



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 June 2006

10857/06

**CORDROGUE 63
COLAT 13
AMLAT 54**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
Subject : Summary of discussions of the Technical Committee of EU/LAC Mechanism on
Drugs (8 June 2006, Brussels)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in document CM 2067/06.

2. Drugs related items of the EU-LAC Summit (Vienna, 12 May 2006)

The Austrian co-chair reported on the EU/LAC Summit held in Vienna on 12 May 2006. The summit represented the biggest event in Austria during the Presidency. The Declaration of Vienna stressed the importance of the Mechanism and endorsed the proposal to review the Panama Action Plan before the end of 2006. The created momentum should therefore be maintained.

3. Follow-up to the High-Level Meeting of the Mechanism, 6-7 March 2006: Review of the EU/LAC Drugs Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism - Formal launching of the review process, Time Table/Scheduling

The Costa Rican co-chair confirmed the invitation by the vice foreign Minister of Colombia made at the High level Meeting in Vienna in March 2006 to host the expert meeting on the review of the Panama Action Plan in Cartagena de Indias. The tentative dates proposed by Colombia are currently being studied by other LAC countries.

The Austrian co-chair welcomed the invitation by Colombia and asked the LAC co-chair to provide the EU side with more precise information and the dates as soon as possible in order for both sides to be able to start preparations in due time.

The Finnish delegation informed that under the incoming Presidency one or two Technical Committee meetings were planned and suggested, in view of the timetable of the Finnish Presidency in the drugs field, 6-10 November 2006 as possible dates for the meeting in Cartagena. The Costa Rican co-chair raised a concern that 1-2 meetings would not be sufficient to prepare the review properly.

The Commission representative presented a non paper concerning the review of the Panama Action Plan and invited the LAC countries to reflect on it. The Costa Rican co-chair communicated that LAC countries were also preparing a document to discuss.

4. Co-operation Initiatives

a) Intelligence-Sharing Working Group

The UK representative reported on the meeting held in Port of Spain on 4 April 2006 and informed the Technical Committee that a possible second meeting would be organised in October 2006. Brazil offered to host it. Reports of the meeting in Port of Spain were distributed.

The Costa Rican co-chair expressed satisfaction with the productive results of the meeting which represents another positive initiative of the Mechanism.

b) Twin Cities

The Costa Rican co-chair expressed the particular interest of the LAC side in this initiative and a hope that it would start soon.

The Commission representative informed that the call for proposals on the Twin Cities initiative would probably be launched soon. LAC countries will be able to apply through EU Member States. Before launching the project, the Commission would like to have more information from the LAC side on how to carry out the project. The Costa Rican co-chair promised to pass more information on to the Commission service.

- c)** The Commission representative further drew the attention of the meeting on other EU initiatives. The decision of the Commission on the selection and financing of the projects under the North South drug budget line and its part on intelligence sharing is due by the end of July. He also expressed a need to strengthen cooperation between LAC countries and notably Andean region with Africa, notably with the appearance of the new trafficking routes. A new initiative could perhaps be launched in this area.

5. Any Other Business

- a)** The Austrian co-chair presented to the LAC side the conclusions paper of the discussion on cocaine held in the HDG. The Costa Rican co-chair expressed his interest in the documents relating to drugs adopted by the JHA Council in June 2006 (the document on the alternative development and the Matrix of Member States drug assistance to third countries) and asked for their transmission by the Council Secretariat.
- b)** On request of EU Member States, the Austrian co-chair asked for some explications on the Colombian initiative to organise a meeting in London that had been postponed, where only few Member States had been invited. The Costa Rican co-chair informed the EU side that he was not aware of this initiative and moreover, being a bilateral activity, it is not part of the Mechanism. The UK representative was also unaware of it.