



European Union
Statement on the occasion of the
Intersessional Meeting of the 59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, 27 October 2016

Topic: Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

Mr. Chairman,

International cooperation is essential to coordinate drug policies and address shared challenges. The EU external relations in the field of drugs are based on the principles of multilateralism, an integrated, balanced and evidence-based approach, the mainstreaming of development, respect for human rights and human dignity and respect for international conventions. It is the objective of the EU in the field of international cooperation to further strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the EU and third countries and international organizations on drug issues in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

The three UN Drug Control Conventions, which provide the international legal framework for addressing the drugs phenomenon, and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights are the cornerstones of the global response to the world drug problem. They must be acknowledged and respected in developing and implementing national drug policies and laws, as well as regional and international programs.

Another essential principle of the EU and its Member States cooperation with other countries is the principle of common and shared responsibility. Following these principles, which I have just outlined, the EU implements a number of programmes and projects so as to unite efforts in tackling the world drug problem, therefore implementing the principle of common and shared responsibility into practise.

Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues,

To give you an example of the EU comprehensive programme, tackling both drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction let me refer to the COPOLAD programme, which has recently entered in its second phase following a very positive completion of the first phase in 2015 and has been allocated a budget of €10 million. This programme aims at strengthening information exchange, coordination and cooperation between the national agencies and other actors responsible for drugs policies in the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as policy dialogue. As a result of the first phase of the programme the role of national drugs observatories was enhanced to obtain better information to support policy making. Also, a broad range of evidence-based activities both in drug demand and drug supply reduction sectors were implemented.

The EU and its Member States are also working hard to tackle drug trafficking along cocaine and heroin routes. For that purpose, a multi-year Cocaine Route Programme was launched in 2009, and since then the EU has committed almost €50 million to over 40 countries along the cocaine route from the countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa, essentially West Africa. Moreover, the EU and its Member States have been supportive to the activities of UNODC-WCO Global Container Control Programme and UNODC-INTERPOL-WCO Airport Communication Programme. Trans-regional trafficking of drugs, arms, human beings and other illicit trade in goods and services in West Africa are persistent occurrences in the region and inflict dramatic damage to ecosystems, fueling greater insecurity and instability with long-term consequences for local economies and communities. Recognizing that the primary responsibility to counter these threats and challenges rests with the States of the region, we also recognize the role that partners, regional and international organizations play through stronger cooperation.

The overall objective of this trans-regional action 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 programme has been carrying out activities in four key areas, notably the interception of illicit

flows of drugs, the fight against money laundering, the improvement of information sharing and criminal justice cooperation and investigations.

Another flagship EU programme is the Heroin Route Programme, launched in 2008, and aiming at enhancing law enforcement agencies' capacity for international cooperation and reinforcing regional cooperation in tackling international criminal networks, while fully respecting human rights. The programme is designed to think strategically about illicit flows and ensure an integrated response to the challenges presented by both organised crime and drug trafficking along the heroin route. The budget of the programme amounts up to €18.5 million, out of which €14 million is focusing only on drug trafficking.

The EU is also active in cooperating with Central Asia region. The CADAP programme, already running in its sixth phase, supports the preparation and evaluation of national drug strategies and action plans, data collection to allow better informed decisions, prevention activities as well as treatment and harm reduction programmes based on the EU best practices and international standards. Among the deliveries, it is foreseen that National Focal Points will be set up in the region and Drug Information Systems with corresponding networks will be established. Another programme, BOMCA contribute to drug supply reduction, by supporting capacity of border guards to cooperate efficiently.

Last but not least, the EU provides candidate countries and countries neighboring the EU with technical assistance and capacity building, notably to enhance their drug monitoring systems, through the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Mr. Chairman,

These are only a few examples of our cooperation with other regions based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, but many individual examples could also be mentioned, where EU is running projects dedicated to individual countries both in the field of drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction.

The EU is also the major contributor to the UNODC budget – by providing funding for UNODC drug-related projects we further contribute to tackling world drug problem. On this

occasion, the EU and its Member States acknowledge the central role of the CND and UNODC in the international response and also welcome enhanced cooperation between Vienna institutions and others bodies/agencies within their respective mandates as agreed in the Outcome Document.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage other countries to enhance international cooperation in line with the principles of an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the drug problem, international law and common and shared responsibility and stand ready to share our experience.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.