23 July 2013

Subject: Response to note CU 2013/125/DTA/SGB IGOs of 12 June 2013

Sir,

In connection with your request, please find attached information on the activities of the Commonwealth of Independent States to combat drug trafficking, for use in the preparations for the high-level review.

Attachment: 4 pages in one copy

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

T. Buzubaev
Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee
Deputy Executive Secretary
of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Mr. Y. V. Fedotov
Executive Director
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

V.13-85513 (E)
Information on the activities of the Commonwealth of Independent States to combat drug trafficking

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is actively involved in international cooperation activities to combat drug trafficking.

Within the framework of CIS, the necessary legislative and organizational mechanisms for combating illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors have been established.

The Framework Policy on Cooperation among the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors of 7 October 2002 sets out the agreed principles, objectives, main areas, forms and system of cooperation and collaboration in that area of joint activity.

For the purposes of their practical implementation, medium-term inter-State programmes of joint measures for combating illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors are adopted. The medium-term programme for 2011-2013 is currently being implemented.

The draft programme for 2014-2018 has been negotiated and prepared for consideration at the regular session of the CIS Council of Heads of State. The programme was elaborated taking into account the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, the international obligations and national legislation of the CIS member States and the status of, and trends and developments in, the fight against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, drug addiction and organized crime on the territory of CIS member States and worldwide.

During implementation of the programmes, work is carried out in parallel to formalize the participation of CIS member States in the preparation of international legal instruments regulating relevant cooperation activities.

All CIS States have formalized their participation in the key United Nations instruments of international law relating to the combating of drug-related aggression.

In order to establish a legal basis for the development of cooperation in that area, the heads of Government of the CIS member States have signed the following instruments:
- Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors (30 November 2000);
- Agreement on the Procedure for Transferring Samples of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors (18 October 2011).

On 5 December 2012, at a meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State, an agreement on the establishment of a council of financial intelligence units of the CIS member States was signed. One of the objectives of the newly established council is to intensify efforts, in cooperation with international bodies, to detect and block financial flows linked to drug trafficking.

The negotiation of a draft protocol on the procedure for the transfer, by the competent authorities of the CIS member States, of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, firearms, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices submitted as real evidence in criminal cases has been concluded, and the draft document is to be submitted to the CIS Council of Heads of State for consideration at the Council’s regular session.

The Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Member States has adopted a model law on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (16 November 2006) and recommendations aimed at the
further harmonization and standardization of the national legislation of the CIS member States relating to trafficking.

Special attention is given to the simultaneous implementation, on the territory of CIS member States, of comprehensive operational and preventive measures and special operations. Such activities remain one of the most effective areas of joint activity of law enforcement agencies in combating drug-related crime.

They are carried out with the active participation of the charter-based bodies and sectoral cooperation agencies of CIS:
- The Council of Commanders of Border Troops;
- The Coordination Council of Prosecutors-General;
- The Council of Ministers of the Interior;
- The Council of Heads of Security Agencies and Special Services;
- The Coordination Council of Heads of Tax (Financial) Investigation Agencies;
- The Council of Heads of Customs Services;
- The Office for the Coordination of the Fight against Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Forms of Crime in the Territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- The Counter-Terrorism Centre.

In 2011 and 2012, as a result of those activities, more than 124 tons of narcotic drugs were seized, illicit drug crops covering a total area of more than 1,900 hectares were eradicated and 82 international channels used for the supply of narcotic drugs were shut down on the territory of CIS member States.

With the coordination of the CIS Executive Committee, workshops and meetings of heads of anti-drug-trafficking units attached to the law enforcement agencies of the CIS member States are held regularly, as a result of which organizational and practical measures to implement the decisions of the charter-based bodies of CIS relating to all aspects of the problem of combating drug-related crime are being formulated at the operational and tactical level.

One of the areas of activity in which the CIS member States are currently engaged is the establishment of a multilevel mechanism for combating drugs originating in Afghanistan.

In 2014, the withdrawal of coalition troops from Afghanistan will begin. This will significantly complicate the situation in the CIS member States, particularly in the Central Asian region (the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmnenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan). In that regard, in March 2013, at a meeting of heads of working bodies of CIS entities responsible for cooperation in combating crime, a decision was adopted on the intensification of cooperation and of activities to combat illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

An important factor in active efforts to combat the spread of drugs is coordination and cooperation among international organizations. In that connection, greater cooperation among all relevant bodies of international organizations under the guidance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for Central Asia is needed.

In the Commonwealth of Independent States, the importance of international cooperation in combating drug trafficking is recognized and its role greatly valued, since without joint and coordinated efforts on the part of States and regional and international organizations, it is not possible to counter what is one of the greatest global threats to security. The effectiveness of international cooperation makes it possible to strengthen the legislative and regulatory basis of CIS member States and to develop new mechanisms for combating serious threats arising from the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.