



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 10 November 2004

14490/04

**CORDROGUE 72
AMLAT 89
COLAT 18**

NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

Subject : Meeting of Technical Committee of Cooperation/Coordination Mechanism on
Drugs EU/Latin America/Caribbean (25 October 2004)

The before mentioned Technical Committee met on 25 October 2004 under the co-chairs of Mr van Emden (NL Presidency) and Ambassador Mr Urrutia (Peru).

I. Adoption of Agenda

The committee adopted the agenda set out in doc CM 3858/04 REV 1.

II. Follow-up to the conclusion of the VI high level meeting of the coordination and cooperation mechanism on drugs EU/LAC on 17/18 May 2004 in Dublin and the Guadalajara declaration concerning the mechanism.

The Committee exchanged extensively views on before mentioned follow-up. The Peruvian co-chair emphasized the principle of co-responsibility. Moreover regional and interregional cooperation should be strengthened and deepened. Concrete projects should be agreed for which appropriate funding should be found. In this context paragraphs 85 and 86 of the Guadalajara declaration are important.

In the Dublin declaration special attention is given to local projects on a twinning base.

The representative of the Commission informed the committee on its projects in the Caribbean. In the Andean region projects are focused on alternative development. He alerted delegations on the pre-programming exercise on needs in the cooperation. On the base of the pre-programming, country strategy papers will be drawn up.

The Chilean delegation emphasized the importance of the reintroduction of the specific budget line on drugs cooperation in the EU budget.

The need for regional projects among LAC countries was stressed by the UK delegation. The European Union can share its expertise with LAC partners in the field of criminal intelligence and best practise of treatment of heroin addicts.

The representative of EMCDDA confirmed that there is potential for exchange of experiences and practises in the field of treatment of cocaine (Latin America) and synthetic drugs, heroin addiction (EU).

III. Exchange of ideas on the 45th session of the CND in 2005

The NL presidency noted that the last preparatory session for the CND session in March 2005 was held on 13 October 2004 in Vienna. In March 2004 all except one resolution were backed by EU and LAC sides.

The Peruvian co-chair stressed that negotiations on resolutions are conducted in Vienna, whereas from the EU side it was observed that the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs has an important role in this field. The Committee agreed to pursue discussion on this matter at its next meeting.

IV. Information by the EU on the EU drugs strategy 2005-2012

The NL presidency informed the Committee on the state of play as regards the EU drugs strategy 2005-2012. The representative of the Commission said that the Commission had adopted on 22 October 2004 a note on the evaluation of the strategy 2000-2004.

The Peruvian co-chair invited the EU side to endeavour to include in the strategy a reference to the mechanism.

V. First ideas for the thematic debate during the VIIth high level mechanism meeting

The Committee took note of the suggestions to select as a theme for the thematic debate at the before mentioned meeting: supply-reduction.

VI. Bi-regional cooperation initiatives within the framework of the mechanism

a) Training on dismantling of synthetic drug laboratories

The delegations from Argentina and Europol informed the Committee on the successful seminar on dismantling of synthetic drug laboratories that was held from 22 to 30 June 2004 in La Plata, Argentina

The representative of El Salvador offered to hold a second seminar in his country.-

The representative of Europol promised to consider favourably this request.

b) Organisation of the bi-regional conference of Monitoring Centre for drugs

The Spanish delegation informed the Committee on a recent conference on demand reduction from 4 to 8 October 2004 in Santa Cruz (Bolivia). 8 Countries took part in the conference.

The Venezuelan delegation reaffirmed its interest in a meeting on demand reduction possibly not in 2005 but in 2006. The representative of the EMCDDA said that the organization of the meeting should be prepared in cooperation with the Commission.

VII. Any Other Business

- a) The Colombian delegation felt that the level of activity of the mechanism could be stepped up. Alternative development projects should be considered in the context of the reduction of supply. Cooperation agreements with Europol are needed.
- b) The Costa Rican delegation highlighted the agreement concerning cooperation in suppressing illicit maritime and air trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the Caribbean area. The agreement was signed in April 2003. A workshop on matters raised in the agreement was recently held in San José.
- c) The UK delegation presented and explained the Caricom-UK security cooperation plan that was signed mid-October 2004. The plan covers i.e. intelligence sharing and money laundering. The UK delegation promised to discuss this plan with other Member States.
- d) The French delegation drew the attention upon the activities of the training centre in Martinique (Law Enforcement, Addiction).