



European Union
Statement on the occasion of the
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Commission on Narcotic Drugs 60th session

Vienna, 16 November 2017

Chapter 6: Operational recommendations on strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

Madam Chair,

Mr Facilitator,

The European Union and its Member States wish to thank you for organising this intersessional meeting which contributes to promoting a common understanding to ensure that drug strategies, policies and programmes advance a balanced, comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based approach on drugs. The three UN drug control conventions, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and recommendations of the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, as the pivotal reference document, all provide an internationally agreed framework for developing and implementing this approach. Bearing this in mind, we are working on a basis of a full partnership between the EU and non-EU countries and international fora, which allows us exchange knowledge and experience on the health, socioeconomic, human rights, justice and law enforcement aspects of the world drug problem.

The EU has an excellent cooperation with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean states. On the policy level, over the last 20 years we have been engaging with the CELAC countries through a specially created EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs. The second phase of COPOLAD programme under this mechanism is implemented from 2016 to 2019 with allocated budget of EUR 10 million. COPOLAD II is working towards achieving the following goals: the reinforcement of National Observatories on drugs; the adoption of quality and evidence-based criteria, both in demand and supply reduction strategies, and the adoption of sustainable approaches to capacity-building and bi-regional exchange of good practices and lessons learned. One of the aims of COPOLAD II is also to strengthen this well established mechanism of cooperation, which is a key instrument for dialogue and progress on public drugs policies in both regions.

Recently, a new programme was launched under which the EU and its Member States cooperate with Latin America on the reinforcement of the rule of law and citizen security. The Programme for Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime – EL PAcCTO, aims to improve the judiciary, prosecutorial and security forces capacity to tackle different forms of transnational organised crime and co-operate in this regard and develop a more modern and efficient penitentiary system. This programme covers 18 Latin American countries and has a budget of EUR 20 million for the period 2017 to 2022. It is the first EU cooperation programme in Latin America that covers the whole penal chain: police, justice and the penitentiary system.

Besides overall cooperation programmes, we wish to highlight our multi-year strategic approaches to tackle drug trafficking along cocaine and heroin routes. For that purpose, the Cocaine Route Programme was launched in 2009, and since then the EU has committed over EUR 50 million to more than 40 countries along the cocaine route from the countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa. Among the components of the programme, partners have continued to contribute to the capacity building initiatives for international cooperation by law enforcement and judicial services. Both technical advice has been provided and training and mentoring sessions have been held, as well as inter-service task forces and joint operations have been established over the last years. It is worth to note the launch of the Accreditation and Training Project for the Caribbean region's Financial Intelligence and Financial Investigations Units in January 2017 under this programme. This project is aimed at building capacity by standardized training and slowing the attrition rate of trained financial investigations professionals, and is globally the first project of this kind.

Similarly, the EU Action against Drugs and Organised Crime – EU-ACT Programme, launched in 2017 and replacing the former Heroin Route Programme, was created for the purpose to prevent the use of drugs and improve drug treatment and strengthen capacities to tackle drug trafficking and fight against international criminal networks along the heroin route from and to Afghanistan, including countries in South and Central Asia, Eastern Europe and East Africa. EUR 12 million are allocated for this trans-regional project until 2020 and a number of different activities are foreseen. Such activities include national, regional and inter-regional training modules and mentoring cycles; inter-agency and trans-national table-top exercises and mock operations; facilitation of joint operations, investigations and control deliveries as well as incorporation of human rights safeguards, oversight and anti-corruption modules.

The EU is also active in cooperating with the Central Asian region in the framework of the current Action Plan on drugs between the European Union and Central Asia which is valid until 2020. One of the major programmes through which the goals of the action plan are implemented is the Central Asia Drug Action Programme – CADAP, the first phase of which was started already in 2001. This programme continues to support the drug demand aspect of a comprehensive and sustainable drug policy and enhance capacity of all the relevant actors while further advocating for institutionalised application of the EU best practices. The programme is composed of four components dedicated to drug policy development, monitoring and evaluation, prevention, risk and harm reduction and treatment. The EU encourages many activities such as study visits, internships or seminars.

Madam Chair,

Mr Facilitator, dear panellists,

These are only a few examples of the EU partnerships which promote developing and implementing of a balanced, comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based drug policy at the regional and international level.

Last but not least, the EU is also the major contributor to the UNODC budget – by providing funding for UNODC to further contribute to tackling the world drug problem. On this occasion, the EU and its Member States acknowledge the central role of the CND and UNODC in the international response and also welcome enhanced cooperation between Vienna institutions and other bodies within their respective mandates as agreed in the outcome document.

Thank you!
