Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Fifty-fifth session
Vienna, 12-16 March 2012
Items 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of
Action on International Cooperation towards an
Integrated and Balanced Strategy to counter the World
Drug Problem

World situation with regard to drug trafficking and
recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the
Commission

Reports by intergovernmental organizations on drug
control activities1

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* E/CN.7/2012/1.
1 This conference room paper reproduces the contribution of intergovernmental organizations in
the form in which they were received.
I. Introduction

1. Intergovernmental organizations active in the field of international drug control were invited to submit to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concise reports on their activities conducted in the year 2011 by 12 February 2012. The following organizations submitted reports to the Secretariat: the African Union, the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The reports of the above-mentioned intergovernmental organizations are presented below.

II. African Union

2. The African Union Commission activities during 2011 were implemented within the framework of the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (AUPA) (2007-2012); and the priority areas set out and adopted at the 4th Session of the AU Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Addis Ababa in October 2010.

3. The year 2011 witnessed a strengthened capacity to coordinate and implement the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention, galvanizing support regionally, continentally and internationally leading to a number of key actions.

4. A monitoring protocol for implementation of AUPA priority areas by member states and the regional economic communities was established, with good progress noted in receiving feedback from member states.

5. In an effort to improve understanding of the dynamics of drugs and crime, the AUC has:
   
   (a) Launched, through the department of Economic Affairs, a data base, which is incorporating drug and crime indicators, in addition to hosting a site for all AUPA related matters;

   (b) Introduced an early warning mechanism for the prevention of drug abuse and trafficking by creating and keeping custody of the “drug snapshots” which contains updated country profiles based on information received from Member States, and media searches; and

   (c) Inaugurated “Drug News Africa”, a topical quarterly Newsletter that is used for drug awareness-raising, early warning tool and to stimulate academic debate in October 2011.

6. Working towards improving health and addressing social impact of drug use, the African Union Commission has developed draft Continental Minimum Standards and protocol for drug abuse prevention, treatment and care which will be completed and published in 2012.

7. The AUC also conducted a continental think-tank and focal point’s consultation to fast track and facilitate implementation of AUPA at the continental, regional and national levels on 12-13 October 2011. Agreeing on the respective monitoring and evaluation roles and capacity-building needs of the national and regional focal points, 31 national drug focal points in 31 member states were established, with ongoing effort to make it 54.
III. Council of Europe: Pompidou Group

8. The Co-operation Group to combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs held its 15th Ministerial Conference on “Towards a coherent policy on psycho-active substances”, in Strasbourg on 3-4 November 2010, which decided on the future four-year work programme (2011-2014) of the Pompidou Group. Serbia and “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” joined the Group at that occasion. Further two countries joined in the course of the year (Montenegro and Morocco), bringing the total to 37 Member States in 2011.

Trans Atlantic Executive Training on Drug Policy: Effective Governance of Coherent Drug Policies

9. The overall aim of the executive training is to link policy, research and practice in support of drug policy management and to facilitate know-how and build capacities for more effective implementation, management and evaluation of drug policies and related programmes. 41 Drug Policy managers from the USA and Europe participated in the Executive Training.

Conference on “Drugs in prisons in South Eastern Europe”

10. Regime and security in prisons, harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation for drug using offenders as well as measures to reduce drugs-related recidivism and streamline human rights into prison practices were in the focus of the conference “Drugs in Prisons in South Eastern Europe” which took place in Skopje on 24-25 October 2011. The conference brought together 150 experts from 20 countries of the region and beyond and provided an opportunity for experts to review the situation in the region, discuss possible solutions to the problem of drug use in prisons and build a network for future actions.

International Airports

11. The Co-operation Group of Drug Control Services at European Airports held its 26th Annual Meeting on 15-17 June 2011 in Strasbourg, with representatives from 29 countries and 10 international organizations. The main conclusions of the meeting concern the setting-up of a permanent working party on General Aviation, the implementation of a buddy-approach visits programme among airports and the analysis of different techniques and devices used to examine suspected intro-corporal body-packers (swallowers).

