



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from : Xth Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs EU/LAC
(Vienna, 4-5 March 2008)

to : Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

Subject : Hofburg Declaration

HOFBURG DECLARATION

**Conclusions of the Xth High-Level meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism
on Drugs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean,
Vienna, 4-5 March 2008**

We, the delegations from the Member States of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean region, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council, and the European Commission, meeting under the co-presidencies of Slovenia and Bolivia in the city of Vienna, on 4 and 5 March 2008, at the tenth High-Level meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean region, with the participation of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

- HAVING REGARD to the Summits of Heads of State or Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, that were held in Rio de Janeiro in 1999, Madrid in 2002, Guadalajara in 2004 and Vienna in 2006, and mindful of the Vth Summit to be held in Lima in May of this year.
- REAFFIRMING our unwavering determination to overcome the world drug problem through joint efforts at the political level and in specialized fora.
- REITERATING our bi-regional commitment to act against the world drug problem in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, with an integrated and balanced approach, and in conformity with international law, and particularly with full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of states, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the principles established in the Panama Action Plan and the commitments of the UNGASS on Drugs of 1998.
- RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region (hereinafter referred to as "the Mechanism"), an initiative which originated at the Madrid European Council meeting of December 1995 as the framework for bi-regional dialogue for coordination and cooperation to tackle the drug problem effectively.
- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that effective bi-regional cooperation in the fight against the world drug problem contributes to the eradication of poverty, preservation of the environment, security, and strengthening of democratic institutions.

- NOTING with concern the existing links between drugs, violence, organized crime and criminal organizations as a combined threat to stability, democratic processes and institutions and as an obstacle to social and economic development.
- RECOGNISING the principles, priorities and operating framework of this Mechanism contained in the Panama Action Plan, adopted in Panama City in April 1999 and endorsed in June 1999 at the Rio de Janeiro Summit and successive summits.
- ALSO RECOGNISING that the conclusions of the high-level meetings of the Mechanism held in Lisbon (2000), Cochabamba (2001), Madrid (2002), Cartagena (2003), Dublin (2004), Lima (2005), Vienna (2006) and Port of Spain (2007) represent important milestones in bi-regional coordination and cooperation in the fight against the world drug problem.
- EMPHASISING the significance of the current review process of the Panama Action Plan launched at the Extraordinary Meeting of experts of the Mechanism of February 2007 in Cartagena de Indias and continued at the Port of Spain High-Level meeting of the Mechanism of 22-23 May 2007.
- RECALLING that, in pursuance of the Panama Action Plan, a number of priorities for cooperation were identified during the Port of Spain review in the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction and other drug related issues including money laundering, customs police and judicial cooperation.
- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that one of the main objectives of the Mechanism is to strengthen and develop national and regional policies on the world drug problem.

- EXPRESSING our concern that new alternative routes have a deep impact on domestic trafficking and consumption of new drugs with profound social consequences on the regions' most vulnerable population.
- ALSO EXPRESSING concern about the emergence of alternative routes, which requires the strengthening and expansion of efforts.
- WELCOMING the efforts of the Maritime Analysis and Operational Centre (Narcotics) [MAOC(N)] in Lisbon aimed at breaking the maritime cocaine routes from LAC to Europe via West Africa.
- EXPRESSING concern for the increasing abuse of illicit drugs, particularly cocaine and synthetic drugs, which requires the creation of programmes or strengthening existing programmes for reducing demand.
- RECALLING the commitment of our Heads of State and Government in Vienna 2006 to promote initiatives on alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as a key element to generate long lasting and structural changes.
- REAFFIRMING that all the activities being promoted in the framework of the Action Plan will be coordinated, mutually supportive and complementary to those taken by other regional and international organisations and bodies dealing with the world drug problem.
- RECALLING the need for the parties involved, to consider all possible sources of financing and human resources to achieve that objective.

WE DECLARE :

1. Policy Coordination

WE AGREE to continue tackling the underlying causes of the world drug problem with a view to eliminating the consequences for citizens, environment, security and democratic institutions.

WE REAFFIRM our commitment to strengthen the Mechanism which is recognised as a regular forum for discussion, consultation and coordination on the illicit drugs problem.

