

Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

Vienna, 2-5 July 2013

Informal discussion note for the working groups

For the consideration of agenda item 6 on 3 and 4 July, ad hoc working groups will be established for the purpose of reviewing issues of regional importance and facilitating informal discussions and frank exchanges of views on those issues. For each of the working group topics, the Meeting is expected to submit regional recommendations aimed at positively moving forward the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, as requested by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10. Working groups will be invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the plenary for endorsement and inclusion in the report of the Tenth Meeting.

(c) Developing an effective response to illicit drug trafficking using sea containers

The working group on effective responses to illicit drug trafficking using sea containers will take place on 4 July 2013. The **aim** of the day is **to discuss possible improvement of sharing information related to container crime, and look at initiatives that can serve to reach that objective**. There are **several regional initiatives** targeting container crime in the European region as well, and **cooperation and coordination between the different activities should be sought**.

For the benefit of participants, UNODC will briefly introduce the topic by highlighting the global activities of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP). **Presentations** will also be made by **front line officials from Latin America, West Africa and Pakistan** on their daily work in a Port Control Unit (container profiling unit established under the CCP). These officials will present a case and their daily work in profiling and targeting containers. Cases of seizures in each region will also be presented. A **representative from the World Customs Organization** will give a live demonstration of the “ContainerCOMM information sharing system” that is used in the CCP to share information between operational units.

Participants in the working group are encouraged to give priority attention – during the interventions – to discuss measures addressing illicit trafficking within the international trade supply chain, which requires balancing the objectives of law enforcement and the facilitation of trade. Participants will look at current trafficking trends by which sea freight containers are used to transport heroin, cocaine and precursor chemicals. Participants are invited to discuss trends in trade and transport routes used by traffickers and to discuss the functioning of existing mechanisms of the exchange of information between authorities involved. Participants are asked to present examples of investigations arising from interceptions of drugs smuggled in sea containers. Those cases will be used as a basis to discuss challenges encountered and experiences acquired and to look into opportunities for further enhancing cooperation.

Participants might wish to address the following issues:

- (a) Which concrete cases on illicit drug trafficking using sea containers have you come across?
- (b) Which law enforcement and investigative measures have been used?
- (c) How has information been shared among the different stakeholders involved? What have been the major challenges faced?
- (d) What experiences, lessons learned and good practices can be shared?