



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 15 April 2014
(OR. es)**

8977/14

**CORDROGUE 25
COLAC 18**

NOTE

From: Spanish regional chair of the Dublin Group

To: Dublin Group

No. prev. doc.: 15007/1/13

Subject: Regional report on South America

1. ARGENTINA

According to the surveys conducted in Argentina in recent months, the problems of insecurity linked to drug trafficking constitute one of the main concerns of the population. Since October 2013 various events have heightened public alarm:

- A worsening of the situation in Rosario in the province of Santa Fe, as well as in the provinces of Córdoba, Mendoza and Buenos Aires: The media publish daily reports of murders at the hands of drug trafficking contract killers, intimidation, seizures of light aircraft transporting drugs, the shutting down of cocaine-producing "kitchens", extension of the distribution networks from Salta to Buenos Aires, fights between groups for control over territory (with over 60 deaths in Rosario in 2014 so far), and suspicions of Argentinian links to Colombian and Mexican drug trafficking.

The lack of police capacity to deal with this serious problem as well as the allegations of corruption (provincial police, judges, officials) are sources of concern for the political class and the Argentinian population.

The President of Argentina's Supreme Court has claimed that drug trafficking is threatening the rule of law.

- Growing evidence of national production and the political consequences: The increase in trafficking and consumption in Argentina refers to cocaine. While it is not grown in the country, it is increasingly being processed in Argentina, reducing pure cocaine from neighbouring countries to the north or manufacturing designer drugs (sometimes with the fraudulent dual use of ephedrine). Admitting that Argentina has gone from being a transit country which was a relatively safe place to live in to being a country with a serious security problem linked to drug trafficking carries a significant political cost, because it amounts to an acknowledgement that the anti-drugs policy has failed. Public alarm and political discussion on how to combat drug trafficking has caused tension and differences within the government team. This is compounded by the fact that the issue of drug trafficking is repeatedly exploited by all sides in political confrontation.
- Catholic Church report on drugs: at the end of 2013 the Argentinian Episcopal Conference published a harsh assessment of Argentina's drugs problem. The Church's opinion had an even greater impact since the new Pope is Argentinian. It is worth pointing out that the Catholic Church has first-hand information on the increase in drug consumption, particularly in the slums.
- Beginnings of a parliamentary discussion on decriminalising consumption: The consumption of drugs is an offence in Argentina. Although in practice the Supreme Court case-law whereby the consumer is freed of criminal responsibility has been applied since 2009, there is still a formal provision in the Criminal Code. The parliamentary discussion of June 2012 on the decriminalisation of drugs was put on hold because of preparations for the 2013 election campaigns. The legislative amendment on marijuana in Uruguay at the end of the year revived the discussion in Argentina. The new parliamentary term began on 1 March and there are plans to examine an amendment to the Criminal Code, which will probably include the decriminalisation of possession for personal use.

- Associated problems of social vulnerability and organised crime: Argentina has a low-income population that is increasingly earning a living by dealing drugs. Criminal organisations build networks of corruption and link drug trafficking with other offences such as trafficking in human beings, money laundering and violence at sporting events. There are some worrying figures: it is thought that 1.5 million young Argentinians are neither studying nor working (although they are entitled to State benefits) and the level of national poverty is estimated at 25 % (albeit very unevenly distributed throughout the country) and informal employment at 34 % (which is not taken into account in the unemployment rate). There have up to now been social benefit plans, but as yet no comprehensive social policy on drugs. Argentina's economic situation has deteriorated in recent years and it will therefore be more difficult to maintain social benefits in the long term.
- Institutional response from the Argentinian government: In November a new State Secretary of the National Secretariat for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and Narcotics Trafficking (SEDRONAR), answerable to the Presidency, was finally appointed in the form of Father Juan Carlos Molina after the post had been vacant for over a year. The government has decided to tackle the problems of coordinating the fight against drug trafficking by distributing competences between (a) SERDONAR, which will focus its activities on consumption and the consequences of drug addiction and, (b), the Ministry of Security, where a new Sub-Secretariat for Combating Drug Trafficking has been established under the lawyer Nicolás Dapena, which will act on the supply side, coordinating the four federal forces (federal police, the national gendarmerie, the port authorities and the airport police) and harmonising working methods.
- Advice and international cooperation: There has been a gradual improvement in international cooperation. The worsening of the drug trafficking situation in the country has allowed a *de facto* renewal and strengthening of contacts, particularly in the field of police training and monitoring of shipments.

The recommendations made in October 2013 still apply and we would encourage advantage to be taken of opportunities to strengthen international cooperation.

2. BOLIVIA

Since the group's last report was submitted at the end of August 2013 there have been no significant changes either in the Bolivian legal framework or in the national administrative structure for combating drug trafficking. Neither have there been any major arrests of drug traffickers in Bolivia.

There have been no major changes in the eradication of the coca leaf either, as the Bolivian government announced upon completion of the 2013 eradication campaign that it had eradicated a total of 11 470 hectares during the exercise, maintaining the level of eradication at a similar level to the three previous years.

However, during the last seven months there have been the following important developments in Bolivia's fight against drug trafficking:

- i) Publication of the main results of the *Comprehensive Study on the Coca Leaf in Bolivia* on 13 November 2013: For years the EU had been calling for the publication of this study, composed of eight partial theme-based studies funded by the European Union between 2008 and 2011 and four complementary studies conducted and funded by the Bolivian government between 2012 and 2013. Linking up the different studies and surveys conducted by the CONALTID¹, there are thought to be 3 082 464 consumers of coca who generate an annual demand of 19 138 metric tonnes (mt) for traditional and legal consumption². Industrial plants process a further 73 mt annually for tea, maté and medicinal products, and the informal trade at the borders, mainly with Argentina, is estimated at 1 479 mt. That sets total demand at 20 690 mt/year. At the same time, the study on coca productivity in Bolivia shows an average yield of 1 407 kg per hectare per year. Combining these main figures, the CONALTID calculated that the country needs 14 705 hectares of coca to cover traditional demand for coca leaf.

¹ The CONALTID (National Council for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking) put together a team of experts to link up the different studies and surveys to produce the different volumes of the comprehensive study.

² All data refer to 2012 (projected from the base year 2010).