WE ALSO REAFFIRM our commitment to continue supporting the development of the political dialogue and joint presentations of draft resolutions to the annual sessions of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and other initiatives on subjects of common interest, in line with the 2003 Cartagena Commitments.

WE EXPRESS the importance of coordinating efforts between the two regions in upholding common positions in other international fora concerned with the world drug problem.

WE AGREE to maximize our joint efforts towards an effective assessment of the achievements as regards the commitments adopted at the United Nations Session General Assembly on Drugs of 1998.

2. Bi-regional cooperation

WE AGREE to continue strengthening the bi-regional EU-LAC cooperation in the fight against the world drug problem, without exclusions, and in the field of competence of the Mechanism.

WE INVITE the Vth EU-LAC Summit, which will be held in Lima later this year, to emphasize the political importance of this Mechanism, which was the first institutional arrangement that was established bilaterally following the first Summit.

WE AGREE to take into account the economic, political and cultural specificities of Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as the respect for indigenous people, in our effort to promote integral development policies in the region, in the framework of EU-LAC cooperation on drugs.

WE AGREE to promote EU-LAC cooperation with regard to the world drug problem, within the framework of the Mechanism in pursuance of the Panama Action Plan and in line with the priority areas identified at the IXth High Level Meeting in Port of Spain.

WE AGREE to strengthen the role of the Mechanism in promoting cooperation in the area of demand reduction as well as in the area of supply reduction at the bilateral, sub-regional, and more importantly, bi-regional levels.

WE STRESS the importance of cooperation on alternative development, including preventive alternative development, with an integral and sustainable approach, and comprehensive anti-poverty programmes, as essential elements to generate viable social and economic activities for both vulnerable and affected communities.

WE AGREE to implement effectively the recommendations and conclusions of the Vienna and Port of Spain Declarations of 2006 and 2007, respectively.

WE WELCOME, in the framework of the priorities agreed at the Port of Spain review of the Panama Action Plan, the presentation of ideas by the Latin American and Caribbean side of the Mechanism, indicating areas of practical cooperation on which LAC countries would like to focus cooperation with the European Union, as a way of inspiring our future discussions on possible initiatives to be financed by the European Commission and EU and LAC countries.

WE APPRECIATE the initiatives supported financially by the European Commission through the former North/South Drugs Budget Line, namely the EU-LAC Intelligence-Sharing Working Group, and the partnership between EU and LAC drug treatment city partnerships to reduce the use of and harm from illicit drugs.

WE AGREE TO MAKE efforts to continue promoting the financing and co-financing of projects with a bi-regional scope.

WE EXPRESS OUR INTEREST in maintaining maritime cooperation, including the exchange of non-sensitive information between the competent authorities that work against illicit drug trafficking and in continuing to develop operational cooperation between the interested countries of LAC and the EU within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and in accordance with domestic law.

WE WELCOME in this perspective, the European Commission's plans to launch, under the new Stability Instrument, an initiative to strengthen cooperation in the LAC region to stem the diversion of chemical precursors destined to the production of illicit drugs.

3. Other results of the Xth High-Level Meeting of the Mechanism

WE WELCOME and take note of the results achieved in the discussions that have taken place during the meeting, particularly those on the operation of the Mechanism.

CONSIDERING the importance given by the EU-LAC countries to the Mechanism and the need to enhance its efficiency, we request the two co-chairs and the Technical Committee to propose a set of working procedures for the Mechanism, which would be submitted to the next High Level Meeting to be held in Ecuador.

4. XIth High-Level meeting

WE AGREE to hold the XIth High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean regions in Ecuador during 2009.

5. Final provisions

WE AGREE to bring this Hofburg Declaration to the attention of the Vth Summit of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Lima on 16-17 May 2008.

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE to the Government and people of Austria for hosting the Xth Meeting of Senior Officials of the Mechanism, and recalling the offer of the Government of Ecuador to host the XIth High Level Meeting of the Mechanism. We agree to hold the Meeting in Ecuador under the respective LAC and EU co-presidencies at a date to be announced.

Hofburg, Vienna, 6 March 2008
