



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 8 February 2011

6059/11

CORDROGUE 17

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
on: 25 January 2010
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda set out in document CM 1071/11, with the cancellation of item 4.

2. Presentation of the outcome of the Belgian Presidency

The BE delegation presented the results of its Presidency of the second half of 2010, as set out in document DS 1928/10.

3. Presentation of the programme and priorities of the Hungarian Presidency

The Presidency presented the 8 priorities of the HU Presidency, which are set out in detail in document 18118/10 CORDROGUE 104. The delegations were informed that the political dialogues scheduled on 16 February 2011 were postponed to May 2011.

4. Possible standardisation of the drug prevention activities

A UK representative presented a two-year project called “European Drug Prevention Quality Standards” led in collaboration with EMCDDA. The aim of the project is to bridge the gaps between science, policy and practice, and to produce a set of evidence-based drug prevention standards for the use in the EU. Furthermore, the UK representative informed that EMCDDA would publish the European minimum standards in drug prevention as an EMCDDA manual in May 2011.

The Presidency presented the situation regarding drug prevention in Hungary, especially the positive progress regarding the use of drugs since the rate of quitters was clearly higher than before and no significant increase was to be noted in the use of some other drugs. However, cannabis remained the most popular drug used.

UK informed the meeting that its new drugs strategy was published in December 2010. COM stressed that the objective regarding drug prevention was not to have one European model, but rather a list of standards for specific interventions that Member States could choose from.

PL presented the prevention standards in Poland and emphasized the fact that EUR 125 million was available for alcohol prevention and EUR 16 million for drug prevention in 2009.

CZ presented its integrated system of drug prevention quality evaluation, where standards were linked to a certification system aiming to cover legal and illegal drugs. According to the certification process, programmes which were in line with the standards could be certified - knowing that the certification is valid three years- and were thus eligible for funding. As a consequence, the donors are guaranteed that the money provided for the projects would be used appropriately and the target groups addressed properly.

Furthermore, it was stressed that the certification process should be transparent, independent and made on the basis of clearly defined standards. Therefore, external evaluators were hired to make recommendations.

Although a process evaluation in 2008 showed some shortcomings in the system, programmes could still be considered as more effective.

The Presidency outlined that prevention work was crucial and that a standardisation of primary prevention and strategies for prevention and treatment would be useful.

5. Preparation for the 54th session of the CND

The Presidency informed the meeting that before the 54th session of the CND of 21-25 March 2011, some informal meetings were to be held and the EU would be represented in these meetings.

The Presidency stressed that the operational segment was an important part of the agenda and that changes in the organisation of the thematic debates were to be noted.

The Presidency explained that draft resolutions were going to be prepared in Brussels prior to the session in Vienna. In this regard, the Presidency pointed out that Resolution 53-4 calls for international cooperation in the field of the fight against drugs and that INCB would produce a report on this issue in March 2011.

The FI suggestion to present its draft resolution on the improvement of laboratory services regarding the identification of drugs as a common EU proposal was welcomed, but it was agreed to postpone the decision on this point until the HDG meeting of 15 February 2011. Delegations were invited to provide any comments or proposals by that date.

IT informed the meeting that it would shortly issue a draft resolution on rehabilitation and reinsertion programmes.

UK suggested preparing a draft EU resolution that would prevent UNODC from supporting countries applying the death penalty towards drug traffickers. The proposal was welcomed by some delegations.

The delegates were informed that reports on third countries and the situation on precursors would be presented and that Australia proposed a draft resolution on it.

6. Request by Bolivia concerning coca leaf

The Presidency recalled the discussions held in New York as well as the roundtable organised on 12 January 2011 in Vienna to have an overall view of Member States' position regarding the Bolivian proposal.

The Presidency reminded that objections were already raised and communicated to the Secretary General of the United Nations by SE and UK before the expiration of the deadline and thus the proposal of amendment submitted by Bolivia was already legally rejected in accordance with Article 47 paragraph 1(b) of the Single Convention.

The rejection of the amendment being acquired, the issue of relations with Bolivia was raised and, in particular, the importance to explain the positions expressed to the Bolivian government. This key role should be played by the Member States' embassies in Bolivia in order to pursue the dialogue and offer further cooperation in the field of the fight against drugs and drug trafficking. The dialogue with Bolivia could be conducted and promoted through a conference of states organised by ECOSOC and on the basis of the study on chewing coca leaf to be issued in February or March 2011.

In order to avoid political confrontation and to continue the dialogue with Bolivia, it was also proposed to create an informal working group in Vienna which would analyse how the rights of indigenous people could be ensured without undermining the role of narcotics. The role of this working group would be defined along with Bolivia.

Although some delegations did not support the idea of an intergovernmental conference, there was unanimity in the will to pursue the dialogue with Bolivia.

7. Follow-up to the Dublin Group meeting 24/01/11 (CM 1005/11)

The FR delegation recalled the items discussed during the Dublin Group meeting, notably the presentation of the regional reports, the two thematic debates on drug-consumption trends in the Dublin Group's member states and on alternative development policies, and finally, the proposed mission in West Africa in April 2011 aiming to ensure that mini Dublin Groups meet observatory staff and liaison officers notably in Accra and Dakar to boost the cooperation.

8. AOB

- EU/Central Asia political dialogue:

The Presidency recalled that the above-mentioned political dialogue is scheduled on 6 April 2011 and that consultation with the COM was ongoing. Delegates would be informed of the draft agenda by e-mail before the HDG meeting of 15 February 2011 and were invited to comment on the following items:

- drug consumption in EU and Central Asia;
- developments in Afghanistan and neighbouring regions, including precursors;
- development in terms of policies fighting narcotics;
- EU action plan in the region and revising this action plan;
- cooperation between EU and Central Asia (update of the programme); and
- European pact for cooperation with these groups.

- Euro/Africa Conference:

IT informed the meeting about the Euro/African conference to be held in Naples from 8 to 9 February 2011 on the illegal trafficking of drugs, human beings and organised crime. Many police chiefs coming from Africa and the EU would be present as well as experts from other continents and EU institutions. A plenary session would be held on 8 February and a thematic session on 9 February 2011. One of the thematic sessions would concern drug trafficking routes through South Africa.

- Information on COPOLAD project by ES:

The contract for the COPOLAD project with EUR 6 million of funding for 3.5 years concerning the drugs policy of the EU in Latin America was awarded to a Spanish consortium. ES expressed its will to send invitations to all EU Member States and Latin American countries and indicated that the project should start in the following days.
