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ARGENTINA

Introduction: The mini Dublin group in Argentina has noted an increase during the past six months in the measures and resources available for combating the drug-trafficking problem. This increase is in line with the inclusion of the problem as one of three main political priorities of the new government.

1. GENERAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

The national government's U-turn as regards the extent of the problem of drug trafficking in Argentina has been reflected in a major increase in initiatives designed to combat the problem. The Argentinian authorities have recognised that Argentina is now one of the world's main cocaine exporters/transit countries. As a response to this situation, and to the extent of consumption, the President has launched the 'Argentina without drug trafficking' plan, which contains a number of cross-sectoral measures and proposals which require the consensus of the various actors and include the three powers, as well as national, provincial and local administrations run by various political groups. The publication of statistics relating to these issues has resumed.

(a) Institutional framework: In addition to the institutional framework defined in previous reports, Argentina has asked to be reintegrated into the AMERIPOL project, a clear expression of the current administration's desire to be part of the international structures combating all forms of organised crime.

(b) Consumption: The Argentinian Drug Observatory (OAD) provides data up to 2011. The new authorities have indicated that they intend to update these data. According to information published by the OAD and reported in the 2014 World Drug Report, the annual prevalence rate for **marijuana** among those aged between 12 and 65 was 3.2 %, and the annual prevalence rate for **cocaine** in that age group was 0.8 % (2010 figures). According to estimates by the UNODC, published in the 2014 report, annual prevalence rates for those substances in South America were 5.7 % and 1.2 % respectively. Argentina is one of the countries in which **synthetic drugs** are widely consumed by secondary school students (the prevalence rate for **ecstasy** in this age group is 2.3 % according to UNODC estimates based on 2011 data provided by Argentina). Legal purchases of **psychotropic drugs** remain at a high level (1.5 million boxes per month in the Province of Buenos Aires, an increase of 75 % in the past 10 years, according to the Ministry of Health).

(c) Combating supply: In April 2016 the Ministry of Security made public the 2015 criminal statistics, which included seizures of illegal drugs. These figures were later supplemented on the basis of information provided by the federal and provincial law enforcement authorities and Customs. In 2015 seizures of **marijuana** rose to **206 753 kg**, an increase of 38 % compared with the previous year; **marijuana plants: 12 121 units**, a decrease of 7 % compared with 2014; **cannabis seeds: 48 426 units**, a decrease of 11 % compared with 2014; **cocaine (base, salt and paste): 6 971 kg**, a decrease of 30 % compared with 2014; **'paco': 76 081 doses**, an increase of 21 % compared with 2014; **LSD: 148 518 tabs**, an increase of 1 245 % compared with 2014. Finally, seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants have decreased: **ecstasy: 76 809 pills** compared with 660 861 in 2014, **amphetamines: 1 394 pills** compared with 5 059 in 2014 and **methamphetamines: 295 pills** compared with 6 274 in 2014. The fall in some of these figures for drug seizures, due to circumstantial factors, does not diminish the importance of the problem or change the fact that it is one of the main priorities of the current government. One illustration of this is the seizure in September, following a tip-off, of 250 kg of the chemical precursor ephedrine, at Buenos Aires international airport (Ezeiza).

Cocaine is the drug most frequently trafficked. Argentina is a transit country for cocaine and a producer of cocaine hydrochloride for local consumption. The main points of entry for cocaine and marijuana continue to be on the northern border (Bolivia and Paraguay respectively). The exit routes are primarily the ports (containers: 75-80 % of traffic according to the Ministry of Security) and Ezeiza airport ('mules'). There is evidence of local production and importation from Europe of LSD and hallucinogenics. The law enforcement authorities consider that synthetic drugs are the market with the highest growth potential in Argentina.

2. FOLLOW-UP TO POLICIES TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING

(a) 'Argentina without drug trafficking' plan: presented to ministers, governors and the highest authorities within Congress and the judiciary by the President, who underlined its political importance and outlined an ambitious series of objectives:

Operational Objectives

- Eradication of '**paco**': destruction of production and distribution centres; steeper penalties for producers, distributors and sellers of '**paco**'.
- Roll-out at federal level of the '**Safe Neighbourhoods**' (**Barrios Seguros**) model (the law enforcement authorities enter neighbourhoods with high levels of violence in order to prevent their occupation by drug trafficking gangs). This measure has already begun to be implemented, with the deployment of the Federal Police.
- Active presence of and collaboration between **federal and provincial forces**; increased number of operations; capacity-building. Direct involvement of the Naval Command in the fight against drug trafficking on waterways and in the national maritime area.
- **Recovery of assets from drug trafficking** in order to finance the rehabilitation of consumers and to equip the law enforcement authorities. The government has drafted a law on 'forfeiture of assets', which the parliament is examining.
- Development of **special mixed groups**. (federal and provincial forces).
- Development of **technology** for combating drug trafficking (radar scanners and drones). Consolidation of the national radar system and the smart borders system.

- Establishment of the **Early Warning System** as from early August, based on the model introduced in Colombia and Spain. SAT is an application which centralises all the data from all State institutions in order to provide real-time information on new narcotic substances entering the market. To this end, a database is being set up in hospitals, at Customs etc, and SEDRONAR has real-time information on effects and on new drugs on the market.

- Integration of the **Federal Council on Chemical Precursors**; coordination of measures with the National Register of Chemical Precursors in order to draw up categories of authorised undertakings and in order to improve controls for detecting legal and illegal substances. A draft law has been prepared on preventing the wrongful use of chemical precursors for the production of narcotics, which has already been approved by the Senate and is under scrutiny by the Parliament.

Decree 974/2016, updating the list of chemical precursors, was issued recently, and the list of narcotics will also be updated.

Key objectives

- Training and capacity-building. Establishment of the **Joint Institute for Strategy Planning** at the Ministry of Security for police officers, directors and government officials.