Publication of the main data of the report may be regarded as a positive step, especially given that the government's calculation of 14 705 hectares is lower than the 20 000 traditionally put forward by coca producers. However, a number of questions remain:

- The report as a whole is still not available to the wider public (the EU delegation has one copy of the report), with no access to the data or the methodology used. We must continue to request full publication of the report.
 - The inclusion of 1 479 mt intended for "cross-border trade" does not comply with international rules on the matter, which allow traditional consumption in Bolivia but prohibit the export of coca leaf. This means that the surface area necessary to meet traditional consumption in Bolivia according to the *Study* would be 13 645 hectares and not the 14 705 hectares stated by the government.
- ii) Violent clashes with coca growers in Apolo: One of the main achievements of this government in the fight against drug trafficking in recent years has been the peaceful nature of eradication efforts. The trend was brought to a halt on 21 October 2013 by armed clashes between the joint task force (FTC) and (what seems to have been) peasants in the Apolo region, with a death toll of four at the hands of the FTC. The facts remain unclear despite the establishment of a parliamentary committee for that purpose. However, the fact that there has been no further violence since then seems to suggest that it was an isolated incident.
- iii) National demand reduction plan for 2013-2017: In what can be regarded as a positive step as it means there is further (albeit limited) acknowledgement that there is a drug addiction problem in Bolivia, in September 2013 the government announced a new programme with four main lines of action (prevention, treatment, reintegration and institutional development) and an estimated budget of USD 48 million.

With regard to the government's position, it is worth highlighting that it is pursuing its active campaign in support of the industrialisation of coca leaf and the possible export of its derivatives. It set out this position in Vienna on 13 and 14 March to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Similarly, the authorities have informed various EU countries of their interest in having European research centres conduct scientific investigations into the therapeutic benefits of the coca leaf.

Lastly, we propose the following possible new recommendations to the Bolivian government with regard to combating drug trafficking:

- i) Modernisation of the rules on precursor agents and an extension of the number of substances regarded as such, currently much lower than in other countries of the region.
- ii) Need to strengthen, possibly jointly with the UNODC, the regional cooperation policy for combating drug trafficking, particularly with regard to matters such as information exchange, joint research, shared databases, etc.

3. BRAZIL

3.1. Background

This note is drawn up for the forthcoming Dublin Group meeting scheduled for 7 May 2014 in order to update those aspects where there have been developments in the context of Brazil for the regional report on South America.

3.2. Report

There have been no major changes in the overall situation in Brazil with regard to illegal drug trafficking since the report given at the mini Dublin Group meeting on 16 July 2013 in Brasilia and which served as the basis for drawing up 15007/13 CORDROGUE 102, COLAC 14 of 22 October 2013.

The law enforcement authorities responsible for combating illegal drug trafficking in Brazil believe that since July 2013 national cocaine consumption has continued to rise in relation to 2012 and the first half of 2013. This trend is probably based on the latest statistics drawn up by the federal police department for 2013, albeit referring to the verified trend in the seizures recorded for last year and understood as a consequence of Brazil's increased domestic demand.

According to the data supplied, cocaine seizures reached 41 789 tonnes in 2013. This is double the figure (in tonnes) for 2012, when the total was 19 874 tonnes of cocaine.

The same trend can be extrapolated for cannabis trafficking, as 222 225 tonnes of cannabis were seized in 2013 compared with 111 230 tonnes in 2012.

For both types of illegal trafficking, and in line with the current results and indicators, the federal police department concludes that Brazil's growing domestic demand, either for national consumption or for transit to third countries, is giving rise to the considerable increase in the number of drug seizures in 2013.

Similarly, and inherent to the increase in drug seizures, there has been an increase in seizures of "assets related to drug trafficking" (real estate, transport vehicles, boats, planes, helicopters, etc.). In this respect, the establishment of offices for freezing assets from drug trafficking continues to be one of the greatest successes, not only in terms of the seizures of immovable property but also the amounts of money seized, which are directly or indirectly linked to the dismantling of the criminal structures that support drug trafficking in Brazil.

According to the data supplied, the total value of drug trafficking assets seized in 2013 was BRL 83 312 630.11, broken down as follows: BRL 18 370 001 in immovable property, BRL 43 119 225 in movable property and BRL 21 823 404.11 in cash. This total for 2013 is much higher than the BRL 37 982 514.44 seized in 2012.

We must bear in mind that these figures were supplied by the federal police alone and do not include those of the civil police of Brazil's states. We should therefore assume that the total figures for the country will be higher.

So, and as quoted in the previous report by the mini Dublin Group, the federal police's investment in human resources devoted to combating drug trafficking has seen a considerable increase at national level, rising from 180 officials in previous years to 300 now. This increase is a clear indicator of the upward trends requiring Brazil's law enforcement authorities to assign more staff to combating this criminal phenomenon.

Consequently, international police cooperation has improved in terms of information exchange on combating drugs and tangible results of successful cooperation efforts in the field. In 2013 various police operations were conducted in Spain following cooperation with Brazil's federal police, resulting in the seizure of 340 kg of cocaine in various containers in the port of Algeciras (Spain), 54 kg of cocaine in the port of Valencia (Spain) and 150 kg of cocaine in the port of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

There have been no new government measures adopted for the prevention of cocaine consumption (in any form, especially crack), which means that the strategic plans continue to be reliable tools for raising awareness in Brazilian society of the social scourge of drug consumption.

Neither have there been any developments or modifications in the federal legislative framework for the prevention and countering of illegal drug trafficking since the last report.

4. COLOMBIA

4.1. Introduction

Colombia is one of the main catalysts behind the discussion on the need to adopt a new approach to combating drugs in South America. In 2012 and 2013 the discussion gained force in the political world and in social media, with input from President Juan Manuel Santos himself. However, the discussion has not yet been reflected in any specific initiative amending the current legislative framework.

At multilateral level, Colombia, together with Mexico and Guatemala, is exerting pressure for international fora to acknowledge the need for such a discussion. At the 57th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna from 17 to 21 March, the head of the Colombian delegation, Alfonso Gómez Méndez, the current Minister for Justice, gave some clues as to the position of the Colombian government in his official speech. Highlighting the moral authority afforded to Colombia after enduring the scourge of drugs for decades, the Minister spoke of a new approach which would include an emphasis on "comprehensive and balanced State intervention" and on a public-health and human-rights slant to drugs policy".

Lastly, it is also worth mentioning that the problem of illegal drugs is receiving specific attention in the peace talks currently being held in Havana between the government of Colombia and FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army).

4.2. General drug situation in Colombia

Colombia, together with Peru and Bolivia, is still the world leader in the cultivation and production of cocaine, however crop surface areas in Colombia are continuing to drop. Data show that at the end of 2012 cocaine crops covered an estimated 48 000 hectares compared with almost 64 000 hectares in 2011, i.e. a 25 % reduction³.

Furthermore, according to the UNODC/SIMCI report of June 2013 coca is still grown in 23 of Colombia's 32 departments. Consequently, cocaine production in 2012 dropped to 309 mt from 345 mt in 2011, which also constitutes a reduction of over 10 %.

According to national police data, 47 052 hectares were sprayed in 2013 compared with 100 549 in 2012, i.e. a decrease of 53.2 %. In 2013, crops covering 22 120 hectares were eradicated manually compared with 30 486 hectares in 2012, i.e. a drop of 27.44 %. According to official sources, the reasons for this drop in eradication include climatic conditions which affected the effectiveness of spraying and the blockades by coca growers in Catatumbo and Putumayo. Also, spraying has been suspended since 19 October after two crop-dusters were shot down. The use of glyphosate to eradicate illegal crops in the region bordering Ecuador is still banned, with Colombia having to pay fines.

