



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 19 January 2011

5443/11

CORDROGUE 9

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
on: 21 December 2010
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in document CM 5332/10.

2. Information concerning the proceedings of other EU bodies

The Presidency informed the meeting about the COSI project group on heroin which is planning to divide itself into several workshops and to draw up a matrix on assistance programmes and projects in the Western Balkans as well as about the COSI project group on Crime proceeds which suggested to extend the matrix on West Africa to include the technical assistance given to the region regarding seizure of proceeds.

The FR delegation explained that the first meeting of the COSI project group on cocaine which took place in Paris on 5 October 2010 led to a constructive debate on a common approach for the role to be played by the EU in the two platforms in West Africa. Two draft proposals were outlined: one concerns the setting up of direct secured communication between the platforms themselves and with other partners and another is to create specific teams of three or four people working in the local services. France also informed that a second meeting was planned in the end of January 2011.

On a question of COM, France expressed its willingness to conduct a more strategic analysis of the matrix but stated that it would be more appropriate to limit the matrix to the drug component and not extend it to organised crime.

In this regard, the Presidency recalled the necessity of improving the content, structure, use and distribution of the matrix as set out in document 16525/10 COSI 73 JAIEX 89 CORDROGUE 96 CRIMORG 201 AOAFR 411, but from the drug prospective only.

3. Council conclusions on the drugs situation in Europe 2010

The meeting reviewed the above-mentioned draft Council Conclusions (doc. 17014/10 CORDROGUE 100) chapter by chapter. Delegations were invited to present any other comments by 7 January 2011.

4. Commission's approach to assessment on the EU Strategy 2005-2012 and its Action Plans information from the Commission

The COM informed the meeting that in accordance with the Drug Action Plan and the Stockholm programme, the process to evaluate the EU drug strategy had been initiated and as the evaluation must be external, the COM launched a call of proposals for which it received several bids. The COM stated that the contract with the bidder was to be signed in the first days of January 2011 and that preliminary results of the assessment were to be provided by the contractor by the end of June 2011 and the final report in the end of 2011.

The COM explained that the contractor was asked to assess the added value of the strategy and plan, the degree of implementation by the Member States, the impact of the strategy on the drug situation in Europe as well as to make recommendations for the future EU drugs strategy post 2012. The EU institutions and the EMCDDA will be involved in the evaluation process and the COM will update the delegates on the results.

5. Paris Pact: review of work in 2010 and prospects for 2011

The Presidency explained that within the framework of the Paris Pact, there are each year four meetings which are composed of experts and whose role is to identify the trends, weaknesses and the interventions necessary in the drug field and that ADAM was the tool used for the coordination. The Presidency reviewed the three roundtables held in 2010 and the recommendations outlined during these meetings as well as the perspectives for 2011.

The COM reminded that the mandate of the Paris Pact covers the drug supply reduction as well as the drug demand reduction and stressed that as there were more recommendations regarding the drug demand reduction than for law enforcement, a balance was to be found to cover both fields. The COM also outlined its satisfaction that a system of feedback relating to the implementation of recommendations was introduced in the ADAM system.

The FR delegation informed that progress was made in terms of cooperation with Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. France also supported the Russian initiative to host the ministerial conference to be held in Vienna in the end of 2011 and stressed that regarding the recommendations adopted, the precursors marking was unanimously considered as irrelevant.

6. United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs:

- Review of the resumption of the session on 2 December 2010 (doc. DS 1907/10)

The Presidency informed that the revision of the annual report questionnaire aiming at improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data was adopted during the new session held on 2 December 2010 and that the new formula could be applied from 2011. It was also decided that the UN would set up a fund to be fed by voluntary contributions (3,5 million dollars in 5 years) to provide the technical assistance necessary in order to respond to the new questionnaire.

The Presidency stressed that Japan insisted that some areas should provide more information than only responses to the questionnaire and that EMCDDA would be involved at the EU level.

The COM outlined that it was the beginning of a process allowing to increase the capabilities of other regions to produce and collect data.

- Preparation of the 2011 session (doc. DS 1908/10)

The Presidency informed that three thematic debates were planned for the 2011 CND: the link between drug trafficking and organised crime; the fight against precursors and partnership with the private sector and driving under the influence of drugs.

The COM outlined that in the CND agenda there was most probably a mistake on item 7 which referred to the world situation regarding drug trafficking whereas the global situation regarding drugs should be referred to. The Presidency explained that the diplomats in Vienna would be informed to take care of the changes.

