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from : VI<sup>th</sup> meeting of co-ordination/cooperation Mechanism on drug EU/LAC (Dublin  
18–19 May 2004)  
to: Horizontal Working Party on Drugs  
Subject : Dublin declaration

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DUBLIN DECLARATION

Conclusions of the VI high Level Meeting of the Mechanism of Coordination and Cooperation on  
Drugs between European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean

Dublin 19 May 2004

We, the delegations of the Member States of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council, and the European Commission meeting under the Irish and Chilean Co-Presidency in Dublin, Ireland on 18 and 19 May 2004 during the Sixth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism of Coordination and Cooperation on Drugs between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse (CICAD/OAS);

MINDFUL of the Third Summit of Heads of State or Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Guadalajara, Mexico on 28 May, 2004;

- NOTING that the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean region (hereinafter referred to as “the Mechanism”), an initiative which originated at the European Council meeting in Madrid in December 1995, has consolidated its status as the framework for dialogue within which coordination and cooperation between both regions is established to deal with the drugs problem and related crimes in an effective and consensual way;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the detrimental effect of the world drug problem and related crimes on the stability of democratic processes and institutions and the social and economic development of the countries and regions involved, as well as on poverty and the environment;

IN VIEW OF the close connection between international terrorism and trans-national organised crime, illegal drug trafficking and other criminal activities, as recognised in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 of 28 September 2001;

- RECOGNISING that the principles, priorities and operating framework of the Mechanism are drawn from the Panama Action Plan approved in Panama City in April 1999 and endorsed in June 1999 at the Rio de Janeiro Summit of Heads of State or Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean:
- RECALLING that the Mechanism is based on the principles of shared responsibility, an integrated and balanced approach based on participation, sustainable development and compliance with international law, in particular non-interference with the sovereignty of States, the territorial integrity of States and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- RECALLING the five areas of inter-regional cooperation highlighted in the conclusions of the Second High Level Meeting of the Mechanism in Lisbon in May 2000 – demand reduction; judicial, police and customs co-operation; maritime co-operation; precursor control; and money laundering;

RECALLING Chapter 1 of the Report of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for 2003 with its emphasis on the importance of social capital, its frequent references to the role of the community and its community focused initiatives to deter and combat violent drug-related crime;

CONFIRMING that all actions being promoted within the framework of the Panama Action Plan are complementary to those implemented by other international entities, such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse (OAS/CICAD), the Permanent Central American Commission for the Eradication of the Production, Trafficking, Consumption and Illegal Use of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (CCP), the Executive Committee of the Andean Fight against Illicit Drugs and Related Crimes and the regional groups which, following the model of the International Financial Action Group, are operating in the Caribbean (GAFIC/CFATF) and South America (GAFISUD).

## **1. Political support**

WE RECALL our commitment to maintain the fight against drugs and related crimes as a priority of the bi-regional co-operation between the Member States of the European Union, the European Commission and the countries of Latin America/Caribbean and to continue to provide adequate resources.

WE RECALL our commitment to co-ordinate and co-operate in the fight against the world drug problem and related crimes.

WE AFFIRM the agreement in the Cartagena Declaration to strengthen the Mechanism as a forum for discussing policies, searching for new approaches and solutions and for co-ordination of bi-regional and inter/intra-regional action in the fight against drugs and related crimes.

WE WELCOME the holding of a meeting of the two regions during the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs pursuant to the commitment made in Cartagena in 2003, which contributed to the joint sponsorship of draft resolutions presented by either the EU or the LAC and that were adopted by the Commission, and we reiterate our continued support for the development of political dialogue and consultations on these matters in this forum.

WE AGREE to enhance the exchange of proposals, ideas and experiences between and within the political and technical authorities of our regions and to propose joint, concrete and sustainable actions to counter the world drug problem and related crimes, in all their manifestations, components and consequences.

WE AGREE to continue to undertake joint efforts to address the world drugs problem as an important contribution to the fight against terrorism and to reduce the impact of drug production on the environment.

