I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

1. Participants in the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe:

   (a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

   (b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

   (c) Bore in mind the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

   (d) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, should take into account, among others, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and called upon the participants in the high-level review to take account of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement;

   (e) Bore in mind the recommendations adopted by the Eighth and Ninth Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in 2009 and 2011, after the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

   (f) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

1. Demand reduction and related measures

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Demand reduction and related measures”:

   (a) Governments should develop, review and strengthen integrated drug demand reduction policies and programmes that offer effective, science-based prevention and care in health-care and social services across the spectrum, from
primary prevention to early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintroduction;

(b) Governments should ensure that national drug demand reduction strategies deliver comprehensive policies and programmes using a multi-agency approach that includes health-care, social care, criminal justice, employment and education agencies working together to effectively reach persons at risk and persons already engaged in illicit drug use;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to consider, within their legal frameworks and in compliance with applicable international laws, enabling their criminal justice systems to provide treatment and rehabilitation as alternatives to prosecution and prison for drug-using offenders;

(d) Governments should also be encouraged to provide specialized training for prison officers working with drug-dependent inmates.

2. Responding to changing trends in drug use, including new psychoactive substances

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Responding to changing trends in drug use, including new psychoactive substances”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to be proactive in contributing information to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances\(^1\) so as to benefit from timely warnings regarding new psychoactive substances, analysis of developing trends in trafficking, current modi operandi and legislation developed to curb their abuse;

(b) Governments should conduct information and education campaigns among the general public to alert them to the dangers of the use of new psychoactive substances and so reduce demand for their availability;

(c) Governments must ensure that their legislation is adequate and that their drug law enforcement officials are informed, aware, well trained and capable of recognizing new psychoactive substances in order to act effectively against the threat posed by such substances.

3. Developing an effective response to illicit drug trafficking using sea containers

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Developing an effective response to illicit drug trafficking using sea containers”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider assessing the vulnerability of ports and terminal operations to the “rip-off” technique of importing illicit drugs in sea containers and to take action, as appropriate, to support the effectiveness of the actions taken by their authorities to address that growing challenge;

(b) As part of their support to the international response to disrupt drug trafficking, Governments are encouraged to invite their law enforcement authorities to consider undertaking investigations following the interception of illicit drug consignments in sea freight, including through the use of controlled deliveries, the

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\(^1\) See www.unodc.org/LSS/Home/NPS.
exchange of information with authorities involved along the route of the consignment and the gathering of evidence from, and exchange of evidence with, authorities in other jurisdictions that may be able to contribute to the successful dismantling and prosecution of an organized criminal network;

(c) Governments are encouraged to invite their drug law enforcement agencies working at ports and container terminals to consider joining the UNODC/World Customs Organization Container Control Programme and engaging with the joint port control units established under the Programme in order to effectively combat drug trafficking using maritime routes by sharing information and coordinating in targeting sea containers suspected to contain drugs and other prohibited goods.

II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, held on 2 July, the Meeting considered item 3 of the agenda, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat entitled “Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide” (UNODC/HONEURO/10/2) and a conference room paper entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe” (UNODC/HONEURO/10/CRP.1).

6. Representatives of the Secretariat introduced the item and gave audiovisual presentations that provided an overview of illicit drug trafficking trends across the region and worldwide and of the support provided by UNODC through its regional programme for South-Eastern Europe and its initiatives in Eastern Europe. Statements were made by the representatives of Spain, the Russian Federation, Latvia, Romania, Finland, France, Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, Turkey, Israel, Norway, Switzerland, Ireland, Italy and Germany.

7. The Meeting discussed current drug trafficking trends in Europe and approaches to countering them, with reference to particular cases and seizures. Several speakers indicated that maritime transport, together with air transport, continued to be a preferred medium for traffickers and noted the increasing use of containers to traffic cocaine and other illicit drugs. The use of the Internet in drug trafficking was also mentioned. A number of speakers informed the Meeting about the recent trend of large numbers of small seizures of drugs, which could reflect a new modus operandi of drug trafficking groups. It was noted that that new trend posed challenges to law enforcement authorities in detecting consignments, assessing the significance of individual interceptions and obtaining appropriate legal penalties if it was later discovered that the seizures were part of a larger trafficking operation.

8. The extensive illicit production of opium in Afghanistan remained of serious concern, and speakers shared specific examples of trends and cases. It was observed that there was increasing evidence of groups operating from Pakistan involved in coordinating the trafficking of heroin within Europe by air couriers and maritime transport.