



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 October 2011

13231/11

**CORDROGUE 57
USA 58**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of:	Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs and the USA
on:	13 July 2011
Subject:	Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs and the USA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 3349/1/11 REV 1.

2. Update and relevant developments on the drug situation in the USA and in the EU

A representative of the COM informed the meeting about the evaluation process of the EU Drugs Strategy and a representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the drug situation in Europe explaining the trends in different drug consumption. A representative of Europol presented the situation with drug production and seizures, explaining that there were significant seizures of mephedrone, that production of cannabis remained high in the EU, that organised crime groups were increasingly involved in opiates trafficking and that there was diversification of cocaine trafficking routes.

The US delegation outlined the main elements of the 2011 National Drug Control Strategy which confirmed the main trends of the previous strategy, emphasised drug prevention and early intervention programmes and refrained from making drugs use a criminal justice issue. The meeting was informed that funding arrangements had been largely reoriented to increased spending on prevention and treatment, while law enforcement and supply reduction expenditure remained stable. According to the speaker, the use of drug courts had proven very effective and was increasing.

As the US delegation informed the meeting, cocaine continued to be the most problematic drug according to the long-term consumption trends in the US, however, there were signs of progress in terms of the continuous decrease in use and rise in price and purity. As 2009 figures demonstrated, 21.9 million people (8.7 percent of the population) used an illicit drug in the past month with cannabis continuing to be the most frequently used drug. The speaker said that legal highs posed a big concern, however, effective tools for putting new substances under control existed at federal as well as at state levels.

During the discussion on preventive activities, a representative of the EMCDDA noted that media campaigns to prevent drug use might not be effective and in some cases even counterproductive. The US delegation noticed that it was indeed a controversial topic, however, there was a great deal of experience in the US which confirmed that targeted media campaigns could be effective, especially when using new technologies or social networks.

3. Counternarcotics program cooperation in Central America

- *Situation and coordinated program responses in Central America*

The US delegation gave an overview of the strategy for Central America, adopted at the conference on 22-23 June 2011 in Guatemala, which aims to support Central American countries in increasing their capacity in the fight against transnational organised crime, strengthening rule of law and combating corruption. As the speaker explained, the Strategy was based on five broad pillars, including supporting stronger and accountable governments, strengthening communities at risks and strengthening regional cooperation. To implement the Strategy, the US would work with global partners and key nations such as Mexico and Colombia.

A representative of the EEAS expressed support for the Strategy and gave a brief overview of the EU initiatives concerning Central American countries.

- ***Situation and coordinated program responses in the Caribbean***

A representative of the COM reported on the meeting in the EU mission in San Domingo regarding the situation in Dominican Republic, after which a report was issued stressing the need for more substantial and coordinated action in the Caribbean. The speaker noted that the COM and EEAS were already providing the Caribbean significant support in the field of drugs and raised an idea of establishing an informal cooperation platform in the Caribbean and potentially later in Latin America for coordination of cooperation and for avoiding gaps and duplication.

A representative of the EEAS informed the meeting that they were working on a joint strategy between the EU and the Caribbean, one component of which was dedicated to fighting against crime and strengthening security.

The US delegation gave an overview of their initiatives taken to improve the situation in different Caribbean countries (especially in Haiti and Dominican Republic) and in different fields.

4. Activities concerning West-Africa

- ***Brief readout of recent high-level meetings: US-EU Transatlantic symposium on dismantling transnational illicit networks***

A representative of the EEAS gave an overview of the Trans-Atlantic Symposium held in Lisbon on 17-19 May 2011, which covered a wide range of issues related to fighting against organised crime networks (including drug trafficking networks) with a view to sharing best practices and building an alliance of interested states to fight the problem. She enumerated a number of actions to be taken such as developing criminal justice, exchanging information, fighting against corruption, developing border control, addressing financial flows and ensuring the compliance of all countries with international legal framework. The speaker said that they were waiting for the proposals from the US side on the next steps to be taken and that a meeting should be organised with the US as soon as possible in which the implementation of the results of the Symposium could be further discussed.

- ***European pact to combat international drug trafficking***

A representative of the COM presented the newest developments related with the implementation of the Pact saying that Accra and Dakar regional information exchange centres had already been linked through secured communication system with Europol. The meeting was informed about the new multi-annual EU policy cycle on serious and organised crime enabling to target criminal threats more strategically and in a proactive way. In this context eight priorities were developed to fight against organised crime, four of them related with drugs. It was mentioned that the Pact on synthetic drugs was under the preparation, which the Presidency proposed to discuss during the forthcoming meeting, and that a pact on cannabis could be developed in the future.

A representative of Europol described their input in supporting the Accra and Dakar regional information exchange centres, including the training of the liaison officers.

- ***U.S. West Africa Citizen Security Initiative***

The US delegation stressed that West Africa was an area of great focus for them and informed the meeting that a delegation for West Africa was established to prepare the above mentioned initiative to support vulnerable West African countries. The speaker said that the following areas were explored for the future action in the region: police training and development, training for prosecutors and judges, customs and port officials, addressing anticorruption efforts.

5. Any other business

- ***Follow up on the Bolivian proposal on coca leaf***

Asked to provide the US position towards the Bolivian government's intention to re-accede the 1961 Convention with an exemption on coca leaf, the US delegation explained that there was still time to define the final position, but it was a priority for the US to presume the integrity of the 1961 Convention and other international instruments and Bolivia should respect the principles and purposes of the 1961 Convention. According to the speaker, as coca leaf remained a controlled substance, international measures which would diminish this control, would be problematic for the US.

A representative of the EEAS informed the meeting that the finalisation of the study on coca leaf had been delayed and this might be related to the fact that the Bolivian government was finalising their new policy on coca leaf production. However, the study should be presented in the near future.

The US delegation asked the EU to urge the Bolivian government to finalise the study as soon as possible and were informed that this was done by the EU in all the contacts with Bolivian authorities.

- ***Study aiming at reinforcing judiciary cooperation***

A representative of the COM informed the meeting that they would soon launch a study exploring mutual legal assistance and extradition agreements with Latin America, which should demonstrate if there was a need to strengthen them or to draft new EU level agreements. The results of the study should be available next year and the US side would be informed about them.

- ***Drugged driving***

A representative of the DRUID project informed the meeting that alcohol still posed the biggest risk on European roads, followed by drugs and prescribed drugs and that alcohol was still the main cause of deaths on the road.

The US delegation said that according to the high schools survey, 1 student out of 20 had driven under the influence of cannabis while the studies of the fatal road accidents demonstrated that in 1 out of 3 cases drugs were involved. Therefore driving under the influence of drugs was a significant problem in the USA. The speaker informed the meeting that the US Drug Control Strategy 2010-2020 set a goal to reduce drugged driving by 10 percent by 2015. He explained that an awareness campaign to decrease drunk driving had brought significant results, therefore similar measures could be applied to stop drugged driving.