- **A convergent statistical model for drug crime.**

- **Geo-referenced map** of drug trafficking and federal map of dynamic drug controls.

- **Federalisation of the international agreements** concluded by the State.

Addiction prevention and treatment objectives

- Accessibility of services. Ensuring social inclusion. Awareness-raising campaigns.

- **Combating the drop in the age at which consumption begins** - development of prevention strategies with special emphasis on highly vulnerable social groups.

- Development of **strategies to reduce demand**. Socio-occupational reintegration.

- **Non-criminalisation of consumption** or addictions; strengthening the OAD.

The plan calls for **enhanced cooperation** between the bodies which have responsibilities in this area. The division of competences is maintained: supply (Ministry of Security) and demand (Sedronar); revitalisation of the Internal Security Council with a view to cooperating with the provincial governments on the possible establishment of a coordination body for the 23 provincial police forces. Greater cooperation with the judiciary, overhauling the system for appointing judges and equipping judges with better tools for investigating and prosecuting drug trafficking. Greater participation of civil society through the involvement of social stakeholders in the prosecution of drug trafficking and the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Civil Society. Approval of an integrity control model for officials and law enforcement authorities involved in combating drug trafficking.

(b) Political debate on the decriminalisation of drug consumption: Groups working on the ground (priests, amongst others) have condemned the lack of any efficient system of prevention and rehabilitation, which is essential before taking any decriminalisation measure in order to avoid encouraging use. On 23 September the Province of Chubut enacted Law No 588 authorising the use of marijuana oil in public hospitals, to treat Dravet syndrome (epilepsy). The use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes nationally is to be debated by the Parliament on 13 October.

(c) Corruption: According to journalistic sources, there have been strong links between the security forces and drug trafficking in recent years. High-ranking political figures may also be involved at federal and local level.

3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The new authorities have shown their intention to deepen the good cooperation with police forces, judges and prosecutors in joint international operations to intercept drug consignments.

Additionally, they set great store by international cooperation in multilateral fora. From 15 to 19 May 2017 the annual meeting of high-level representatives within the framework of cooperation on drugs between the European Union and the CELAC countries, which is currently chaired by Argentina, will be held in Buenos Aires. As usual, the COPOLAD II programme Annual Conference will take place during the same week. The last meeting was held in The Hague during the Dutch Council Presidency.

(a) Deployment of police attachés abroad: The Ministry of Security is to deploy the new Federal Police attachés in Madrid, Rome and Brazil, as well as National Gendarmerie attachés at the UN and in Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Chile, France and China, and Naval Command attachés in the United Kingdom and Paraguay.

(b) Specific programmes:

Australia: The Australian Federal Police is working closely with the Argentinian security forces, for instance to combat the smuggling of illicit substances on tourist cruises between Latin America and Oceania. This collaboration includes periodic visits, joint investigations and cooperation in regional bodies such as AMERIPOL.

Spain: 2016 saw the conclusion of an investigation coordinated between Argentina and Spain, carried out over a period of months by the Argentinian Federal Police and the National Police in Spain. This operation led to the dismantling in Barcelona of the main organisation trafficking in cocaine between the two countries, headed by an Argentinian national who has already been extradited and is in prison in Argentina. This organisation is believed to have brought more than 2 000 kg of cocaine into Spain.

United States: The United States is to expand its collaboration with the Argentinian government in the fight against drug trafficking, increasing the frequency of visits between the two countries to provide training and capacity-building for Argentinian officials combating money-laundering, reinforce judicial proceedings against drug trafficking and encourage efforts to establish fusion centres bringing together federal, provincial and local forces.

France: Training courses run by French experts for their Argentinian counterparts, on techniques for identifying and checking suspect containers, techniques for using container scanners and image analysis, training sniffer dogs, and money-laundering and economic offences. In the context of President Hollande's state visit in February this year, the governments of France and Argentina signed a Statement of Intent for the strengthening of bilateral security cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking for the period 2016-2018. As a result of this agreement, the French Embassy in Buenos Aires has tripled the number of training courses it offers to the federal forces.

European Union: Support for AMERIPOL through the AMERIPOL-EU project (to be incorporated in the future EL PAcCTO regional programme); continued participation by Argentina in the COPOLAD II regional programme (including in its activities on precursors) and in the Cocaine Route Programme (AIRCOP, shortly also SEACOP and possibly MAOC(N) projects)

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The **new political and operational impetus** in the fight against drug trafficking is a noteworthy development, with a series of measures adopted and objectives set in line with the recommendations given in previous reports. Given the scale of the problem, the following challenges stand out:

- **Enhancing police and judicial capacity-building. Improving the material resources** allocated so that the new objectives set can be implemented.
- Establishing IT mechanisms for the exchange of information and coordination of the databases of the four federal forces and the provincial police forces.
- Harmonising criteria throughout the country so that when a drug trafficking investigation is opened against an organised group, a financial investigation is opened in parallel by money laundering experts.
- Strengthening the **internal coordination** of the fight against drug trafficking.
- Continuing the reliable updating of **statistics**, aggregated data and regular publication.
- Continuing to strengthen **international cooperation**.
- **Attacking the economic power of the organisations engaged in drug trafficking and related offences**, focusing resources on larger-scale investigations and making use of international cooperation.
- **Prevention, and rehabilitation of drug addicts:** i) greater awareness-raising concerning the harmful effects of drugs, ii) presenting genuine alternatives to the social mobility which drug trafficking offers and iii) monitoring new synthetic drugs.
- **Monitoring efficiency in budgetary implementation** in combating supply and demand.

BOLIVIA

1. General situation

Since the group's last report was submitted in May 2016 there have been no changes either in the Bolivian legal framework or in the specific national administrative structure for combating drug trafficking.

