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European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (24 June 2022) - Outcome document

Delegations will find in the Annex the final version of the above-mentioned outcome document which was adopted at the XXIIIrd High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, which took place in Asuncion in hybrid mode on 24 June 2022.

Outcome Document of the XXIII High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union

24 June 2022, Asunción / Hybrid Meeting



1. We, the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the Member States of the European Union (EU) and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, and the European External Action Service, having met in Asunción, on 24 June 2022, under the joint leadership of the Paraguayan CELAC Presidency and the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, at the XXIII High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the EU, and convinced of the importance to meet and discuss solutions to the challenges related to drugs, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, hereby state the following:

2. That in compliance with the Working Procedures of the EU-LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs of 2009¹, this new outcome document containing initiatives for political dialogue and for coordination and bi-regional cooperation was produced through cooperation between the CELAC and EU countries and submitted by the Technical Committee for adoption at this XXIII High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union.

¹ Adopted at the XI High-Level Meeting of the EU-LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, Quito, 26-27 May 2009, part II, sub-heading 'High-Level Meeting', paragraph 'c' of chapter 'Main functions.'

3. In accordance with the commitments made in the previous bi-regional Declarations adopted at the High-Level Meetings of the Mechanism, we reiterate our commitment to the objective to strengthen bi-regional dialogue and the effectiveness of joint efforts to address the world drug problem. These objectives, as identified and developed in the framework of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union, are in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and require effective and increased international cooperation, with an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, comprehensive, and scientific evidence-based approach.

4. We reaffirm our commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights², with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.

5. We reaffirm that we need to strengthen our actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem in the framework of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial segment of the 62nd session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 14 March 2019 in Vienna, “Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem”, encompassing and complementing the relevant instruments of the international drug control system³.

² United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)

³ Such as the three major UN drug control Conventions: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Furthermore, the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and the Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world Drug problem”, adopted during the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly in April 2016.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and note that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

7. We highlight the importance of cooperation with the scientific community academia and the civil society in assessing and addressing the multifaceted nature of world drug problem.

8. We reaffirm our political will by participating in this XXIII High-Level Meeting of the CELAC-EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, and its related meetings, for continued coordination of and cooperation on drugs policies between our regions, as evidenced by the exchanges that took place during the past High-Level Meetings.

I. Discussions and thematic debates which took place at the XXIII High-Level Meeting

9. At the XXIII High-Level Meeting, the focus was placed on political dialogue and cooperation programmes, on exchanges at multilateral fora and the need to preserve a sound, comprehensive and effective international architecture to address the global drug problem, as well as on the situation and policy developments in the EU and CELAC countries, including the production and trafficking of cocaine. Moreover, the thematic debates covered the strengthening gender dimensions in drug policy as well as measures and lessons learned in the framework of the health crisis imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the field of drugs.

Thematic debate: Strengthening gender dimensions in drug policy:

10. The focus was on discussion on strengthening the gender dimensions approach. The following presentations were made:

- European Commission: “Gender equality perspective in the EU Drugs Strategy and EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025”;
- Sweden: "Gender equality in drugs policy – experiences from Sweden";
- Italy: “Adopting a gender approach in the formulation of drug policies”;
- COPOLAD: Presentation of the report “Women and drug policies: Situation report in Latin America and the Caribbean, advances and priorities to future”;
- Paraguay: "Inclusion of gender in the national drug policy";
- Argentina: “The gender approach in tackling problematic drug use: tools to ensure the integrity of intervention”;
- Colombia: “Recommendations for public policy design on the assessment of the social impact of women imprisoned for drug related crimes”;
- Mexico: “Strengthening gender dimensions in drug policy”.

Thematic debate: Supply reduction: Measures and lessons learned in the framework of the health crisis imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the field of drugs:

11. The focus was debate on the topic of drug supply reduction, especially the measures and lessons learned in the field of drugs in the context of the crisis of COVID-19 pandemic. The following presentations were made:

- Trinidad and Tobago: “Post COVID-19 Pandemic - A Focus on Supply Initiatives within a balanced approach to Drug Control in Trinidad and Tobago”;
- Spain: “Impact of COVID-19 on drug supply. Lessons learned”.