With regard to the fight against drug trafficking, 109 794 kg of cocaine either in or from Colombia were seized in 2013 compared with 103 533 kg in 2012, i.e. an increase of 5 %.⁴

³ Data from the UNODC/SIMCI report of June 2013. The next report will not be available until June 2014.

⁴ Data from SIEDCO, the national police's statistical information system on offences and infringements.

4.3. Assessment of the Colombian authorities' anti-drugs strategy within the institutional, production, demand and trafficking framework, including money laundering and chemical precursors

The attitude of the Colombian authorities remains clear and decisive in the fight against drug trafficking, all aspects of which are present in Colombia: production, consumption, trafficking and money laundering. The approach envisaged by Colombia's government is based on a regionalised strategy, giving priority to areas where the State takes integrated action, including on economic development, and on access to justice, education and health among others, with significant investments.

In addition, voluntary eradication has been encouraged, with farmers taking the initiative to uproot illegal crops and try out productive crops; 5 000 hectares were planted with productive crops in 2013.

In connection with the various international cooperation activities, the different programmes mentioned in previous reports by this Group are still ongoing: AMERIPOL, COPOLAD, UNODC/SIMCI, and other bilateral cooperation programmes from different countries, such as the USA's trilateral cooperation project and the project currently being examined by the EU.

With regard to large-scale trafficking, the principal destinations are still the United States and Europe, while the existence of the "African route" has been confirmed. The corridors through the Southern Cone countries, Central America and the Caribbean continue to be the main routes towards Europe, while the Caribbean and Pacific corridors are the principal routes towards the United States. In most cases, containers for maritime transport are used.

With regard to small-scale trafficking, there have been no major changes in the modus operandi, which remains dispatch by couriers or by parcel.

Lastly, the Colombian authorities are so concerned about the increase in the production and consumption of marijuana and synthetic drugs, and about the control of chemical precursors, that a new law is under examination on the control of the import/smuggling of these substances (mainly an administrative control, i.e. of the import declarations).

4.4. Priority needs in terms of external assistance

The Dublin Group in Bogotá has drawn attention to a series of urgent requirements in Colombia in the sphere of drug trafficking that should be dealt with by international cooperation. These requirements are as follows:

- Consolidating the European Union/Ameripol programme on combating drug trafficking to Europe.
- Boosting the activities of the Bogotá Platform, which comprises internal attachés of the European Union in Bogotá, representatives of the Colombian national police, UNODC, the United States, Ecuador and Peru, for the exchange of strategic information and development of operational projects to combat drug trafficking and related offences committed by organised groups.
- Increasing Colombia's regional cooperation capacity with regard to precursors.
- Looking into the possibility of other countries financing police task forces belonging to the Colombian anti-drug agencies, following the lead of the USA, the United Kingdom and France.
- Intensifying the actions which Colombia is carrying out in the most extensive and costly alternative development programme in the Andean region, working directly with an even larger number of communities and offering integrated and sustainable solutions to the problem of illegal crops.

4.5. Recommendations by the Dublin Group in Bogotá

- Step up controls along the land and river corridors used for illicit trade and in land border areas.
- Increase passenger and cargo controls at airports, devoting particular attention to postal service companies. The USA's experience and operations are yielding very good results in Colombia.
- Increase monitoring of the end use and final destination of the most commonly used chemical precursors, targeting activities and boosting the capacity for intraregional cooperation and knowledge transfer.

- Greater European Union involvement in Colombia at bilateral and Community level, in a policy which also embraces the operational approach from its origin in the areas of cultivation, production, transport and distribution.
- Step up joint actions and the coordination of the authorities responsible for the entry and exit of goods, services and persons at the borders (DIRAN [Anti-Drugs Directorate], POLFA [Fiscal and Customs Police], DIAN [National Customs and Tax Directorate], migration authorities), mainly regarding exchange of information in real time and control mechanisms.
- Encourage and support the Colombian government's efforts, through three-way cooperation and South-South cooperation, to combat drug trafficking regionally and internationally.
- The Member States of the Dublin Group in the European Union should establish or improve their procedures for analysing and monitoring the origins of the cocaine seized on their territories in order to indicate where the threat is coming from and to plan the fight in accordance with the results.

5. CHILE

5.1. Evaluation of the general situation in Chile with regard to drugs

5.1.1 Year 2013

In 2013, police bodies investigated a total of **44 942** cases of infringement of Drug Law No 20 000, **a decrease of 19.2 %** with respect to 2012 (from 55 608 to 44 942). In absolute terms, this amounts to 10 666 fewer cases. This percentage decrease is in contrast to the increase observed between 2011 and 2012, which was 8.4 %.

In 2013, **63 186 arrests** were investigated, of which 54.4 % were for possessing drugs, 21.8 % for trafficking and 15.7 % for consumption.

With respect to the previous year, there was a **25.7 % drop** in arrests. In absolute terms this amounts to 21 856 fewer arrests (down from 85 042 to 63 186). The arrests which increased the most were those relating to confiscation orders (87.2 %).

By type of drug, the statistics give the following result (the comparison is in each case with 2012-2013):

- Basic cocaine paste. 10 798.40 kg confiscated. (+ **11.6 %**).
- Cocaine hydrochloride. 2 932.77 kilograms (- **6.9 %**).
- Processed marijuana. 23 305.53 kilograms (+ **60.2 %**).
- Marijuana plants. 288 379 units (+ **22.5 %**).
- Pharmaceutical products. 68 741 units (- **40.9 %**).
- Heroin. 0 grams.

With respect to 2012, the main increase was in processed marijuana (60.2 %), marijuana plants (22.5 %) and basic cocaine paste with 11.6 %. By contrast, seizures of pharmaceutical products dropped (- 40.9 %), as did seizures of cocaine hydrochloride (- 6.9 %).

As a result of the above operations, 624 firearms (+ 0.5 %) and 277 bladed weapons (-18.0 %) were also seized.

From a geographical point of view, by type of drug, seizures of:

- Cocaine hydrochloride were concentrated mainly in the regions of Tarapacá (36.1 %), Metropolitana (19.5 %) and Antofagasta (17.9 %). These regions represent some 73.5 % of the national total.
- Seizures of basic cocaine paste were concentrated in the regions of Antofagasta (33.7 %), Tarapacá (31.9 %) and Valparaíso (9.7 %). These regions represent some 75.3 % of the national total.
- Seizures of processed marijuana were concentrated in the regions of Antofagasta (41.4 %), Metropolitana (10.4 %) and Atacama (9.8 %). These regions represent some 61.6 % of the national total.

- Seizures of marijuana plants were concentrated in the regions of Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins (37.6 %), el Maule (20.0 %) and Coquimbo (17.1 %). These regions represent some 74.9 % of the national total.
- Seizures of pharmaceutical products were concentrated in the regions of Metropolitana (78.4 %), Arica y Parinacota (6.1 %) and Antofagasta (3.5 %). These regions represent some 88.0 % of the national total.