- i) **Without legal reforms and reform of the judiciary** the overall fight against drug trafficking will come up against major hurdles when it comes to securing results. In June 2016, the National Justice Summit held in Sucre produced a number of strategic guidelines. The planning and implementation of the reform will fall to an interinstitutional implementing commission which will be established by law.
- ii) Coca cultivation in Bolivia decreased by 1 % in 2015 compared with the previous year, according to the latest **Bolivia Coca Crop Monitoring Survey** submitted on 5 July by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Bolivian government. The area under coca cultivation fell from 20 400 to 20 200 hectares – a net reduction of 200 hectares. Between 2014 and 2015, the area rationalised/eradicated also decreased by 1 % nationally, from 11 144 to 11 020 hectares, according to data from the Deputy Minister for Social Defence and Controlled Substances.
- iii) Potential coca leaf production in the country was estimated at 32 500 tonnes in 2015. However, there is evidence to suggest that the production of coca leaf in the Yungas region of La Paz has been underestimated due to **a failure to update coca crop yield factors** (expressed in tonnes of coca leaf per hectare under cultivation).
- iv) The **report from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy** – the details of which are unknown – published its 2015 monitoring results. The report indicates that there are 36 500 hectares of coca fields under cultivation and that the country's potential annual cocaine production is 230 metric tonnes (double what it was 10 years ago).

- v) **Seizures:** during the first half of 2016, the Bolivian anti-drug agency, the FELCN carried out 6 418 national operations, during which they seized 6.7 tonnes of cocaine base, 9 tonnes of cocaine hydrochloride and 86.2 tonnes of marijuana. They also managed to destroy 36 drug crystallisation laboratories, 31 laboratories used for recycling controlled substances and 2 202 cocaine factories. These figures are similar to those from the first half of 2015.
- vi) In September 2016, the National Council to Combat Drug Trafficking (CONALTID) decided to establish an interinstitutional commission with the participation of the UNODC to review and approve the methodology of the **study on coca leaf production** proposed by the UNODC. To date, this commission, headed by the CONALTID Coordination Secretariat, has not yet convened.
- vii) The UNODC has been proposing that **the study on conversion factors from coca leaf to cocaine** be carried out for some years now. It still has not received approval from the government.

2. Institutional framework

- i) Legal framework: three fundamental laws in this area have yet to be adopted:
 - 1) A general law on coca, including its use, consumption, transportation, specific authorised cultivation areas and marketing.
 - 2) A law on controlled substances, including a distinction in terms of offences and penalties between the trafficking and micro-trafficking of drugs, updates to lists of controlled substances, the control of chemical precursors, and investigation into illicit profits.
 - 3) The law on forfeiture of assets, which would allow the seized assets to be used to combat drug trafficking.

In September 2016, the government shared the draft laws on controlled substances and forfeiture of assets with the UNODC in order to carry out a technical and legal review to determine whether they are line with the conventions of the international drug control system. The UNODC plans to finish the review of the first law in October and the second in November. The government intends to adopt them before the end of the year.

- ii) *Strategic Framework*: The new National Strategy Against Drug Trafficking and for the Control of Surplus Coca Cultivation 2016-2020 (*ELCN&CCEC*) has recently been adopted. The National Strategy for Comprehensive Development with Coca (ENDIC) is currently under review and is expected to be adopted at the end of 2016.

3. International cooperation

- i) Under regional cooperation we would highlight the **UNODC training programme for public servants** (funded by the EU and Denmark). In recent months the programme has helped to strengthen the State's capacities and to identify priorities common to Bolivia and its neighbouring countries.
- ii) The Bolivian authorities have not yet agreed to the setting up of an **information exchange centre in Santa Cruz** to enhance information-sharing between the neighbouring countries, thereby making a substantial contribution to regional cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking.
- iii) Between May and June 2016, the government announced the **setting up of a police intelligence exchange centre** designed to tackle drug trafficking between **Bolivia, Brazil and Peru**. It will be headquartered in San Pablo (Brazil), and operations in the border areas of the three countries will be run from those offices.
- iv) Bilateral cooperation continues in the form of the **FELCN training programmes delivered by European police bodies**. Police cooperation between the European specialised anti-drugs units and the FELCN has yielded few operational results, due to the lack of Bolivian human and technical police resources, and outdated legislation which makes it difficult to conduct effective police and judicial investigations.
- v) Implementation of the **EU support programme for the ELCN&CCEC** began at the start of 2016 with an initial disbursement of EUR 15 million. The programme has a three-pillar structure: EUR 50 million of budgetary support for the government; EUR 5 million of support for the UNODC to carry out the Coca Crop Monitoring Survey, among other activities; and EUR 5 million in technical assistance from European police bodies to support Bolivian institutions.

- vi) The **European programme for the institutionalisation of the National Council to Combat Drug Trafficking (CONALTID)** is in its final phase and has so far delivered the following **results**: 1) constructing the new CONALTID building in Santa Cruz; 2) improving facilities at FELCN training centres; 3) building and equipping an FELCN operation centre in Ichilo; 4) bolstering DG Migration's capacities with a migration intelligence system and providing equipment for fixed and mobile border crossing points for migrants; 5) providing support for the Bolivian public prosecutor's office in the form of training, equipment and software for drug trafficking investigations; 6) improving the Strategic Operational Command's communication, transport and medical equipment; 7) supporting initiatives to prevent drug consumption.
- vii) **The United States** organised a presentation to the Bolivian government on divergent calculation of the areas in which coca is cultivated in the Yungas and Chapare regions compared to the 2014 UNODC reports. The US government is also continuing to send Bolivian police officers from the various units of the FELCN and Customs officers on a range of courses delivered by the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA).
- viii) In August 2016, Bolivia signed a contract with French company Thales Air Systems for the purchase of **primary military radar systems and secondary civilian radar systems**. This new equipment will provide potential radar coverage of 98 % of the country's territory.
- ix) To strengthen the government's efforts to combat trafficking, the UNODC is managing the implementation of the **Container Control Programme (UNODC-WCO)** and the AIRCOP airport communication programme.

