
57th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

High-Level Segment

**Statement by Ambassador Georgi Dimitrov,
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Bulgaria**

14 March 2014

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate you, as well as the other members of the Bureau, as the Chairmanship of this High Level Segment of the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. We are confident that under your able guidance, we will see the successful accomplishment of our work.

Bulgaria fully associates itself with the statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We would like to express our political will to support the measures aimed at further implementing a balanced and comprehensive approach to tackle the drug problem in all its dimensions.

The fight against trafficking, illicit production of and trade in narcotic drugs and precursors on national, regional and international level constitutes a major challenge for every country, as well as for the international community. Bulgaria has an important geographic location on the so called “Balkan Route” of trafficking narcotic drugs from Central Asia to Europe. Therefore our country is bound to pay special attention to the fight against illicit drugs and psychotropic substances.

Bulgaria is very much aware of the complexity of the drug problem on a national, regional and global scale and supports all measures and initiatives focused on finding adequate and lasting solutions concerning all aspects of this problem and in a full accordance with the **three International Drug Control Conventions**.

We reaffirm our strong determination expressed by the UN Member States in **the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action**, and support all further meaningful measures and initiatives aimed at achieving additional progress with regard to the three main pillars of the Plan of Action: demand reduction, supply reduction, and international cooperation.

Our country firmly believes in the need for enhanced international cooperation between the Member States, all relevant UN Organizations and the civil society, including the scientific community and non-governmental organisations, in order to achieve a measurable progress in the area of drug demand and drug supply reduction.

We also reaffirm our full commitment to the international cooperation in compliance with the leading role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the ECOSOC, the International Narcotics Control Board, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. We highly appreciate their work.

As regards the cooperation, we find particularly useful the instruments for control and prevention of diversion of precursors from the legal trade and production for illicit purposes, elaborated by the European Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board. An example of an effective instrument, implemented by the Bulgarian Government, is the Pre-Export Notification Online System. Numerous deals of unauthorized importers and exporters of drug precursors have been prevented through the use of this system. Currently, in the Republic of Bulgaria there are no registered cases of diversion of precursors from legal operators with precursors for narcotic substances.

We remain concerned about the fact that, in recent years, there is an increase in the dynamics of the emergence of new psychoactive substances. These substances pose a serious challenge. Faced with the challenge in this aspect, Bulgaria took prompt steps aimed at introducing relevant legislation to counter the new psychoactive substances.

Mr. Chairman,

Following confidently its strong commitment to the struggle against illicit drugs, Bulgaria is in a process of finalizing the adoption of the third **National Drugs Strategy (2014-2018) and the Action Plan**, which correspond to the EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020) and the EU Action Plan on Drugs (2013-2016).

The Bulgarian Strategy follows an integrated, objective and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction, whereas the Action Plan stipulates specific steps towards achieving the strategic aims, deadlines for their execution and responsible bodies. The Strategy is based on the principle of the rule of law and fully complies with the relevant UN Conventions in this field, as well as with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In particular, it complies with the core values of respect for human rights and human dignity. Following this course, Bulgaria remains fully committed to the abolishment of the death penalty in all cases and under any circumstances.

Thank you for your kind attention!