The statistics for the last few years make it possible to analyse in detail the trend in seizures:

Type of drug (in kilos and units)	Years					Variations %		
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
Cocaine hydrochloride (kg)	2 654	2 808	2 392	3 150	2 932	-30.9	31.7	- 6.9
Basic cocaine paste (kg)	5 696	7 127	7 059	9 675	10 798	- 0.9	37.0	11.6
Processed marijuana (kg)	13 928	8 144	14 568	14 550	23 305	78.8	- 0.1	60.2
Marijuana plants (units)	196 412	172 618	266 015	235 428	288 379	54.1	-11.5	22.5
Pharmaceutical products (units)	84 619	393,064	167 885	116 361	68 741	-57.3	-30.7	- 40.9
Heroin (kg)	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.1.2 Evaluation of drug trafficking in Chile

It should be pointed out that the increase in seizures of processed marijuana is principally due to three operations carried out in Calama and Curacaví by the antidrugs unit of the Criminal Investigation Police Department, and in Arica by the police.

Most of the seizures were of marijuana (processed and plants) and basic cocaine paste.

The Deputy Minister for the Interior stated that the increase in the annual volume of drugs seized following the implementation of the "north border plan" has reduced unreported trafficking offences in Chile.

It is estimated that prior to the implementation of the preventive measures, only 10 % of all drugs entering the country were detected. From 2011 onwards, this percentage has risen to some 30 %.

In 2013, the total of substances seized reached 38.7 tonnes, some 43 % more than in 2012. Of the amounts seized last year, some 61 % (23.4 tonnes) were removed from circulation between the regions of Arica y Parinacota, Tarapacá and Antofagasta. The explanations are based both on reports from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and on analysis of intelligence from police and criminal investigation officers. The increase in the value of the drug per gram is an indicator of a drop in supply on the trafficking market.

It is worth drawing attention to the significant increase in synthetic drugs, particularly in C-boom, which since the end of 2012 has replaced LSD as the most commonly used synthetic drug in Chile. The increase is causing alarm among police officers and health workers, as the effects of the new drug are far more devastating than those of LSD.

5.2. Institutional framework

The positive results from the implementation of the "north border plan" are a stimulus to growing investment in the plan over the years. At the same time, new threats are being detected which require the plan to be extended and/or modified; the number of landmarks which demarcate the outer limit will be increased in order to strengthen the border and thus reduce the risk of drugs being smuggled into the country.

President Bachelet's new government may introduce amendments, bearing in mind the desire expressed by the then candidate during a visit to Arica on 5 December 2013 to revise the plan in the light of its results (with a budget of a little over CLP 3 092 million, the "north border plan" has become the most costly investment in public security for 2014, with an increase of almost 350 % compared to the amount approved by the Congress for 2013).

On the other hand, there has been little progress in the passage through Parliament of the legislation on the prevention of the consumption of drugs, or on policies on combating the diversion of medicines towards the consumption of drugs.

5.3. International cooperation

Spain, through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), has in recent years organised seminars at the Latin American training centres in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), La Antigua (Guatemala) and Montevideo (Uruguay), for public prosecutor's office personnel, police and criminal investigation officers, on topics including cooperation in addressing the threat posed by drug trafficking and organised crime; no such seminars are being organised at present.

In August 2013, Canada and Chile announced the launch of a trilateral cooperation project to support the reform of the police in Guatemala and El Salvador. Under its Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programme, Canada contributed CAD 215 000 for Chilean police officers to help law enforcement officers in Guatemala and El Salvador improve their investigation techniques in cases of homicides, which are generally linked to drug trafficking, as well as their techniques for collecting and analysing evidence. In April 2014, criminal investigation officers from Chile will carry out a mission to Guatemala and El Salvador to assess the needs of the authorities in both countries. The training will be held in 2014 or at the beginning of 2015.

With regard to the regional cooperation programme between Latin America and the EU on drugs (COPOLAD), which is funded by the EU (EUR 6 million for a period of 4 years from January 2011 onwards), it should be noted that throughout 2013 Chile has continued to play an active role through its implementing partner, the National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use (SENDA). Chile participates in all areas of the COPOLAD programme (COPOLAD report on Participation and Leadership in Chile annexed hereto).

In the mid-term evaluation of the COPOLAD programme carried out in 2013, all beneficiaries and interested parties gave the programme a very good assessment, thus reflecting the relevance of the issues tackled and the smooth implementation of the programme. The evaluation concluded that the programme was of great importance in the bi-regional, regional and subregional sphere and that its continuation in the near future should be ensured (evaluation report annexed hereto). The programme also serves to improve and activate the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism between CELAC and the European Union.

5.4. Conclusions and recommendations

1. Having been a moderate drug consumer, Chile's consumption has increased significantly over the last few years as a result of the country's strong economic development: according to UNODC estimates, in 2013 Chile had the third largest per capita consumption of marijuana and cocaine in South America. Apart from some small marijuana plantations, Chile is not a drug-producing country.

2. Chile's weak point as regards the fight against drugs is the porous nature of its borders with cocaine-producing countries such as Peru and Bolivia, aggravated by the fact that merchandise from Bolivia enjoys the right of access to Chilean ports under the 1904 treaty. The future inclusion of the Atacama region in the north border plan will strengthen its borders with coca-producing countries.
3. Cooperation needs to be strengthened between the Bolivian and Chilean authorities in order to resolve the problem posed by the lax controls at Chilean ports on containers intended for export. It is of prime importance for the two countries to negotiate a joint strategy to ensure that application of the 1904 treaty does not facilitate drug trafficking.
4. The police forces of Peru, Bolivia and Chile should cooperate effectively in joint operations in the fight against drugs and in gathering intelligence.
5. With regard to chemical precursors, for which there are indications that trafficking in precursors from Asia is on the rise in Chile, it is necessary to strengthen the mechanisms for registering the bodies which import these products and to boost the post-import monitoring mechanisms.
6. The Chilean government is continuing to invest heavily in its anti-drug strategy and has announced a major increase in investments for 2014.

In this regard, it is important to underline the genuine determination with which the Chilean presidency, the Ministry of the Interior and the forces of law and order are tackling the fight against drugs, a task to which ever-increasing human and material resources are being assigned.

6. ECUADOR

6.1. Evaluation of the general situation in Ecuador with regard to drugs

Ecuador is located in a potential cultivation, production and consumption area as regards narcotic and psychotropic substances. In particular, located between the two largest producers of cocaine in the region, Colombia and Peru, drug-trafficking organisations are seeking to expand their markets and related activities in Ecuador. It has become a transit country for drugs to the markets in the USA and in Europe. This is not only due to its geographical location, but also to the fact that its control bodies are poorly coordinated and it lacks a properly institutionalised judiciary. Its judiciary is also marked by corruption and impunity; the reforms put in place, however, are beginning to improve this situation.