Conference on the prevention of drugs precursors’ diversion

12. The Conference on “new threats arising in the field of precursor diversion” took place on 13-14 October 2011 in Strasbourg. 57 representatives from law enforcement, regulatory boards and specialized prosecutors acknowledged the need to closely monitor the production, temporary conversions and masking of uncontrolled substances as well as their import, export and transit. Participants encouraged authorities to engage in backtracking investigations with a view to identifying criminal networks involved in precursor diversion for the large scale production of synthetic drugs.
The Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions (MedNet)

13. Greece officially joined the Mediterranean Network of the Pompidou Group bringing the total to 13 countries, six from the Southern Mediterranean and seven from Southern Europe. MedNet organized a series of national and regional seminars in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco. Since the revolution, Tunisia stepped up its cooperation and actively participates in the network. MedNET continued to support capacity-building projects in all member countries of the network in the form of study visits, educational events and publications, assistance to treatment and prevention activities.

Cooperation activities

14. The Pompidou Group organized a large number of cooperation activities in Ukraine, namely: seminars and conferences on “tackling drug problems in Ukrainian prisons”; Round Table on the Ukrainian drugs policy for 2011-2020; and Moldova: Mental Health and Addiction in Prisons; Training video on Opiate Substitution Treatment in Prisons and Confidence Building Measures (CBM): Moldova, Transnistria Region.

15. Further information on the work of the Pompidou Group can be found on its website: http://www.coe.int/T/dg3/pompidou/.

IV. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

16. During 2011, the EMCDDA continued its work to improve the quality and comparability of drug information in the European Union. To achieve this, the agency worked closely with its network of 30 national focal points (Reitox) to gather and analyse country data according to common data-collection standards and tools. Key results of the EMCDDA’s work were released in its Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe, which was launched on 15 November in Lisbon. The report highlighted that drug use is relatively stable in Europe, with some positive signs that cocaine use may have peaked and that cannabis use continues to decline among young people. But signs of stability with some of the more established drugs are offset by new threats. These include the increased availability of synthetic drugs, the rapid appearance of new substances and widespread ‘polydrug’ use. Also highlighted in the report are new concerns over the potential for HIV outbreaks among injecting drug users. The Annual report was accompanied by in-depth reviews on drug treatment costs, mortality related to drug use and guidelines for the treatment of drug dependence in Europe.

17. The year 2011 was very important in terms of detecting and controlling new drugs, with a record number of 49 new drugs officially reported to the EMCDDA and Europol via the EU early-warning system (EWS) on new psychoactive substances. In order to better audit the state of play and provide a global overview on new drugs and ‘legal highs’, the EMCDDA organized the First international multidisciplinary forum on new drugs, which brought leading experts from 40 countries to Lisbon to discuss the phenomenon and national responses. In 2012, the EMCDDA and the United States National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) are
joining forces to host the second international forum on new and emerging psychoactive substances.

18. Last year also saw work continue on designing a new European strategy for monitoring drug markets, drug related crime and drug supply reduction. Three expert group meetings were organized in Lisbon in order to define an overall conceptual framework in each of the three areas. This initial process will culminate with an EMCDDA proposal of key composite indicators, combining qualitative and quantitative data sets, at a consensus conference to be held in Lisbon in September 2012.

19. The EMCDDA continued to collaborate with its partners at national level and its peers worldwide. In this context, the EMCDDA published a joint report on amphetamine with Europol. The report describes how patterns and trends are changing in the production and trafficking of this widely used synthetic stimulant and the chemicals used in its manufacture. It also looks at the people and organizations involved, and the scale of the problem in a global context.

20. Moreover, together with European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the EMCDDA published in 2011 a Joint European guidelines on the prevention of HIV and other infections among drug injectors, and performed a joint rapid risk assessment on “HIV in injecting drug users in the EU/EEA, following a reported increase of cases in Greece and Romania”.

21. Also last year, the EMCDDA and the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) pledged to scale up their cooperation in a joint statement adopted at the 2011 ESPAD project meeting hosted in Lisbon. The aim of the cooperation is to exchange information and expertise, improve the availability, quality and comparability of school survey data and gain analytical insight from the data available in this area.

22. In 2011, the EMCDDA provided technical assistance to candidate and potential candidate countries to the EU to consolidate national drug information systems. Moreover, cooperation has been initiated with European Neighbourhood Countries, through a regional scientific seminar on developing evidence-based drug policies organized in Ukraine, and which gathered participants from Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Upon request from Moldova, a Memorandum of Understanding is currently under consideration. Delegations from the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Georgia also visited the agency. In addition, the EMCDDA participated in several CICAD training activities, mainly to share experience on building national drug observatories.