



European Union
Statement on the occasion of the
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Commission on Narcotic Drugs 60th session
Vienna, 16 October 2017

Chapter 3: Operational recommendations on supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.

Madam Chair,

Mr Facilitator,

The European Union and its Member States wish to thank you for organising this intersessional meeting in which we can share our best practises on drug supply reduction and related measures.

The EU strives to achieve a multidisciplinary, multi-agency, integrated and integral approach to effectively tackling drug-related crime. In this respect 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. We would also like to emphasise the important role played by Eurojust which contributes to improving judicial cooperation in the fight against serious crime.

In order to reinforce the efforts, we aim to have a balance between preventing and tackling the consequences of crime. Our tool for the co-operation and co-ordination of actions on all dimensions and between all stakeholders on the national and EU level is the EU Policy Cycle

for organised and serious international crime. This methodology is used to identify and prioritise the most pressing threats associated with organised and serious international crimes. In March 2017, the EU Member States decided that reducing the production of synthetic drugs in the EU and the cocaine and heroin trafficking to the EU, as well as disrupting the relevant organised crime groups involved, are amongst the 10 crime priorities in the new EU Policy Cycle for the period 2018 to 2021.

We have also tools for data collection, research, analysis and reporting on drug-related matters. The collection of policy relevant, reliable and objective data is essential in order for the EU and its Member States to be effective in the decision making process. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction has developed and published guidelines for a number of drug supply sub-indicators, which streamline and improve understanding and monitoring of the drugs phenomenon in the EU. The further development of drug supply indicators is addressed annually under the coordination of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

One of the main concerns for the EU is the market of synthetic drugs which continues to increase and be the most dynamic of the drug markets in the EU. We are also concerned about the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamines.

An effective drug precursor control and monitoring system is a cornerstone of the EU's drug supply reduction strategy. In 2013 we revised the EU drug precursor legislation in order to better address the problem of non-scheduled substances via a 'catch-all'-provision and a 'fast-track' procedure to schedule new substances. The EU continues to work closely with key third countries and regions. The EU and its Member States are also active and committed members of the Precursor Task Force of the INCB, which provides a unique forum for multilateral and operational cooperation. We commend the INCB for coordinating this important work.

The cooperation with industry is another pillar of the EU's drug precursor policy. This year we have finalised new 'Guidelines for Operators' and these will be actively promoted to our economic operators. Another important implication on the EU's drug supply reduction strategy is that the Internet and digital devices are used as a social and commercial medium and enable rapid growth of illicit drug market.

The EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment report for 2017 once again identifies Darknet as a key facilitator for various criminal activities, including the illicit trade in drugs.

The EU takes action to address this threat. In April 2017, the nine EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies held a conference to discuss issues of the expanding influence of the Internet, the exploitation of cyberspace and the transformational nature of new technologies. The experts were also seeking to gain more knowledge on challenges and opportunities for the work of the EU and by the end of 2017 a joint EU agencies report on drug sales on Darknet markets will be published.

The new EU Action Plan on Drugs for 2017 to 2020 commits to identifying strategic responses to address the role of new information communication technologies and the hosting of associated websites in the illicit production, marketing, purchasing and distribution of drugs and new psychoactive substances both at the national and EU level. More significantly, the EU commits to tackling drug-related financial flows as the EU Member States have agreed to increase the number of financial investigations and encourage its relevant authorities to focus on confiscation and recovery of proceeds of crime, including on money laundering, corruption and other criminal activities in all investigations of organised crime.

In this regard we would like to highlight the importance of cooperation of the law enforcement and judicial authorities of the EU Member States and the role of Europol, and especially its analytical support to national stakeholders. For instance, through cooperation of three EU Member States, a recent complex joint investigation of an organised crime group, that was active in several European countries led to the simultaneous identification and seizure of assets worth EUR 5 million in five EU countries.

Madam Chair,

Mr Facilitator, dear panellists,

The EU and its Member States are committed to taking actions in the area of drug supply reduction. We are convinced that our continuous and united efforts can lead to a disruption of the organised crime groups facilitating drug trafficking.

Thank you!