

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 in 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.

(b) Responding to changing trends in drug use, including new psychoactive substances

The working group on *Responding to changing trends in drug use, including new psychoactive substances* will take place on 3 July 2013.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 55/1 expressed its deep concern about the increased and emerging use of and trade in new psychoactive substances that may have effects similar to those of internationally controlled drugs. It further noted the potential opportunities for transnational organized criminal groups to exploit the market for these substances. In the context of Europe, the Commission acknowledged the work of States members of the European Union, together with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, in developing effective processes for addressing new psychoactive substances, including an early warning system and risk assessment methodologies. As one of the multifaceted approaches to address the challenges of NPS, the Commission encouraged Member States to monitor emerging trends in the composition, production and distribution of new psychoactive substances, as well as patterns of use of those substances within their own national borders, and to share these information through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels with other Member States and the UNODC

The aim of the working group discussion is to provide an effective platform for sharing information on new psychoactive substances between Member States and with UNODC through its new Early Warning Advisory. UNODC will introduce the topic of new psychoactive substances with a focus on prevalence, current challenges and the new Early Warning Advisory. Presentations will also be provided by selected Member States on the law enforcement response and legislative challenges. Participants are invited to discuss the impact of the growth in new psychoactive substances, trends in trafficking, the current key data and groups responsible for the manufacture, trafficking and supply of those substances and the problems associated with identifying and dismantling sites of illicit manufacture.

Further to CND resolutions 55/1 and 56/4, participants might wish to address the following issues:

- (a) Reducing Supply: What is the enforcement response to NPS and what challenges have been encountered? What are the trends in trafficking and the groups responsible for the manufacture, trafficking and supply of NPS?

What current legislative approaches are in place or in planning to address the problem on NPS? What problems are associated with identifying and dismantling sites of manufacture? Have you tackled sales on the internet and from head shops/smart shops? What are the current legislative approaches and or planned future measures? Is there any evidence of organised crime involvement in the supply of NPS?

- (b) Demand reduction: What measures are in place to reduce demand of NPS among vulnerable youth and through communications campaigns?
- (c) Data collection, monitoring and trend analysis: What data do you collect on NPS? What mechanisms are in place to collect information on NPS?