4. Recommendations

We propose the following recommendations to the Bolivian government:

- i) **Expediting the reforms to the legal framework** to equip the public authorities with the appropriate tools for combating drug trafficking (telephone tapping, judicial supervision for investigations into drug trafficking, control of precursors and related offences).

- ii) Introducing **judicial reforms** that will help ensure more effective enforcement of laws and speed up legal proceedings.
- iii) **Strengthening regional cooperation** by bolstering the thematic working group on drugs and making practical progress with neighbouring countries through the joint committees and bilateral agreements.
- iv) **Implementing and improving the supervision of legal markets for the sale of coca leaf.** According to the 2015 Coca Crop Monitoring Survey, the majority of the coca leaf being sold on legal markets (Villa Fátima in La Paz and Sacaba in Chapare) comes from the Yungas region, and 89 % of coca from Chapare does not reach legal markets.
- v) **Updating** the rules and control mechanisms in place regarding **precursors** and expanding the list of substances considered as such, which is outdated and includes many fewer substances than those used in other countries in the region.
- vi) Promoting the drafting and publication of the two pending studies (average productivity and conversion factors from coca leaf to cocaine) and exploring the possibilities of working with Brazil on the study on the coca leaf to cocaine conversion factor, especially under laboratory conditions, which is currently limited by (national) Law 1008.
- vii) Ensuring that the **alternative production projects** and the integrated development of those areas most affected by coca cultivation take into account the social dimension and the needs of young people, who are the most vulnerable section of the population.
- viii) Placing a stronger **focus on prevention and treatment** of drug problems in Bolivia, in line with the country's involvement in UNGASS and with the latter's conclusions.
- ix) Changing the variables for assessing key elements in the fight against drug trafficking, by evaluating coca leaf cultivation in terms of volume (tonnes) rather than surface areas (hectares).

BRAZIL

1. THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Because of Brazil's extensive open borders with the three main cocaine producing countries, Peru, Bolivia and Colombia, large quantities of cocaine are brought to Brazil by land, river and air. However, the production of opiates, cocaine and synthetic drugs in the country continues to be of little significance.

In relation to consumption, as pointed out in previous reports, the lack of recent, reliable, nationwide statistics (the last ones date from 2005) constitutes a significant obstacle to analysing the challenges that the country faces in this field. The vacuum is only partially filled by sectorial studies, like the ones of consumption of crack and cocaine (2013) and of consumption in schools or the prison system. However, the third House Survey commissioned by SENAD to the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz) should shed some light on the current situation by the end of this year. In the opinion of Brazilian Federal Police, cocaine and cannabis consuming is increasing however the seizures. This is due to consumption among general population and because Brazil is a very important transit country, mainly for cocaine, as a result of its geographical position. Regarding synthetic drugs, Brazil is an expanding market for these drugs, and the EU is the main synthetic drug provider. This is an issue of serious concern in the consumption of methamphetamine and ecstasy, as well as the misuse of new chemical substances for the production of drugs.

As regards the fight against drug trafficking, according to the Federal Police data, in 2015 there was a significant decrease in the number of seizures of cocaine (27,209 tons), as compared with 2014 (31,869 tons), but the seizures of cannabis increased (269,899 tons) compared with 2014 (193,885 tons). This data only reflects the seizures from the Federal Police and doesn't include seizures from the states' civil police.

2. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK.

2.1. Institutions involved in drugs policy

The Federal Police leads the Brazilian public policy on drug supply reduction and the National Secretariat on Drugs Policies (SENAD) leads the one on drug demand reduction. It is assisted by the National Council on Drugs Policies (CONAD), composed of representatives from the Government and civil society. Both institutions depend on the Ministry of Justice. The government actions are coordinated within the framework of the Multi-year plan 2016-2019, which targets the reduction of social impact of the use of drugs through preventive, care and social rehabilitation programs. Some federal and local authorities also implement drug related social projects, which offer housing, work, and other care activities in open community services, on a voluntary basis.

Regarding the prevention of drug use, the Brazilian government, with the assistance of UNODC, is investing in pilot projects, targeting families and schools, based on prevention methodologies from the United States and Europe. The three main projects are 'Tamo Junto', which focuses on school children aged 12 and 13, 'Elos' for children between 6 and 10 years old, and 'Familias Fortes', which works with both children and adults in the family environment.

2.2. Legislative changes

The Federal Supreme Court (STF) is currently judging the constitutionality of article 28 of the law 11.343/06, which criminalizes the possession of drugs for personal use, although no prison sentences are contemplated. The court may establish quantitative parameters to distinguish drug possession for personal use and possession with the intent to trafficking in this judgement. This decision has been adjourned for the past few months, but it is expected to be taken up again in the short term.

The STF decided on June 2016 to stop considering first time trafficking a serious offence, as long as the offender has no criminal record. This decision might have a very direct relation with a large number of releases from prison, especially in the case of women.

Law 13.257/16, which regards rights of the child, establishes special treatment in some cases for mothers involved in drug crimes.

On July 2016 the Senate passed a project which establishes preliminary hearings should not take place later than 24 hours after detention. The implementation of this measure, which has already started in São Paulo, has a great importance in crimes related to drugs, from the point of view of procedural guarantees.

The designation of legal and illegal drugs in Brazil depends on an administrative body, the Agencia Nacional de Vigilância Sanitaria (ANVISA). This agency has recently authorised the legal use of cannabidiol, a derivative of cannabis, for therapeutic use.

2.3. Assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute drug policy

Given the size of the country and the multiple bodies involved (various Federal Ministries, state and local authorities, police, civil society, etc.), articulating a comprehensive and coherent drug policy remains a challenge. The political instability of the past few months together with budget cuts due to the adverse economic situation has not helped to develop new policies. The new government is still working on their approach to drugs policy, being this a transitional period which is still undefined in many fields.

