

Statement by The Netherlands on the occasion of the CND thematic discussions on UNGASS implementation

4th Intersessional meeting

Vienna, 10-11 October 2016

Operational recommendations on Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

- The Netherlands associates itself with the statement made by the EU delegation on behalf of the European Union and its member states.
- The Netherlands successfully introduced so called 100% checks at Schiphol Airport after trafficking in cocaine soared and ‘swallowers’ entered the Schiphol by the dozens in the first years of this century. Customs and polices interview all passengers to select persons of interest, detection equipment is used like millimeter wave scans, sniffing dogs etc. The aircraft after landing is every minute under surveillance to prevent people from approaching it unauthorized. Now every day only a few traffickers are arrested.
- The MAOC-N project in Lisbon (in which 7 EU member states participate) is a very fruitful way of detecting vessels of interest on high seas trying to reach the EU from the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Navies and Coast Guards of the participating states and others can act upon its signals and board and search suspected vessels.

- To fight hemp cultivation not only plantations are destroyed (thousands of them every year) but especially assets of suspects are confiscated. When luxury goods like expensive cars, motor cycles, jewelry and houses cannot be explained for they are taken, even before a formal prosecution is started. We try to hit criminals where it hurts: in their wallet.
- In many cases the Netherlands applies an integral approach; not just criminal prosecution but also a fiscal approach (how can we take as many assets as possible?) and an administrative approach: can we withdraw licenses, close premises etc? The administrative approach is also meant to be preventative: people requesting a license may be screened to see if they have relevant criminal records. If this is the case the license will be denied.
- I thank you, mr. Facilitator.

