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European Union

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CORDROGUE 71
SAN 389

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 9 November 2016
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcome of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda outlined in doc. CM 4535/16 with the addition of the following point under AOB "Vacancies in the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)".

2. Discussion on the legislative package on new psychoactive substances

Delegations further discussed the proposal for the amendment of the EMCDDA Regulation, outlined in doc. 12917/1/16 REV1 CORDROGUE 51 DROIPEN 151 CODEC 1386 and further analysed the draft Directive on new psychoactive substances, outlined in doc. 12918/1/16 REV 1 CORDROGUE 52 DROIPEN 152. The Chair reiterated the aim of the Presidency to reach a general approach on this file by the end of its term.

3. Dialogue on research

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the funding opportunities for initiatives in drugs research from the EU funding programmes. The speaker recalled that the Justice programme (2014-2020) included a specific chapter on drugs and that the deadline for the 2016 call for proposals was set at 18 October 2016. She also informed the meeting that under the Internal Security Fund – Police (2014-2020) the next relevant call for proposals was expected in 2017. As regards the Health programme (2014-2020), three different projects in the field of drug demand reduction were funded in 2016. The speaker also explained that even if the Horizon 2020 programme did not include drugs among the priorities of the programme as a thematic area, however, some funding opportunities for drug-related projects existed under health and security areas. The representative also informed the meeting that 12 projects received funding of EUR 5 million in total for drug research under different EU programmes from 2013 to 2015.

The representative of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee gave an overview of the research priorities in the different areas covered by the expertise of the Scientific Committee members and also elaborated on the ways and mechanisms to promote synergies and complementarity and to prevent overlaps in drug research funding. The speaker informed the meeting that, based on criteria of appropriateness, relevancy, chance of success, impact of the research outcome and the probability of stakeholders applying/implementing the research outcome, six research priorities had been determined, among them: population-based research and epidemiology; demand reduction; drug policy; basic biological, neurobiological and behavioural research; supply, crime and supply reduction and new psychoactive substances.

The PT delegation informed the meeting that registration and call for abstracts for Lisbon Addictions 2017 conference was already open.

4. Update by the Commission, EMCDDA and Europol on implementation of drug supply indicators

The representative of the Commission noted that drug supply indicators served to produce more quality and reliable data on drugs supply. The representative of the EMCDDA presented the progress achieved in developing the EU drug supply indicators, as mandated by the Council conclusions adopted in 2013.

The expert concluded that definitive progress was made on such indicators as drug seizures, drug law offences, monitoring dismantled drug production facilities (synthetic drugs and cocaine) and market size estimates and that work was well-advanced on drug prices and purity indicators, the implementation of which was planned for 2017. He also noted that additional progress was needed regarding availability of drugs in population surveys and dismantled cannabis production sites. The speaker also stressed that development of drug supply indicators was about harmonisation of data collection systems in the Member States rather than aiming at full standardisation. The representative of Europol reported on using the newly developed indicators for collecting supply data on cannabis and cocaine.

5. International scheduling of new psychoactive substances

The representative of the EMCDDA gave an overview of the substances proposed by the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence for scheduling at the 60th CND session and the representative of the Commission informed the meeting as regards the further procedure on EU level as regards these substances.

6. Implementation of the UNGASS outcome document and preparation for the 2019 review process

The Presidency and the representative of the Commission updated delegations on the CND intersessional meetings in Vienna held on 27-28 October 2016. The Presidency presented the draft EU statement for the forthcoming special segment of the 59th reconvened CND session to be held on 30 November 2016.

Delegations also discussed the draft EU common position on post-UNGASS, contained in doc. WK 561/2016. A deadline for written comments on this document was set at 16 November 2016.

7. Information on relevant international events

The representative of the EEAS updated the meeting on discussions as regards the resolution on the moratorium of the death penalty, including the reference to the UNGASS outcome document. The speaker also gave an overview of the developments as regards the omnibus resolution on drugs, especially in relation to the references to the UNGASS outcome document and involvement of relevant UN agencies in the implementation of the recommendations foreseen in the UNGASS outcome document.

8. Preparation for the Dublin Group meeting

The Romanian Presidency of the Dublin Group recalled the forthcoming Dublin Group meeting on 10 November 2016, the agenda of which is contained in doc. CM 4527/16.

9. Report of the EU-CELAC Technical Committee meeting

The Presidency presented the outcomes of the above-mentioned meeting, held on 12 October 2016 (doc. 13312/16 JAI 836 CORDROGUE 54 COLAC 89).

10. Report of the National Drug Coordinators' meeting

The Presidency reported on the National Drug Coordinators' meeting held in Bratislava on 19-20 October 2016 on the topic "Integrated approach to health and social care related to the drug users".

11. Outcome of the HDG Joint session with Civil Society Forum on Drugs

The representative of the Commission reported on the meeting between the HDG delegations and the Civil Society Forum on Drugs held on 8 November 2016, during which a number of topics were discussed including UNGASS outcomes and the way forward as well as the implementation of the EU minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction.

12. AOB: Vacancies in the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

The German delegation informed the meeting that Germany had once again nominated Mr Wolfgang Goetz for the vacancy in the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).