Nevertheless, there is a will of facing the problem of overcrowded prisons, which might result in new approaches regarding drug policies.

Some serious studies regarding the large percentage of the prison population related to drugs have been made by different institutions, such as DEPEN (National Penitentiary Department) or the Brazilian Forum of Public Security (Foro Brasileiro de Segurança Pública). The number of incarcerations for drug trafficking have increased 340 % in the past ten years, even more in the case of women (567%). There is a growing social debate on this issue, with a significant part of the population claiming for changes on the criminal approach for drug policies which involve less judicial discretionality in the application of the law related to drug trafficking.

3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In the international arena, Brazil has been very active in the preparation of the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS), in April 2016. Brazil held an innovative approach at the UNGASS, regarding the drugs problem from a public health point of view, supporting harm reduction policies and the exclusion of death penalty. On the regional front, Brazil is satisfied that the different regional fora have been able to produce common declarations on the issue: CELAC (Quito Declaration, May 2015), UNASUR (Montevideo Declaration, August 2015) and Mercosur (Brasilia Declaration on May 2015, under the Brazilian pro tempore presidency). At the UNGASS, the debate and discussion regional networks were reinforced. These declarations, while respecting the framework of the current international conventions, call for a regional approach to drug policies based on a human rights perspective.

On the side of drug demand, in March 2015 the 2nd EU-Brazil Dialogue on Drugs took place in Vienna. The meeting took stock of the current cooperation on drug related matters and Brazil expressed interest in continuing to participate in EU funded projects related to drugs. Brazil's participation in the various EU programs (COPOLAD, SEACOP) has been very positive. For the next five years, FIIAP and Spain's Government Delegation for the National Plan of Drugs (DGPNSD), will be managing phase II of the COPOLAD Programme. The primary objective is to boost cooperative work on drug policy between the countries of CELAC and the EU.

Brazil conducts its cooperation with its neighbours within a framework of joint commissions on organised crime, but they don't meet on a regular basis. A recent meeting took place with Bolivia (June 2016), and meetings with Peru and Argentina will be held in the next few months. Due to this cooperation, this year Brazilian Federal Police joined Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP), a multi-agency, anti-trafficking initiative in order to strengthen detection, interdiction and investigative capacities of participating airports in illicit drug source and transit countries. Moreover, Brazilian Federal Police will join Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP), which seeks to build capacities and strengthen cooperation against maritime trafficking in countries on the trans-Atlantic cocaine route (West Africa and the Eastern Caribbean).

On the internal and operational side, the INTERCOPS program, implemented by the Brazilian Federal Police in Guarulhos airport since November 2014, has strengthened capabilities in the exchange of information on criminal investigations and working methodologies with the participating countries with very promising results, especially on cocaine human couriers.

4. PLACE AND DATE OF MEETINGS OF MINI DUBLIN GROUP

The Mini Dublin Group meeting took place in the Embassy of Spain on October the 10th 2016. There was a presentation on penitentiary policies regarding crimes related to drugs by the National Penitentiary Department (DEPEN). Representatives of the National Secretariat on Drugs Policy (SENAD), the General Attorney Office, the Federal Police and UNODC also attended the meeting and were contacted for the preparation of this document.

5. MINI DUBLIN GROUP ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- On the demand side, the main challenge will be to successfully implement prevention and rehabilitation programs in different social and geographical contexts. It would be useful to continue the exchange of experiences in innovative methodologies in the field of drug prevention and the evaluation of public policies dealing with drugs.
- On the supply side, urge to reinforce border control, by means of using advanced technologies as well as increasing the allocated human resources and including municipal, state and federal police institutions in integrated drug policies. A greater coordination of the different government levels (Federal, State and Municipal) is also essential in order to improve the fight against drug trafficking, as well as ensuring application of Federal judicial measures by state criminal justice.
- Regarding legislative changes, a decision which establishes quantitative parameters to distinguish consumption from trafficking, based also on drug nature, would be helpful.
- The lack of drug seizures official data, commits Brazilian government to make efforts in consolidating the National Statistics System on Public Safety (SINESP), especially in its capacity to aggregate the drugs seizures carried out by state police forces.

- In the area of international police cooperation, besides EU and UNODC programmes, the local implementation of the INTERCOPS project in Guarulhos international airport could be complemented by the establishment of a similar project led by Brazilian federal police and Receita Federal in the main Brazilian shipping/ cargo ports to improve capacities to tackle maritime trafficking.
- The improvement of international cooperation with countries in the region is crucial to address the drug problem in the region. The active dialogue with Brazil in the UNGASS 2016 should be maintained.

CHILE

1. GENERAL SITUATION IN CHILE

Chile is primarily a destination country for drugs for local consumption imported from neighbouring countries. It is not a significant drug-producing country. There is some transit to third countries, although not on a large scale. For the time being at least, there are no reports of laboratories for converting coca base paste into cocaine hydrochloride.

The availability of various types of drugs is currently on the increase, in particular the three most used and abused on the national market: cannabis, cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride.

Synthetic drugs – mainly ecstasy – now account for a substantial proportion of illicit trade: the past three years have seen seizures of the drug rise by more than 2 000 % (albeit from a low initial value).

According to the National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use (SENDA), Chile's drug problem can be linked to a number of factors:

- early initiation into drug use among minors under the age of 15;
- an increase in the supply of and demand for drugs;
- the slow legislative response to the emergence of new psychoactive substances (NPS) or synthetic drugs, which are not covered in the current legislation.

Chile faces a complex situation on the issue of drug trafficking. Its geographical position, bordering or near to the world's main cocaine (Peru and Bolivia) and cannabis (Paraguay) producing countries, and its uniquely extensive access to the Pacific Ocean with the difficulty of monitoring its more than 2 400 km of coastline, and some 150 illegal border crossing points, offer a distinct advantage for criminal organisations involved in drug trafficking.