- FI draft resolution (doc. DS 1893/10)

FI introduced its draft resolution for the 54th session of the CND on the improvement of laboratory services regarding the identification of drugs and whose objectives are to reduce the costs, simplify the administrative procedures of laboratories and enable UNODC laboratories to work better by ensuring they have access to samples. The Presidency as well as some delegations gave full support to this resolution. FI invited Member States to send concrete proposals, if any.

The Presidency informed that at this stage there was no other resolution from the EU side, nor from the CND or from any other region.

7. Request by Bolivia concerning coca leaf

The Presidency reminded that a first note clarifying the procedure and the timing set to respond to the Bolivian request was presented at the HDG meeting of July 2010 (doc. DS 1467/10) and a second note on a coordinated approach aiming to identify technical and practical problems was also issued as set out in document 14506/10 CORDROGUE 82 RESTREINT UE.

The Presidency explained the scenario presented during the meeting held between the USA and various Member States on 2 and 3 December 2010 in Vienna, which will be discussed again at the meeting of 25 January 2011.

The Presidency also indicated that at this stage, discussions were continuing in New York and that pursuing the dialogue would remain essential on the basis of future scientific studies to be carried out by the WHO.

8. Follow-up to the political dialogue with the US (17/11) and to the technical committee of the EU-LAC mechanism (17/11)

The Presidency reviewed the items discussed during the political dialogue with the USA on 17 November and informed that the USA presented its new drug strategy which was more focused on prevention and education.

The USA also stressed its willingness to cooperate with Russia; to pay more attention to the situation in Mexico and Latin America and explained its position regarding the Bolivian request. Furthermore, the abuse of prescription of drugs was raised as well as the matrix on West Africa and the alternatives to imprisonment.

The Presidency reviewed the items discussed during the technical committee of the EU-LAC mechanism on 17 November 2010 and outlined that the situation and prospects for the cooperation projects between the EU and the LAC countries were addressed. The Presidency also returned on the preparation of the thirteen coordination meeting which is scheduled in Columbia from 28 to 30 June 2011 and reviewed the thematic debates planned.

The COM evoked a meeting held on the situation of the drug trafficking and in particular in the Dominican Republic and explained that the local authorities requested the help of the EU in order to strengthen their capacity to tackle drug trafficking. But, the drug situation is worsening and the COM therefore suggested to Member States that the liaison officers posted should set up platforms to exchange information.

9. Dublin Group preparation for the meeting on 24 January 2011

The FR delegation informed that the issues that will be discussed during the Dublin Group meeting were the following:

- new consumption trends in Western countries and the emerging consumption in Latin America and West Africa,
- alternative development policies in Afghanistan and Latin America and,
- a presentation of regional and national reports by mini Dublin groups.

10. Other business:

- Questionnaire on the assessment of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA

The COM informed the meeting that 23 Member States replied to the questionnaire sent in order to assess the Council Decision 2005/387/JHA and asked the other four Member States to reply by 24 December 2010. The COM stressed that the result of the assessment would be presented in spring 2011.

- Follow-up of work under the Belgian Presidency

The Presidency informed the meeting that a document reviewing the work done by the Presidency was to be presented shortly.

- United Nations cooperation with Iran : Presentation by UNODC representative in Tehran

The UNODC representative presented the new Country programme for the Republic of Iran which is a participatory process involving the consultation of the mini-Dublin group and the Iranian national authorities in the area of drugs and crime. There are 3 sub-programs aiming to support national priorities and plans and whose objectives are to enhance the cooperation and the fight against drugs.

Sub-programme 1 aims at further strengthening the national capacities of law enforcement and the Triangular initiative launched in 2007 to promote cross border cooperation in heroin and cannabis was praised by the CND so that two resolutions were developed on the initiative. Although it is difficult to have bilateral ties with Iran, there is still a will to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation, but also to post liaison officers and to facilitate the exchange of information between countries.

In accordance with sub-programme 2 relating to drug prevention, treatment and HIV control, Iran has put one of the best practises of HIV control in prisons by giving to prisoners treatments and this greatly helped reducing the cases in the prisons.

Sub-programme 3 which covers the fight against money laundering, corruption and organized crime developed an innovative partnership destined to fight art and antiques trafficking and the budget of this 4-year program is of 13 million US dollars.
