



**European Union**  
**Statement on the occasion of the**  
**Intersessional Meeting of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**  
**Vienna,**  
**11 October 2016**

**Topic: Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement, responses to drug-related crime, and countering money laundering and promoting judicial cooperation**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

We are highly supportive of the UNGASS recommendations for enhanced cooperation on drug-supply reduction. Upholding the rule of law and efficient criminal justice is as important as ever. We would like to see applied in practice more measures to address the vulnerabilities that drive, enable and perpetuate any form of organised crime, to enhance the cooperation in criminal matters, including judicial cooperation, and to focus on individuals and organisations responsible for illicit activities of a large scale.

The EU Drug Market Report released a few months ago indicates that the drug market remains one of the biggest criminal markets.

Evidence-base is at the heart of the EU drugs policy. We put strong emphasis on developing monitoring systems that allow for the collection of reliable and objective data, essential for a better understanding of the drugs phenomenon and on the basis of which effective decisions can be taken. The further development of drug supply indicators allows the EU to gather more accurate, reliable, comparable and high-quality data on drug markets, drug supply reduction and drug-related crime across EU Member States. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction is working hard to achieve this. Data collection tools were developed and guidelines were produced for a number of drug supply sub-indicators.

In 2016 for the first time the market size estimates for the main drugs, using a demand-side approach, were made to evaluate the size of the illicit drug market across EU Member States. It is estimated that EU citizens spend over € 24 billion every year on illicit drugs.

To have a more systematic response to countering serious and organised crime, including drug trafficking, European Union leaders established six years ago a new methodological instrument, the EU policy cycle for organized and serious international crime. This instrument allows us to base cooperation on this cross-border crime phenomena at EU level on the concept of intelligence-led policing and brings all the existing initiatives and all the EU Member States and bodies together. The starting point of the EU policy cycle is the EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) in which Europol delivers analytical findings that are then translated into political priorities, strategic goals and operational action plans in order to implement EU policy.

On this basis, the Union then agrees on a limited number of priorities for each policy cycle. 9 priorities were defined in the framework of the current policy cycle for 2013-2017, among them: reducing cocaine and heroin trafficking to the EU and disrupting the organised crime groups facilitating the distribution in the EU as well as reducing the production of synthetic drugs in the EU and disrupting the organised crime groups involved in synthetic drugs trafficking.

Operational actions are set up for each priority. The EU Policy Cycle has become a large-scale endeavour with 260 operational actions running in 2016. A strong emphasis is placed on the evaluation of the results achieved, which also feeds into the development of the next policy cycle. That independent evaluation is currently ongoing.

In March 2017 Europol will produce a new SOCTA report which will be the basis for defining the new EU crime priorities for the next EU policy cycle for the years 2017-2021. The success of the EU Policy Cycle depends on the commitment and leadership of EU Member States. So far the policy cycle has been recognised as a valuable concept to focus EU Member States' cooperation on the most pressing cross-border crime phenomena, in other words intelligence-led policing is being implemented at EU level.

In this regard, we would like to highlight the role of Europol - the European Union's agency for law enforcement cooperation which supports its Member States in preventing and combating all forms of serious international and organised crime and terrorism. Based on Member States' intelligence, Europol's analytical findings are translated into political priorities, strategic goals and operational action plans.

And to end, let me refer to another important initiative, established by seven EU Member States and co-funded by the EU Internal Security Fund. This body is the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics), which is based in Lisbon and is shortly known as MAOC (N). MAOC (N) proves to be an efficient way for Member States to pool their law enforcement capabilities with a view to intercept drug shipments in the Atlantic Ocean and in the Mediterranean Sea. From 2007 to July 2016, MAOC (N) supported the coordination and seizure of over 116 tons of cocaine and over 300 tons of cannabis. The estimated resale value for the cocaine seized amounts to roughly € 7 billion, the cannabis seized is estimated at a resale value of over € 3 billion.

Countering transnational organised crime and drug trafficking is a key component of the EU's external cooperation programmes on drugs such as the Cooperation Programme between Latin American and Caribbean countries and the European Union on drugs policies (COPOLAD); the Cocaine Route Programme, active in 38 countries in West Africa, Latin and the Caribbean and the Heroin Route Programme designed to counteract organised criminal groups operating along the heroin route.

Before finishing, let me also stress the importance of tackling drug-related financial flows. For this purpose in the EU Action plan we have foreseen to „Strengthen EU judicial co-operation in targeting cross-border drug trafficking, money laundering, and in the confiscation of the proceeds of drug-related organised crime”.

On 25 June 2015, a new EU Directive on Anti-Money Laundering was adopted, which will help us to follow the money and to crack down on money laundering and terrorist financing. In addition, Europol has established an International Anti-Money Laundering Operational Network (AMON) as a European Center of Excellence on all aspects of the criminal investigation of money laundering, thus facilitating information exchange between Money Laundering Investigation Units via existing legal channels.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.