Data from the first half of 2016 supplied by Chile's two law enforcement agencies, the police and the Criminal Investigation Police Department (PDI), has been used to draft this report.

Types of drug seized by volume in the first half of 2016:

TYPE OF DRUG	2015 (first half)	2016 (first half)	VARIATION
Cocaine hydrochloride (kg)	2 668	2 737	+2.58 %
Cocaine base paste (kg)	4 437	7 098	+59.9 %
Processed marijuana (kg)	11 375	12 434	+9.3 %
Marijuana plants (units)	256 925	293 908	+14.3 %
Pharmaceutical products (units)	34 091	24 012	-29.5 %
Ecstasy (units)	N/A	22 699	
LSD (units)	N/A	5 472	
NBOMe (units)	N/A	33 626	

There has been a visible increase in drug seizures in all categories (the decrease in pharmaceutical product seizures is offset by the figures for ecstasy seizures, which were previously included under the pharmaceutical products category), but particularly striking is the huge increase in cocaine base paste.

Arrests, offender apprehensions and operations carried out by police and criminal investigation officers in the first half of 2016.

Arrests	4 866
Offender apprehensions	22 358
Operations	20 921

In 2015, a total of 37 228 operations were carried out – close to the figure for 2014. Assuming that the same rate is maintained over the second half of the year, the figure of almost 21 000 operations for the first half of 2016 indicates that the Chilean security forces are increasing the pressure against drug trafficking.

There are several **trafficking routes**, the main ones being from Peru. Drugs are transported along routes from this country mainly to Bolivia, Brazil and Chile for consumption and trafficking.

Drugs taken from Peru to Bolivia are centralised and refined in El Alto and subsequently transit through Beni and Santa Cruz towards Brazil, through Sucre and Potosí toward Chile, and through Tarija towards Argentina and Paraguay.

From Bolivia to Chile, cocaine refined in El Alto is transferred to the south to enter Chilean territory via the Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta corridors and unauthorised crossing points in regions I and II. Some consignments of cocaine are hidden in containers in the city of Santa Cruz and transported by lorry to Chile via formal border crossing points in Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta.

The primary cocaine entry route into Chile is over land via authorised, unauthorised and illegal border crossing points in the northern section of the country; the most popular are the border with Bolivia and the Visviri, Chungara, Colchane, Ollagüe and San Pedro de Atacama authorised border crossing points. Among the concealment methods employed, the most common are the classic 'mules' who carry bags or sacks containing concealed drugs across the altiplano on foot, which are left for recipients in Chile to collect, transport and distribute in the country's major cities, the prime destination being the Santiago Metropolitan Region.

There has been an increase in 'swallower' drug runners who cross into Chile after ingesting drug-containing capsules on Bolivian territory; they are detected either at border crossing points or later at secondary checkpoints mostly set up by the PDI.

The maritime route is used for trafficking cocaine from Peru on board fishing vessels that travel between the respective coastlines of the Tacna region in Peru and the Arica and Parinacota (XV) and Tarapacá (I) regions in Chile.

The air route is used to transport smaller quantities of cocaine hydrochloride via airports in the Arica, Parinacota, Tarapacá and Antofagasta regions and Santiago International Airport, linking routes starting in drug-producing countries to destinations in North America and occasionally Europe.

Paraguay is the region's largest supplier of cannabis, with the majority being exported to Brazil and, to a lesser extent, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. Bolivia is rapidly gaining a foothold in this market, however, with high production levels which have resulted in increased trafficking in the substance in the region. The main entry routes are the following crossing points: Colchane, Ollagüe and Jama for the northern section, Los Libertadores for the central section and Cardenal Samoré, Pino Hachado and Icalma for the southern section.

2. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

There have been no changes to the institutional framework, which is based on **Drug Law No 20.000** and the implementing regulations and decrees referred to in the previous report. Several strands of action have been defined under the National Anti-Drug-Trafficking Plan, including:

Anti-Micro-Trafficking Plan

- Micro-Trafficking Programme 0 (MT-0), conducted by the PDI in the communes.
- Agreement on the prevention and prosecution of drug trafficking in neighbourhoods and by criminal organisations 2014-2018.

Anti-Drug-Trafficking Plan

- Prosecute criminal organisations. A programme under the framework of the Agreement on the prevention and prosecution of drug trafficking in neighbourhoods and by criminal organisations 2014-2020.
- Tighten border controls to counter drug trafficking.
- Strengthen controls for precursors and essential chemical substances by setting up investigation teams in this area.
- Reduce economic incentives to drug trafficking by setting up teams to investigate assets and money laundering.

3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Through SENDA, the Chilean government participates in a number of multilateral specialist bodies, e.g. the UN, the OAS, MERCOSUR and GAFILAT.

A good level of technical cooperation is maintained with other countries' prosecution services through the International Cooperation and Extradition Unit (UCIEX), which receives and handles requests relating to investigations conducted by outside bodies, carrying out work in the areas of international relations, international legal cooperation and technical assistance. UCIEX is also responsible for monitoring international technical cooperation projects through which the Chilean prosecution service collaborates with other bodies or benefits from other projects.

The Chilean Government's International Cooperation Programme for Uniformed Foreign Police Forces (CECIPU) is a scholarship programme aimed at uniformed police forces for training with the Chilean police.

The Chilean police is a founding member of AMERIPOL, the Police Community of the Americas, which aims to enhance police cooperation in the technical-scientific and capacity-building sectors, and to streamline the exchange of information for intelligence purposes.

In addition to the police and the PDI, the following Chilean bodies are also involved in the fight against drug trafficking:

SAG - the Agriculture and Livestock Service, under the Ministry of Agriculture, which is responsible for controlling species at border crossing points and authorising the cultivation of plant species such as marijuana.

