drug market in particular for ephedrine and pseudoephedrine as well as extended authority to control transactions in trading and industry were identified.

(3)

It is confirmed that control systems in Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced institutional growth and an increase in human and financial resource allocations; This is evidence of the existing political will and commitment to implement efficient controls of chemical substances that are being diverted to illicit drug manufacture. Countries have made significant progress in the following:



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- Strengthening of administrative control standards in most countries in which partial or deep reforms have taken place, and in some cases a totally new bill to control chemical substances has been passed or is being proposed to congress.
- Administrative control systems in most countries have been strengthened through the restructuring and reengineering of the registration systems, authorization, inspection and data analysis processes.
- The use of a computerized systems for recording and automating reporting processes added to the widespread use of Pen on Line in the region.
- A stronger regional cooperation (South-South) where bilateral and multilateral mechanisms have been installed for exchange, coordination and cooperation both in preventive and operational aspects. Increased interagency collaboration in most countries, in some cases as informal and non-institutionalized channels that allow for smoother cooperation in preventive and operational issues.

(4)

Voluntary cooperation with the private sector has increased in most countries and has led to further establishing or strengthening links that enable a dialogue between the parties to address control issues and build consensus on the control mechanisms. The emphasis has been placed on strengthening the partnership between the public and private sectors without hindering industrial and commercial processes, competitiveness and avoiding excessive costs.

In this field, the importance of implementing not only the good practices such as "knowing your customer" by the public and private sectors was recognized, but also the need to improve the techniques to detect suspicious transactions, improve internal audits to verify compliance with regulations and ensure traceability of chemical substances.

(5)

PRELAC has provided coordination and implementation of training, education and awareness raising activities in specific issues, according to the needs of countries and in line with global guidelines on control of precursors, both in preventive and operational aspects. These



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activities correspond to the technical assistance agreed in existing bilateral agreements on cooperation in precursor control.

(6)

PRELAC has helped to implement activities described in bilateral agreements on control of precursors between the European Union and several countries in Latin America and Central America to prevent the diversion of precursors.

(7)

Despite the progress made in countries where the legal, institutional and cooperative aspects have been strengthened, it is imperative to deepen and institutionalize aspects such as investment in the development of skills and training of human resources, research and investigation on key aspects of the problem of diversion as well as the development of tools and mechanisms for interagency cooperation and the private sector.

(8)

The diversion of substances in the domestic market is still the main source of supply of substances to the illicit drug production in the region. Therefore, the development and improvement of mechanisms and strategies to increase the efficiency of administrative controls is a priority. This will help to achieve a greater impact on operational controls.

(9)

Special attention should be given to the threat of illegal production of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances (NPS). There are precursors and pre precursors used which are not cataloged and constitute an urgent challenge to identify appropriate control mechanisms. Moreover, taking into account that the regional perspective of chemical substances are biased towards cocaine type drugs and the poor preparedness of countries to identify, control and monitor other chemical substances, the risk of diversion of these substances is greatly increased by the lack of measures and control capacities.



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(10)

In view of the complexity of the problem of diversion of chemical substances and linkages with organized crime, drug trafficking and other transnational criminal activities, it is important to use advanced investigative techniques in order to dismantle criminal organizations, using tools such as controlled delivery, corroborating witness, net worth investigations, among others.

(11)

The final disposal, storage and destruction of seized substances persists as a problem for many countries in the region. Lack of technical, logistical and financial resources of countries to address the problem in accordance with international standards of human and environmental safety, have come to a dead end that have produced discouragement in many authorities.

(12)

At the request of the delegation of Argentina and supported by all delegations, the following special recommendation is included:

The support of international technical cooperation is crucial in order to give continuity to the task begun by the PRELAC project, which provided on-site advice to the authorities of the countries of the region in administrative matters, audit, legal and chemical issues, with a deep involvement in the reality of each country, establishing direct ties and custom tailored outcomes.

Also, because of the different problems and conditions of the countries of the region, it was necessary, and as such was fully understood by PRELAC, to have a differentiated approach for every country in order to reach a minimum standard of understanding on chemical precursors.

The PRELAC Project has had a strong and positive impact on regional policies in many Latin American states.

Finally, it is essential that the team that is implementing the project



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continues the task by virtue of the extensive knowledge on subjects related to regional issues and the vast experience in Latin America.

On these grounds, and unanimously, this group strongly suggests the continuity of the expert group of the PRELAC Project.

The PRELAC project expresses its recognition to partner countries that have contributed material, financial and logistical support to carry out the numerous technical assistance activities and missions to strengthen control systems over the years.

Similarly, UNODC and PRELAC express their special thanks to the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), for their strong logistical and financial support which made possible hosting this Symposium.