II. Orientations for future cooperation activities in the areas listed under Chapter 6 “The world drug problem” of the EU-CELAC Action Plan adopted in June 2015 and topics of the thematic debates for the following year

12. We reaffirm our resolve to continue cooperating in the field of drugs, taking into account the areas listed in Chapter 6 entitled "The world drug problem" of the EU-CELAC Action Plan adopted in June 2015.

13. We reaffirm our commitment to combat transnational organised crime in both regions, in compliance with relevant United Nations instruments and express our support to continued efforts under Chapter 10 (“Citizen Security”) of the EU-CELAC Action Plan, in line with the EU-CELAC Foreign Ministers Meeting Declaration dated 17 July 2018.

14. We reaffirm our will to continue cooperating on criminal prosecution strategies on drug related crimes from their detection, investigation, and conviction to the disruption of criminal organizations’ activities. We welcome in particular in this regard, the central role played by joint investigation teams with support from the prosecutor's offices.

15. We support the strengthening of the EU-CELAC Dialogue on Citizen Security, we encourage the Europe-Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime (El PAcCTO) to support bi-regional cooperation between the EU and Latin America, and we encourage the exploration of further cooperation possibilities with more countries in the region.

16. We recall that our cooperation encompasses several programmes and initiatives, in which participation takes place on a voluntary basis. In this sense, we look forward to continue cooperating in the framework of the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD), as we recognize its important role in supporting the work of the Mechanism, improving the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies, through facilitating the exchange of experiences, bi-regional coordination and promoting multi-sectoral, comprehensive and coordinated responses.

17. We welcome the implementation of the third phase of **COPOLAD** that follows up on the accomplishments achieved during its previous phases and by addressing existing and new challenges related to the world drug problem.

18. We also welcome the continued implementation of the EU's Global Illicit Flows Programme with its relevant components, i.e. Airport Communication Programme (**AIRCOP**), Seaport Cooperation Project (**SEACOP**), the Project "Strengthening Criminal Investigation and criminal justice cooperation along drug trafficking routes" (**CRIMJUST**), the Project "Monitoring and Controlling General Aviation along the Cocaine Route" (**COLIBRI**), the Monitoring and Support Project for the Global Illicit Flows Programme (**MASIF**), and the Programme Strengthening Latin America's Development and Security (**EUROFRONT**) in particular, taking into account the countries participating in these programmes.

19. In light of this broad cooperation, the CELAC and EU agree that the topics of the thematic debates for 2023 and for the XXIV High-Level Meeting will be the following:

✓Thematic debate proposed by CELAC: "New post-pandemic micro-trafficking patterns and the effective prevention strategies that countries are developing to deal with them";

✓Thematic debate proposed by the EU: "Money laundering and drug trafficking".

III. Adoption of the Annual Report

20. In the context of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union, the '**EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs Annual Report**' outlines on an annual basis the activities conducted in the framework of all these programmes and initiatives

21. The Annual Report of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022 was presented and adopted at the XXIII High-Level Meeting. This report outlines the activities conducted in the framework of these programmes and initiatives.

IV. Reference to the forthcoming multilateral meetings and possible identification of common interests and principles with a view to these meetings

22. We reaffirm that CELAC and the EU will, within the mandate of the Mechanism, continue to review their cooperation in the framework of the United Nations, notably within the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to address and counter the world drug problem.

23. In this context, the following relevant multilateral meetings are identified:

- ✓ 77th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 2022-2023, New York
- ✓ Reconvened 65th Session of the CND, 8-9 December 2022, Vienna
- ✓ 66th Session of the CND, March 2023, Vienna

V. Indication of the next CELAC and EU co-Presidencies and dates of the High-Level Meeting for the following year.

24. The next co-Presidencies of the Mechanism will be held, for CELAC by Bolivia for the term 2022/2023, and for the EU by Czech Republic during the second semester of 2022, by Sweden during the first semester of 2023 and by Spain during the second semester of 2023.

25. We agree to convene the XXIV High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union in the second semester of 2023 in Spain in cooperation with Sweden, taking into account the evolution of the sanitary situation.

26. We express our will to continue to adopt Declarations within the framework of the High Level Meeting of the Mechanism between the CELAC and the European Union, with the next Declaration to be adopted in 2023.