FAU - the Financial Analysis Unit, a decentralised body under the Ministry of Finance, which analyses possible cases of money laundering associated with drug trafficking. It works in coordination with the Public Prosecutor's Office when it finds information that could trigger the launch of an investigation.

NCS - the National Customs Service, an autonomous body linked to the Government through the Ministry of Finance. It is responsible for controlling goods that enter or leave the country and detecting cases of drug trafficking via imports or exports.

DIRECTEMAR - the Directorate-General of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Navy under the Chilean Navy in the Ministry of National Defence. In its role as maritime police it supports the efforts of the other branches of the country's police forces by carrying out controls on vessels in territorial waters, along the entire length of the Chilean coastline and on navigable rivers and lakes.

ISP - the Public Health Institute under the Ministry of Health, which is responsible for identifying the type of drugs seized in order to determine whether they are a controlled substance or a new psychoactive substance that needs to be reported to other national and international bodies.

The Department of Controlled Chemical Substances - under the Research Division of the Sub-Secretariat of the Interior, which is tasked with controlling the production, manufacture, preparation, import and export of precursors and essential chemical substances that may be used in the production of illicit drugs.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) Do more to develop comprehensive plans to combat drug addiction that include children and young people in order to reverse the current trend with regard to the age at which consumption begins, ensuring that the most vulnerable groups receive accurate information as to the risks associated with the consumption of different drugs.
- b) Strengthen existing bilateral police relations with bordering countries with the aim of providing real-time access to information on activities connected with the influx of drugs, allowing effective mechanisms to be established that would, at the very least, make bringing drugs into Chile more difficult.
- c) Strengthen the existing mechanism for registering the bodies which import chemical precursors.

d) Suggest that the Chilean authorities set up a central office for combating drug trafficking; provide support where necessary. Such a structure could involve the PDI, the police and the prosecution service in order to encourage an overall approach to the issue and – under the control of the judicial authority – exchanges of information and investigations between the various departments.

Santiago de Chile, 7 September 2016

Colombia

1. Introduction. Political context.

Colombia is one of the main drivers of the discussion on the need to adopt a new approach to combating drugs in South America. Between 2012 and 2014, discussion of this issue took off in political and social media. Colombia and other countries in the region are advocating a new approach to drug-related issues which, as anticipated in the previous report in November 2015, materialised as a common position of many of the Latin American countries at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in April 2016.

In Colombia illegal armed groups have financed their activities primarily from drug trafficking which, although not the cause of the armed conflict, has contributed to prolonging it. It is for this reason that solving the problem of illegal drugs was one of the points discussed during the talks in Havana, under point 4 of the agenda.

This point is based on the premise that a lasting and stable peace is impossible to achieve without resolving the drug-trafficking problem and its various manifestations. The FARC are committed to actively contributing to the eradication of drug-trafficking. This point centres on three concepts:

- Illegal crop substitution to generate conditions of greater well-being in communities, allowing them to transition to a legal economy. This will be a voluntary process for the farmers, who are committed to substituting crops and replanting. The government, for its part, is committed to territorial integration and social inclusion programmes in the context of comprehensive rural reform.
- The drug consumption problem is to be approached from a public health perspective, separating the treatment required by users from the prosecution of organised crime, in accordance with the new approach advocated by the Santos Government.

- Combating drug trafficking. The government will focus its efforts on combating the organised crime associated with drug trafficking. This fight is deemed essential in order to guarantee security conditions in the territories and to implement the peace agreement. It will also seek to dismantle the criminal gangs embedded in the regions.

In any case, and although a number of Latin American countries, among them Colombia, advocated a new approach to the drug problem at the last UNGASS session, there are many points of convergence with the countries of the EU: essentially in the idea that there is a balance between health, human rights and security as the three factors to be taken into account in the fight against drug trafficking. The main point of divergence is whether the UN Conventions should be interpreted literally or flexibly.

There has been greater concern about drug trafficking owing to the recent increase in coca cultivation. According to data from UNODC, the area under cultivation rose from 48 000 hectares in 2013 to 69 000 in 2014 and 96 084 in 2015.

However, it should be noted that whilst the new national public prosecutor, Néstor Humberto Martínez, advocated aerial spraying with herbicides other than glyphosate in order to combat the worrying increase in the size of the area under cultivation, President Santos again rejected this procedure, banking on successful implementation of the agreement reached in Havana with the FARC in relation to the issue of illegal drugs.

At the time of writing there are no data suggesting that demand has increased in the USA and Europe. Despite the foregoing, the signature of the peace agreements with the FARC-EP, with the risk that organised crime groups could try to take control of the areas of cultivation occupied by the guerilla group, the difficulties faced by the government's crop substitution programme owing, amongst other things, to the increase in the average price paid per kilogram of leaf to coca-growers and, finally, the noticeable decrease in areas being sprayed, all point to an undesirable scenario in which the quantities of the substance available to consumers on the black market will increase substantially, despite the outstanding efforts and excellent results of the Colombian security forces in terms of the number of tonnes seized and the dismantling of production infrastructure.

Colombia continues to be fully involved in combating criminal organisations, especially those with the largest presence in the country and internationally. The Colombian National Police categorises organised crime groups into three different types, identified as A, B and C. The Criminal Investigation and Interpol Directorate have provided the following data, for the period between January and July 2016, on the fight against organised crime: 916 type A group members captured, 264 type B members captured, 4 530 type C arrests. 13 national leaders neutralised, 37 regional leaders, 140 tonnes of cocaine seized, 598 laboratories destroyed and 570 assets confiscated, valued at 598 042 703 360 Colombian pesos.

2. General drug situation in Colombia

In 2015 the Republic of Colombia consolidated its position as the world leader in productive yield in the transformation of coca leaf, due in large part to the substantial increase in the area used for the illegal cultivation of coca.

According to crop data, at the end of 2015 the areas under cultivation covered an estimated 96 000 hectares, compared with 69 000 in 2014, representing a 39 %¹ increase and maintaining the upward trend recorded since 2013. The area covered by coca crops also rose by 16 %² from 109 788 ha to 126 952 ha.