The analysis of the general drugs situation in the country for 2013 confirms that not only is Ecuador used by transnational crime organisations as a repository and delivery platform for drugs through airports and seaports to the big consumer centres in North America and Europe, directly or via Africa, (the sharp rise in seizures in 2014 confirms this trend) but different international organised crime networks are settling in the country (the presence of Mexican cartels gives rise for concern). In spite of this, the Ecuadorian national police is combating the banned substances with increasing effectiveness.

The volume of drugs seized during the period under examination (2013) - 57 tonnes and 433 kilos (in 2012 it was just under 43 tonnes) - shows that the Ecuadorian authorities are becoming increasingly effective. Attention can also be drawn to positive aspects: the continued exchange of intelligence between the USA and Ecuador and the presence of Colombian police and military attachés in Quito and of Ecuadorian ones in Bogotá. Furthermore, the Ministry of the Interior is planning to equip the anti-drugs directorate of the National Police with state-of-the-art scanners for the control of containers in ports.

It is believed that 10 tonnes of illicit drugs were intended for domestic consumption.

The following aspects of the problem are of particular importance in the case of Ecuador.

- a) **Maritime trafficking.** Continues to be the most common means of transferring large quantities of drugs, using container ships (20 194 tonnes of drugs seized in 2013, in 40 cases, with 41 persons arrested; this percentage remains the highest of all and is double the figure for 2012), barges, speedboats, occasionally submersibles (22 October in Esmeraldas), and fishing vessels for transport and logistical supplies of fuel and food (1 065 tonnes of drugs seized, four cases and 13 arrests). In just three days of a preventive operation carried out by the army in the north of the coastal province of Manabí in November 2013, four clandestine airstrips were discovered ready for landing planes. The drug shipments originate from the coasts of southern Colombia, northern Peru and Ecuador. The routes begin off the Ecuadorian coast and cross various continental, island and international waters, covering approximately 2 200 nautical miles up to the Mexican and United States coasts. Container ships also sail through the Panama Canal, directly to Europe or stopping off in sub-Saharan Africa.
- b) **Human courier and postal trafficking.** Drug traffickers or organised crime networks are using these methods to transfer drugs with the help of drug concealment systems. The main destinations are the USA and Europe (via Spain and the Netherlands), using postal agencies (183 cases, 1 205 tonnes of drugs seized and 48 arrests) and human couriers (212 cases, 2 207 tonnes of drugs seized and 246 arrests). This is an increase on 2012.

- c) **Trafficking of chemical precursors.** The porous nature of the northern and southern borders continues to allow such substances to be smuggled out of the country for laboratories, mainly along the northern border with Colombia (Esmeraldas province by sea and Sucumbíos province by river), but also – albeit to a lesser extent – along the southern border with Peru (El Oro province). The seizure of 24 623 tonnes and 10 909 litres of these substances in 2013 shows that the increase observed in the preceding period is continuing.
- d) **Illicit crops.** There was a marked decrease in the detection and eradication of illicit crops (32 cases, 27 045 coca plants, 756 046 poppy plants and 3 827 marijuana plants). The figures continue to fall. Ecuador is not a crop-growing country.
- e) **Illicit drug laboratories.** Two laboratories were dismantled, with 27 060 tonnes of cocaine seized and eight persons arrested. Activity detected in relation to illicit drug laboratories has also decreased.
- f) **Money laundering.** While there is no detailed, reliable information on money laundering, there is a perception that, because of the advantages of the dollarisation of the country, many money-laundering operations take place in Ecuador on the proceeds of organised crime, particularly drug trafficking, in the form of trading operations with fictitious capital movements purporting to be emigrant remittances, property development, etc. The Financial Intelligence Unit (linked to the Attorney General's Office) is combating this phenomenon by providing the public prosecutor's office with reports of unusual or unjustified financial operations and/or transactions (37 cases, USD 3 430 152, EUR 315 250, COP 36 035 887, DOP 12 300 and 32 arrests).

6.2. Ecuador's anti-drugs strategy within the institutional framework

The expectations raised by the enactment of the new Ecuadorian constitution which entered into force in October 2008 have still not yet been fulfilled as the new legislation intended to improve tools for combating organised crime, especially drug trafficking and related crimes, has not yet been enacted. When approved and implemented, the draft Organic Code on Citizen Security Entities currently before the National Assembly will bring about an organisational change with regard to the national police force and police careers, in order to turn the force into a more efficient and coordinated institution and bring it into line with the current requirements of a modern, citizen-friendly police force. The draft Code also establishes the Civil Crime Investigation Service, with the aim of increasing technical and scientific investigative capacity, which will help put an end to the prevailing culture of impunity.

The new Integral Organic Penal Code, which will comprise the Penal Code, the Law on Criminal Procedure and a series of specific rules of law including the Law on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances, has been approved by the National Assembly (it will enter into force in August 2014).

Finally, the ongoing reform of the judicial service should also lead to major political improvements in terms of reduced corruption, and to increased efficiency which should reduce the alarming levels of impunity for crime, with low ratios of crimes investigated to crimes committed and even lower conviction rates. Another major cause for concern are the numerous cases of remand prisoners released because they have not been sentenced before the time limit laid down by law for this type of detention.

The Government of Ecuador seems determined to maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards the cultivation, processing and trafficking of narcotics, but the table of maximum permitted quantities for consumption approved by CONSEP in June 2013, while not required to be enforced, has caused uncertainty and concern among various national and foreign institutions (some of the permitted amounts are very high, e.g. 1 g of cocaine).

With regard to money laundering, although there is still a long way to go in terms of legislation and control procedures, it can be said that significant progress has been made, and in particular that there is a political commitment on the part of the Ecuadorian authorities following the inclusion and subsequent removal of their country from the list of jurisdictions with serious deficiencies in combating money laundering and terrorist financing, which is published by the FATF (Financial Action Task Force). There is already a law reforming the Law on the Suppression of Money Laundering and an Action Plan that has already been approved by the National Money Laundering Council (CONCLA), which seeks to address some of the strategic deficiencies identified. On 15 October 2013, Ecuador submitted to the FATF its report on combating money laundering, which included 18 convictions for money laundering, preventive measures amounting to USD 57 million, and the criminalisation of money laundering in the new Integral Organic Penal Code.

Coordination among judges, prosecutors, CONSEP (the National Council for Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) and the national police remains inadequate.

Although efficiency has improved in preventing drugs from leaving Ecuadorian territory, a similar trend has not been observed for drugs entering the country. In this context the interior ministry has demonstrated the government's commitment to reducing supply and demand with an integrated approach. The provinces of Guayas, Pichincha, Manabí and El Oro have the highest levels of micro-trafficking and 2014 has been declared as the year for eradicating the sale of drugs in schools and educational establishments, which is expected to have a positive effect on the evolution of domestic demand.