## **2. Priority Areas and Concrete Objectives**

WE AFFIRM the commitment to focus our efforts on the areas of activity identified in the Panama Action Plan – demand reduction, supply reduction, police, custom and judicial cooperation and illicit drugs related arms trafficking, money laundering, judicial organisation and drugs legislation and institutional capacity building – and to afford special attention to the four priority areas identified in the Lisbon conclusions - demand reduction, money laundering, alternative development and maritime co-operation. Special attention should also be given to new illicit drug trends, in particular synthetic drugs.

WE REAFFIRM the need to strengthen prevention and promote awareness programmes to reduce the demand for drugs and its negative consequences and agree to promote the exchange of best practices in this regard, including the prevention of the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne infections.

WE AFFIRM our commitment to co-operate in the exchange of views on best practices and experiences, and in the implementation of activities that contribute to alternative development and consequently to the preservation of the environment.

## **3. Institution/Capacity Building**

WE ACKNOWLEDGE the importance of institutional and legal strengthening for the development of regional and national policies and the setting-up of information systems on all aspects of the drugs problem and related crimes. Within this framework, national competent authorities will co-ordinate joint actions to achieve effective co-operation against drug trafficking.

WE RECOGNISE that the strengthening and social inclusion of local communities most affected by drugs in both regions can result in these communities becoming an important resource in the fight against drugs.

WE NOTE that the sharing of practices and experiences can build the capacity of communities in both regions to play a more active role in areas such as prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration as well as in initiatives to reduce public nuisance caused by drug addicts.

#### **4. Bi-regional support**

WE REMAIN COMMITTED to the promotion of bi-regional initiatives to increase and improve cooperation between and within the regions.

WE SHALL MAKE every effort to promote and encourage the co-financing of projects with a bi-regional scope and make use of the Mechanism as a platform for the presentation and promotion of bi-regional initiatives.

WE EMPHASISE the need to assess the initiatives carried out within the framework of the Mechanism in order to improve its efficiency.

#### **5. Results of the Sixth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism**

WE WELCOME the coordination of our positions at international fora, in particular the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and express our desire to build upon this positive experience.

WE WELCOME the initiative of the Chilean and Irish Co-Presidencies in proposing the concept of thematic debates which allow focussed discussion on key issues in the drugs area and we pledge to continue this practice at future meetings of the Mechanism.

WE PARTICULARLY WELCOME the discussions that took place in the thematic debate and which focused attention on the important issues of community capacity building and prevention of drug use and highlighted the need for further exchanges of information, experience and best practice in these fields.

WE ENDORSE the support of local community-led initiatives in both regions to be considered through this Mechanism. In this context we agree that co-operation between EU and LAC communities may further strengthen the bi-regional partnership in the fight against drugs and illegal drug trafficking.

WE ALSO WELCOME the matrix of activities in the cooperation/coordination between EU and LAC and agree to update and refine this document.

WE RECOGNISE the important negotiations on maritime cooperation that are taking place in the framework of CICAD. We furthermore take note of an important agreement entitled “Agreement Concerning Cooperation Aimed at Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Aeronautical Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area”, which has already been signed by Costa Rica, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and the United States.

WE STRESS the importance of co-operation and information exchange among law enforcement agencies dealing with drug trafficking and organised crime, including money-laundering. We affirm the need to grant special attention to customs, police and judicial co-operation as a fundamental task to effectively combat illicit drugs and related crimes, with full respect to national laws. In this context, we welcome the signing of the cooperation agreement between EUROPOL and Colombia as a major step in fostering relations with Latin American and Caribbean partners as well as the forthcoming Europol training course in the LAC region on the dismantling of illicit synthetic drugs laboratories.

## **6. Seventh High Level Meeting**

WE AGREE to hold the Seventh High Level Meeting of the Mechanism of Cooperation and Coordination in matters of Drugs between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean in the city of Lima in the year 2005.

## 7. Final Statement

WE AGREE to bring this Declaration to the attention of the Third Summit of Heads of State or Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, in Guadalajara, Mexico on 28 May 2004.

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Delegations thanked the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the excellent organisation of the meeting.

Dublin, 19 May 2004

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