



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**CORDROGUE 42
USA 13**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	8 May 2014
To:	Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs and the USA
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting approved the agenda as set out in doc. CM 2491/14.

2. Developments in the drugs situation and policies in the EU and in the US

The representatives of the Commission, EMCDDA and Europol updated the US delegation on the draft EU legislation aimed at tackling new psychoactive substances, the new psychoactive substances which were currently under assessment, the plans to launch a survey on the youth attitudes to drugs, the preparation of the SOCTA 2015 report and other developments.

The US delegation informed the meeting that the abuse of heroin and prescribed pain killers was an increasing concern in the US and that the decreasing access to prescribed medicines, which was the result of the number of actions taken to tackle this problem, might have influenced the growing demand for heroin. The speaker also reported that drug overdose deaths outnumber the deaths caused by weapons, that half of these overdoses resulted from the misuse of prescribed medicines and that the perceived risk of marijuana consumption was falling, while the use was increasing.

3. Thematic focus: New Psychoactive Substances

The delegations debated on the situation and policy responses to the challenge of new psychoactive substances. The US delegation noted that the situation with new psychoactive substances remained a concern as their number was growing unprecedentedly, however, progress had been made in developing the international response to this challenge. The delegation further elaborated on different initiatives taken to tackle new psychoactive substances in which they were participating.

The US delegation also presented their national system for tackling new psychoactive substances, explaining that on the federal level under the emergency procedure substances could be scheduled for a year (with a possibility to extend this deadline by another year), and that the following factors were taken into account while making this decision: history and patterns of the abuse, scope of the abuse and risk to public health. The speaker also informed the meeting that in total around 40 individual substances had been scheduled either following this procedure or a standard procedure of scheduling. The delegation also explained that actions could be taken on the state level in this regard, not only on the federal level.

The representative of the Commission emphasised the seriousness of the challenge of new psychoactive substances by noting that they had outnumbered the number of illicit drugs and elaborated on the draft EU legislation aimed at providing a more rapid and flexible response to tackling this issue. The importance of internet monitoring for tackling new psychoactive substances was also emphasised.

4. Update on regional activities

– *Situation in West Africa*

The US delegation updated on the progress in implementing various projects developed under the WAPSI initiative, including the transnational crime programme in Benin, prosecutorial and judicial forum in Ghana and Sierra Leone, media and civil society outreach programme in Nigeria and Sierra Leone and establishment of the training center in Ghana, which could also be used by other states for offering courses for the region. The speaker also elaborated on the efforts aimed at reducing demand in the region, including developing drug treatment systems in six West African countries, as the drug use in West Africa was increasing.

The representative of the EEAS updated the US delegation on the support provided for the implementation of the Praia action plan, the adoption of the Gulf of Guinea strategy, which would be followed by the adoption of an implementing action plan, and the progress achieved within the Aircop and Seacop programmes developed in the framework of the Cocaine Route Programme.

– ***Situation in Central Asia***

The representative of the EEAS informed the US delegation about the adoption of the EU-Central Asia Action Plan on Drugs for the year 2014-2020 and the recent CADAP conference held in Berlin. The US delegation reported on the progress achieved in implementing the Central Asia Anti-narcotics Initiative and the delegations further discussed cooperation with third countries as regards tackling the drug problem in Central Asia.

5. Preparation for UNGASS 2016

The delegations emphasised the importance of close cooperation while preparing for UNGASS 2016 and identified a number of points of convergence as regards the policy priorities, including securing the integrity of the international drug conventions, focusing on public health approach, basing on evidence and advocating the role of civil society. The US delegation stressed that the challenge of new psychoactive substances should also be on the agenda and that UNGASS was an opportunity to continue developing international response to this problem. Delegations agreed on the need to have a frank and open discussion on drug policies at UNGASS 2016.

– ***Situation in Central America***

The US delegation informed the meeting about their efforts to support Guatemala in solving the issues with precursor chemicals and the forthcoming OAS and CICAD meetings. The representative of the EEAS reported on the finalisation of the EU Strategy for the Caribbean and Central America, which would aim at tackling public security issues, including the linkage with drugs, and would concentrate on three priorities.

6. Any other business

No issues were discussed under this item.