6.3. International cooperation

The cooperation being carried out by Member States of the Dublin Group in the Republic of Ecuador can be considered significant, especially with regard to training. Examples include the activities of the UNODC and the European Commission, as well as those of the USA (the project for specialised courts in Cuenca was brought to an early close but a new project has been launched to provide training for trainers on local demand reduction, with the participation of the UNODC, the USA and Ecuador in the form of the community police and anti-narcotics police under the Ministry of the Interior), Spain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom at bilateral level.

Numerous courses and seminars were also held throughout 2013. It would be worth encouraging the Ecuadorian authorities to ensure that those selected for courses, seminars and internships meet the organisers' requirements, and to commit themselves to capitalising on the training these individuals receive by posting them to relevant positions. In addition, major bi-regional meetings (EU-CELAC dialogue) were held in Quito: the 15th EU-CELAC High-Level Meeting on Coordination and Cooperation Mechanisms on Drugs and the 3rd Annual Conference of the COPOLAD programme (13 delegations from EU Member States participated and preventive strategies were discussed). The 23rd Meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies of Latin America and the Caribbean took place from 30 September to 4 October 2013. In January 2014, a European delegation from the CORMS Project (led by an Italian judge) travelled to Quito to carry out an on-site assessment of the effectiveness of the EU's major projects relating to the problem of drugs in the region.

In the operational sphere, the collaborative processes conducted can be considered satisfactory, with exchanges of intelligence and joint operations successfully completed. Nevertheless, training in good governance and operational matters should be stepped up, satisfying current needs and supporting the development of specific anti-drug groups. A positive point that should be emphasised is that Ecuador has placed the first national office at Ameripol's disposal; it was opened in February 2013 having already begun its technical and operational activities.

6.4. Conclusions and recommendations

The conclusions and recommendations made in the August 2012 report remain valid.

- a) Continue to support Ecuador's efforts in its fight against the drugs problem, contributing both financing for the acquisition of technological control systems and more specialised training for the armed forces and police tasked with combating drug trafficking. Above all, increase the contribution towards training in the control and prosecution of money laundering. The lack of an IT system for analysing unusual transfers undermines the effectiveness of the Financial Intelligence Unit.
- b) Stress the benefits of improved coordination between the member countries of the Dublin Group in their contributions and bilateral cooperation with the State of Ecuador, to avoid duplication that would render them less effective. In the specific case of the EU, means of cooperation and coordination should be sought for the organisation of seminars and courses, etc., with such activities being conducted by specialists from Member States wishing to participate.
- c) Offer advice on the implementing legislation for the new Integral Penal Code (maximum reference quantities for personal consumption to be regulated by the Ministry of Health) and on money-laundering legislation.

- d) **Urge Ecuador to exercise greater control over the country's port infrastructure, especially in the port of Guayaquil**, and over other institutions with competence in this area, in order to minimise the cases of corruption that currently occur. Make good on the motto of "zero tolerance on corruption".
- e) Remind the Ecuadorian authorities of the desirability of intensifying and improving public awareness campaigns against drugs to try to reduce demand, including through actions aimed at parents' and neighbourhood associations, schools and other educational establishments, through the CONSEP and in coordination with the ministries concerned.

7. PARAGUAY

7.1. Situation in the country

Representatives of **SENAD** gave a presentation of the key elements of the fight against drugs over the last six months.

In terms of supply, they highlighted the role of Paraguay as a transit country, not only for significant quantities of cocaine but also increasingly for chemical substances. In recent months, seizures have been made of chemical products destined for Bolivia, principally potassium permanganate (as much as 2 500 kg) and sulphuric acid. With regard to the trafficking of such precursors, the UNODC highlighted the PRELAC programme, which it has been running for the last two years in cooperation with Paraguay and with EU funding, and which aims to combat this type of trafficking.

Following recent reports on the detection of cocaine-processing laboratories, indicating that Paraguay is no longer merely a transit country, SENAD stated that these were not just processing laboratories but rather mixing laboratories (where the basic paste is cleaned and mixed with sweeteners), which they had already been made aware of and were now in the process of identifying.

With regard to the cultivation of marijuana, which occurs on a large scale in certain parts of the country, there has been a plan for alternative crops, principally stevia, since 2008 but it has not yet been possible to implement because of a lack of funding.

The **UNODC** representative pointed out that the alternative crop plan to reduce cannabis cultivation is included in sub-programme 1 of the four-year National Integrated Programme (NIP), which has the support of the Andean countries (which can lend their experience despite their different situations) and a financing need of USD 2 million, but has not yet been possible to implement because of a lack of funding. In addition to this, the NIP provides for improved monitoring (at this time it is not known what the land is used for) and support for the State of Paraguay in eradicating crops.

In terms of demand, there is growing concern among the Paraguayan authorities over the consumption of basic paste, which is increasing geometrically and which, because of its characteristics, is spreading very quickly and with devastating effects (90 % of admissions to treatment centres are users of basic paste). The SENAD authorities therefore announced their intention to implement a new action plan at state policy level in order to halt this trend, which is posing a challenge to the judiciary, the prison authorities and social institutions (due, among other things, to the involvement of minors in micro-trafficking and consumption, the impact on public health and domestic violence). The SENAD representatives also underlined the need to establish minimum standards for rehabilitation centres.

With regard to coordination between the country's authorities, the SENAD representatives pointed out that there is no coordination with the police on combating organised crime, although there is coordination on demand reduction.

7.2. International cooperation

Reference was made to international cooperation on the part of the **Chancellery and SENAD**. Of particular note is the ongoing successful cooperation with the Brazilian and Argentinian police, as well as with the Chilean police, with whom controlled deliveries of drugs have been carried out. There are also Joint Committees with Uruguay, Colombia, Argentina and Spain. Preparations are being made with Colombia for a conference on narcotics and corruption to be held in Asunción in June. A meeting of the heads of the region's drug enforcement services will also be held in Asunción on 23 October.

The **UNODC** presented the report by the International Narcotics Control Board on 4 March 2014. In relation to the implementation of the National Integrated Plan (NIP), under sub-programme II (Justice and Anti-Corruption), it is worth noting the launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in November 2013, which provides for a meeting of 39 of the country's institutions in April 2014. There have also been several visits by experts from Vienna and Panama in relation to Paraguay's compliance with the various international agreements. An upcoming presentation is also planned of a report on corruption in the police, work is under way with the Paraguayan institutions on one of the causes of drug trafficking, the dire situation in prisons (specifically, a mission is expected to visit several prisons at the end of April), and a regional meeting, national capacity building and a transnational meeting are scheduled for June within the framework of the Palermo Convention Protocol on Trafficking in Firearms.

France provides grants for law enforcement personnel to study French, as well as capacity-building courses through its Security Attaché for Paraguay in Buenos Aires. In particular, preparations are being made with the Interministerial Anti-drug Training Centre (CIFAD in Fort-de-France, Martinique) for capacity-building training on targeting air passengers in the fight against drug trafficking and on combating drug trafficking (operational analysis), to be held in Asunción from 2 to 6 June.

