



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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REV 1**

**CORDROGUE 71
COLAT 10
AMLAT 92**

NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

Subject : Meeting of Technical Committee of EU/LAC Cooperation/Coordination
Mechanism on Drugs (8 November 2005)

The aforementioned Technical Committee met on 30 September 2005 under the co-chairs of Mr. Dickson (UK Presidency) and Mr. Chacón (Costa Rica).

1. The meeting adopted the agenda that is in document CM 3921/05.

2. Meeting of EU/LAC Drugs Observatories, Caracas 28-30 November 2005
The co-chairs and the Venezuelan delegation, as host of the meeting, welcomed the large participation on the EU side.

It was agreed that two documents would be drawn up as a result of the Conference :

- Conclusions, reflecting the discussions at the Conference. These would be drawn up and agreed at the end of the Conference as a document that could be shared with the media;
and
- Report of the Conference. This would be prepared after the Conference and would be submitted to the Technical Committee for formal adoption.

3. Cooperation initiatives

a) Intelligence sharing working group

The LAC side agreed on the initiative to establish a working group to develop the sharing of police information and intelligence on drug trafficking (cf. room document presented by UK Presidency during the HDG meeting of 7 November 2005).

Pursuant to a request by the LAC side, the UK Presidency promised to present before the end of November 2005 a proposal on the date, venue and agenda of the first meeting of the working group planned which, it was agreed, should take place in the first quarter of 2006.

b) Twin cities

i) The LAC co-chair presented the twin-cities initiative. The meeting welcomed this initiative. Questions were asked on the criteria for the selection of partnerships, the coverage of the initiative and its cost.

It was understood that judicial cooperation would refer to the exchange of experience and good practice in drawing up and implementing legislation and in judicial practice, e.g. on the treatment of drug addicts.

It was suggested that community capacity building could be an appropriate theme for cooperation. All countries should be involved in the initiative.

ii) The Committee agreed that the initiative was an interesting one and that it wished to continue to explore it.

The LAC side was invited to give details for the next meeting of the Committee on :

- The number of partnerships ;
 - Who would be involved in the partnerships : towns/regions or both ;
 - How partnerships would be selected ;
 - Which aspects of drug policy and practice the partnerships would cover ;
- and
- What form the exchanges would take, e. g. seminars, workshops, e-mail

4. Prospect for the High Level Meeting on 6-7 March 2006 in Vienna.

- a)** The UK co-chair listed five elements which the EU side believed should feature at the high level meeting on 6-7 March 2006 in Vienna :
- Report on meeting of Observatories ;
 - Review of prospects for, and co-ordination of positions at 49th session of CND (13-17 March 2006) ;
 - Exchange of ideas on UNGASS 2008 ;
 - Thematic debate ; and
 - Preparation of conclusions for EU/LAC Summit in May 2006.

The Austrian incoming co-chair promised to forward to the LAC co-chair in the beginning of January 2006 a draft of the declaration. The Costa Rican co-chair said that a political note from the Colombian delegation on the cooperation/coordination would be shared with EU partners as soon as possible.

5. Any other business

- a)** The representative of the Commission emphasized the need to cooperate on draft resolutions for the 49th session of the CND. Presentation of resolutions co-sponsored by the EU and GRULAC should be encouraged. The Costa Rican co-chair stressed that substantive discussion of resolutions should take place in Vienna.
- b)** The Austrian incoming co-chair informed the meeting that Technical Committee meetings were planned for 9 January and 23 February 2006. The Costa Rican co-chair asked for a further meeting between the two sides before the end of December 2005. The UK co-chair said it would reflect on this.
- c)** The Spanish delegation announced that from 12 to 16 December 2005 a training course on intelligence analysis would be held in Cartagena (Colombia). It was noted that this course could benefit the creation of the intelligence-sharing working group (Point 3 (a)).