The **USA** reported on the visit by representatives of the Treasury in connection with the fight against money laundering. It also highlighted the support provided to the canine unit at Asunción airport, which included the provision of 10 sniffer dogs to complement the existing nine, as well as training for dog handlers and the relevant veterinary services. Various items of furniture have also been given to SENAD, assistance has been provided for the maintenance of the five vehicles donated to SENAD in 2013, and training in Colombia on commanding rural operations has been offered to six officials of the national police.

Germany's main contribution is its financial support for UNODC's NIP under sub-programme 2 – anti-corruption and reform of the criminal justice system – which includes a cross-cutting component for combating drug trafficking. Germany is offering to send experts through the SES (*Senior Experten Service*) to provide services within SENAD and to give training and development courses to civil servants and SENAD officials.

The EU delegation underlined the regional support it provides in the fight against drugs, which, while it focuses in particular on Central America and Andean countries, also affects Paraguay (e.g. the PRELAC programme). The EU is also looking into the possibility of contributing to the UNODC's NIP.

Canada stated that its cooperation in the fight against organised crime is based on its concern over the effects of drug trafficking and focuses mainly on Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico and Colombia, while its support to Paraguay is principally in the form of contributions to initiatives carried out by multilateral bodies. The Canadian delegation showed an interest in finding out the potential effects of the budget increase approved by Congress for combating drug trafficking.

With regard to **Spain**, a good level of cooperation already exists between the Embassy's Council of the Interior and the Paraguayan institutions, a course on controlled delivery of drugs to be held on 10 April in Buenos Aires has been offered to SENAD and the national police, and the Intelligence Centre against Organised Crime issues standing invitations to participate in initiatives on the subject of intelligence in drug-trafficking and related crimes.

7.3. Recommendations

- **Improve institutional coordination** in this field and support from the police and prosecution services for SENAD's activities, and **increase** the financial and technical **resources** available to it. Congress approved budget increases in 2013 and 2014 for the fight against drug trafficking. It would be helpful to know the effects of those increases.
- Encourage **alternative crops** through international cooperation projects.
- **Step up demand reduction work via more specialist training of human resources devoted to it, increasing the coverage of school prevention programmes**, with more organised civil society participation, and periodic **studies** of key populations (such as schools, homes, emergency centres, prisons and treatment centres) on the prevalence of and trends in drug **consumption**, as well as associated risk factors.
- **Increase** the staffing of the **narcotics prosecution service** in order to reinforce judicial investigation of drug trafficking.
- At that meeting, emphasis was again laid on the importance of **what was done with the material seized in operations**.
- Interest was expressed in further following up the **fight against corruption and money laundering** at future meetings.

8. URUGUAY

8.1. General situation

Existing trends continue in the **international narcotics trafficking** that passes through Uruguay, mainly cocaine and intended for Europe and the United States, with new routes appearing, towards Africa and East Asia.

The two main trafficking locations in Uruguay are the port of Montevideo, a natural entry point for goods entering or leaving Paraguay, via ro-ro transport, and Montevideo's Carrasco International Airport (mainly using so-called "mules"). The Ministry of the Interior has drawn up a plan to strengthen both the airport and the land borders, with a view to the football World Cup in Brazil, which may increase substance transit.

Trafficking in small aircraft from and to neighbouring countries had fallen in recent months, but is now rising slightly again.

Although Uruguay does not yet have cartelisation, arrivals of members of **Mexican and Colombian organisations** are still being detected. In addition, the government acknowledges a complex situation as regards local gangs and their control over certain areas of Montevideo, which makes policing difficult. It has been noted that these gangs' fire power has been increasing and it is believed that there is a flow of imported illegal weapons, including automatic weapons, coming into the country and intended for these gangs.

Lack of public safety continues to be viewed with growing concern by the people and is closely linked with the trafficking and consumption of illegal substances, especially cocaine base paste. The National Drugs Board (JND) has confirmed the persistence of previously unknown types of violence in the country, such as contract killings and settling of scores. The response of the Executive has been to produce a Strategy for Life and Coexistence (June 2012), some of whose measures are currently being developed.

Uruguay is progressing with the **development of the second stage of the PRELAC programme**, by means of exercises with industry and agents linked to chemical precursors. This year the government will focus on registration of businesses and production monitoring, and hopes next year to be able to extend the monitoring to the internal market in finished product.

As for **control of supply**, the JND figures for 2012 indicate sustained growth in the ratio of **prosecutions to arrests** over the period 2000 to 2012. This past year the ratio was 41.64 %, of the 2 236 arrested (around 400 more than the year before).

The trends remain the same as regards the **origins of the substances**: cocaine and cocaine base paste (as well as synthetic drugs, especially in the tourist season) from Argentina, and marijuana from Paraguay. Marijuana **seizures** remain stable as compared to 2011 (around two tonnes), while seizures of cocaine (685 kg) are higher than for 2011 and 2010 but not as high as in 2008 and 2009. Seizures of cocaine base paste are still rising. (These are 2012 data.)

As to consumption, national and international statistics show that **alcohol is still the most consumed drug in the country**, with a consumption level of about 74 % over the past 12 months (2012 data). In contrast with tobacco, consumption of which is falling, the figures show a significant rise (7.5 %) in alcohol consumption compared with 2006. It is calculated that there are around 260 000 problem alcohol users and that users are beginning to drink at around the age of 13.

According to the 2013 UNODC World Drug Report, the prevalence of **cocaine consumption** in South America was still high, at 1.3 %. In the Southern Cone, consumption levels rose notably between 2005 and 2011. The latest figures for Uruguay from the JND show that 1.9 % of the population use cocaine (the same as in the previous report). There was a worrying rise in consumption over that period among the 13-17 age group.

Consumption of **cocaine base paste** has been increasing in the Southern Cone over the past ten years, though the rate is lower in Uruguay (around 1.1 %) than in the Andean region countries. Also worrying is the rise in consumption of **synthetic drugs**; the rate of ecstasy use has risen from 0.7 % in 2006 to 1.5 % today.

According to the 2013 UNODC World Drug Report, Uruguay is one of the countries that has reported a rise in the use of **NPSs (new psychoactive substances)**, such as ketamine, though consumption is still well below the levels seen in North America and Europe.

8.2. Institutional framework

In January 2014 the interdepartmental **Chemicals Directorate** was established with a view to strengthening controls on chemical precursors in the internal market. It is a unit within the Ministry of Public Health, which will be fully rolled out from next year, once detailed budgets are allocated, after the late-2014 elections.

In addition, on 3 September 2013, the Executive published Decree 274/13, reforming the regulatory framework for establishments specialising in the care and treatment of problem drug-users. In this context the **Ciudadela project** on information, advice and referral for drug users, currently based in Montevideo and the surrounding area, will shortly be extended into the interior of the country. This set-up facilitates referral of problem drug users to the **national care and treatment centre, RENADRO**.

As for legislation, it should be noted that the draft law on regulation and control of the **consumption and distribution of alcohol** has not yet been passed by the legislature.

In late 2013, the parliament approved the draft law on the **regulation, trading and consumption of marijuana**. At present, the administration is in the process of drafting the regulation implementing that law, which should be approved by 10 April 2014. The regulation, being drafted by an inter-Ministry group, is very complex and will, for now, regulate recreational consumption (production, control, distribution, etc.), and not medicinal use or rules on cannabis clubs.

As regards safety, the ultimate aim of the Regulation is that there should be no diversion from the production and distribution chain, particularly abroad or to those not resident in Uruguay. Also noteworthy, besides the roles assigned to the Ministry of the Interior, is the establishment of the **Institute for Cannabis Regulation (IRCA)**, whose role will be to issue consumer licences and control production and distribution. It currently works, on a provisional basis, with officials from the Ministries involved with the regulations.

Money laundering: August 2012 saw the adoption of the **National Strategy and Action Plan** against money laundering and financing of terrorism, and work continues on increasingly comprehensive application of the FATF and IMF recommendations. The government has presented **eight projects corresponding to goals of the Strategy that it thinks need to be prioritised:** developing an integrated crime information system; developing a statistics system; developing a communications strategy; digitising the National Registers Directorate; performing a strategic analysis of the UIAF (Financial Analysis and Information Unit); supervising designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBP); establishing special units for researching and increasing international cooperation.

8.3. International cooperation

The JND's international cooperation objectives include strengthening national capacities in order to take an integrated approach to a "global and transnational issue", managing offers of technical and financial cooperation which support the national strategy, and ensuring it is represented in scientific and institutional exchanges.

Examples of international cooperation projects include: the SAVIA project by CICAD/OAS to develop regional cooperation and local initiatives for drug demand reduction; the COPOLAD Programme (Latin America/European Union); the subregional drug information and research project (UNODC, CICAD/OAS); the PRELAC Project (Prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNODC); support for the fight against money laundering in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (European Union/GAFISUD project); UNODC Brazil and Southern Cone work and family prevention project; UNODC Global SMART programme (Canada). Also to be noted is the agreement signed between Ecuador and Uruguay in October 2013 in the framework of political dialogue and technical cooperation in the areas of demand reduction and supply control.

8.4. Recommendations

- Progress with the interdepartmental cooperation launched by the government in recent months.
- Continue strengthening institutions and technical training, in police and judicial spheres.
- We recognise Uruguay's efforts on money-laundering and recommend it follow the recommendations of the IMF and FATF and, in particular, step up their application e.g. in the property sector.
- Keep up efforts on control of chemical precursors, with a view to preventing their diversion to other countries.
- As regards the draft law on regulating the marijuana market, we recommend more dialogue with international specialist bodies that have expressed doubts on the new rules and their compatibility with relevant international law.
- At the same time, it would be helpful to analyse the regulations adopted and to monitor their implementation and effects on Uruguayan drug use. This could be useful input for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in 2016.

9. VENEZUELA

9.1. General situation⁵

(a) Drugs: The President of the ONA (national anti-drugs office) reported that 46 831 kg of various drugs had been seized in Venezuela in 2013.

Some 85.67 % of seizures took place in the states of Zulia, Táchira, Barinas, Apure and Falcón, all of which are on or close to the border with Colombia.

⁵ The Venezuelan authorities have not provided the official figures; those incorporated here have been obtained from social media.

Notable among worldwide hauls of drugs from Venezuela was the seizure in September of 1 300 kg of cocaine in Paris, arriving on an Air France flight. Six people were arrested in France, 29 in Venezuela. There is no definite corroboration of information published in various media on the possible involvement of generals of the Bolivarian National Guard, though it is true that facilitating the arrival at the airport and the departure of such a large amount of the drug must involve higher-level personnel than a lieutenant; and other information indicates that there is an organisation in Venezuela called the "Cartel of the Suns", referring to the "suns" on a Venezuelan general's uniform.

(b) Arrests: Some 9 130 Venezuelans and foreigners were arrested. Of that number, 15 leaders of drug-trafficking organisations were arrested and placed in the custody of the authorities — these are in addition to the 111 arrests of individuals wanted by national and international security agencies.

9.2. Institutional framework

The prosecution service recorded 18 790 final decisions relating to drugs, of which 9 282 cases were brought during 2013. It carried out 238 incinerations, destroying 48 236 kg, plus 745 g and 689 mg, of drugs.

The Spanish Embassy's Council of the Interior is trying to work with the Venezuelan authorities in using special investigative techniques, specifically monitored deliveries, covered by the 1988 Vienna Convention, of which Venezuela is a signatory, so as to dismantle possible drug-trafficking organisations which are constantly dispatching drugs, using mules and, in particular, postal packages.

Furthermore, the recent framework law on drugs provides, in its Article 14 on international cooperation, that "The State, through its competent bodies, shall promote and encourage international collaboration, cooperation and coordination to combat the global drug problem in its various forms and the crimes connected with the illicit trade in drugs, signing interinstitutional and intergovernmental cooperation agreements and supporting the Republic's participation in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora on the subject. The governing body and the Ministry of the People's Power with competence for home affairs and justice, in coordination with the Ministry of the People's Power for external relations, shall prioritise this aim."

On 22 May 2013 the control law for the integrated defence of airspace was adopted, and its rules were approved in August, entering into force on 1 October. The aim of the law is to end illegal overflights linked to drug trafficking in Venezuelan airspace as part of national border security plans.

In 2013, the Venezuelan air force carried out 82 forced aircraft landings, immobilising 13 of them, while four were shot down. Note there are no data on drugs seized or on deaths in these actions.

9.3. International cooperation actions by MDG countries, including Venezuela

No news

9.4. Recommendations

- Visits should be arranged by senior officials of Dublin Group member countries with responsibility for combating drug trafficking, with a view to promoting *cooperation* in the exchange of information between Venezuela and the other countries.

- The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela should be pressured to sign and/or ratify the legal instruments designed to combat drug trafficking as soon as possible. Once legislation is in place to regulate the use of the special investigation techniques cited in the 1988 Vienna Convention, including controlled deliveries and undercover agents, *international cooperation* should be promoted; it should be regulated by the same legislation and achieved by supporting the police and prosecutors in order to improve their capacity to investigate and intercept drug consignments.
 - Review the policy for *prevention* of drug consumption, especially among the most socially and financially deprived sectors of the population and those drugs which generate a high rate of violence and crime in those sectors of the population.
 - Continue combating *money laundering*. To combat drug trafficking effectively, its funding must be attacked by stepping up the fight against money laundering and corruption.
 - Address the increasing links between *drug trafficking* and crime in general.
 - The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela should be encouraged to participate more and to be represented more actively in *international fora* and bodies concerned with combating drug trafficking.
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