During 2014, some 55 532 ha were sprayed, compared with 37 199 ha in 2015, a drop of 33 %³. Forced manual eradication increased by 12 % from 12 271 ha in 2014 to 14 267 ha in 2015³.

¹ Data from the UNODC/SIMCI report of July 2016.

² The affected area corresponds to the areas cultivated with coca leaf as recorded on 31 December of 2014 and 2015.

³ Data from the Anti-Drugs Directorate (DIRAN) of the Colombian police.

The number of departments in which coca is grown remains stable at 21 out of a total of 32, but potential cocaine production rose 46 % from 442 tonnes in 2014 to 646 tonnes in 2015. The departments in which most of the crops (81 %) are to be found are in the south - Nariño, Cauca, Putumayo and Caquetá – and the Norte de Santander (Catatumbo) department in the north-east of the country. In relation to the increase in the areas cultivated by department in the period 2014-2015: there was a 72 % increase in Nariño, 66 % in Norte de Santander, 47 % in Putumayo, 36 % in Cauca and 18 % in Caquetá. It is worth noting the 143 % increase in the area planted in the department of Córdoba, from 560 ha to 1 363 ha, although it amounts to only 1 % of the country's area under cultivation.

With regard to the fight against drug trafficking, seizures of cocaine hydrochloride, either in Colombia or of Colombian origin, increased by 71 % to 252 tonnes in 2015, compared with 147.5 tonnes in 2014. In relation to production infrastructure, in 2014 2 340 laboratories were destroyed; in 2015 this figure increased by 64 % to 3 827, although it should be noted that these data include crystallisation labs and cocaine base paste production infrastructure.

As to illegal drug consumption habits, we are unaware of any work carried out more recently than the 2013 national study on the consumption of psychoactive substances in Colombia, which showed that 13 % of the Colombian population had taken drugs at least once. The 2016 SIMCI report, which mentions clear signs of an increase in domestic consumption in Colombia and Latin America, is the only current reference on domestic consumption.

According to the most recent 'Heroin in Colombia' study by the Ministry of Justice and Law and the Colombian Drugs Observatory ('Heroin in Colombia - production, use and public health impact - analysis of the evidence and policy recommendations', Bogotá, Colombia, 2015), the number of heroin users taking the drug intravenously in Colombia could be close to 15 000; cities such as Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Pereira, Armenia, Cúcuta and Santander de Quilichao have witnessed a slow but constant increase in this phenomenon on their streets. The majority are single men with secondary or tertiary-level education; many live in precarious conditions, make a living through casual work and are often involved in trafficking small quantities of this drug and in sex work.

In order to resolve this problem the national government, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is developing actions designed to reduce the negative effects of drug use and the risks associated with consumption practices, and to improve the accessibility of the social assistance network for these users so as to improve their quality of life. Specifically, this will be achieved through formulating and providing advice to be used in local plans for an institutional-level response to the growing problem of heroin consumption, as well as strategies to facilitate the identification of heroin users, through community networks and comprehensive care strategies for intravenous users of heroin and other drugs.

Studies carried out over the last two years demonstrate the global nature of the problem of synthetic drugs and NPSs; the presence of drugs of the 25 NBOMe family, tryptamines, Spice, cathinones and some highly toxic phenethylamines such as PMMA has been identified chemically: many of these drugs are sold as ecstasy and LSD. Studies show that different types of drugs, with considerably different toxicological characteristics, are being presented and sold as the same product, which poses a considerable risk to the health of consumers.

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

The Colombian authorities continue to take a clear and decisive approach to the fight against all aspects of drug trafficking: **production, consumption, trafficking and money laundering**. The government continues to focus its activities on regionalisation, undertaking integrated action on economic development, access to justice, education and healthcare, among other aspects, and making significant investments.

As regards international cooperation, the programmes mentioned in earlier reports from this group remain in operation: AMERIPOL, COPOLAD, UNODC/SIMCI.

The principal destinations of large-scale drug trafficking are still the United States and Europe through the traditional corridors mentioned in previous reports. The use of contaminated sea cargo containers remains the most common method, with increasing numbers of human couriers and parcels for small-scale trafficking. An increase in the use of light vessels to transport the substance using the traditional maritime corridors has been detected.

Finally, the Colombian authorities remain concerned about synthetic drugs, the control of chemical precursors and other 'psychedelic' substances derived from plant-based preparations which are traditionally used on indigenous reservations and whose basic ingredient is dimethyltryptamine (DMT).

4. Priority needs in terms of external assistance.

The following should be highlighted:

- Renew the European Union/Ameripol programme on combating drug trafficking to Europe, which ends at the end of this year (Second Phase-Ameripol II).
- Consolidate the Bogotá Platform for the exchange of strategic information and the development of operational projects to combat drug trafficking and related offences committed by organised groups.
- Increase Colombia's regional cooperation capacity with regard to precursors, synthetic drugs and money laundering.
- Increase multinational or bilateral external funding for Colombian institutions that combat drug trafficking and related offences.
- Intensify 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.

5. Recommendations by the Dublin Group in Bogotá.

- Step up controls along the land, river and air corridors used for illicit trade and in border areas, strengthening cooperation with countries in the region.

- Increase the intelligence-gathering and technical resources of the Colombian bodies responsible for the controls carried out on people and merchandise in ports and airports to reduce drug trafficking.
- Increase monitoring of the use and final destination of the most commonly used chemical precursors, targeting activities and increasing the capacity for intraregional cooperation and knowledge transfer.
- Promote more involvement of EU Member States in Colombia, at bilateral level as well as jointly, in a policy which also embraces the operational approach.
- Encourage and support the Colombian government's efforts, through three-way cooperation (bilateral between two countries of the continent and a third organisation or another country) and South-South cooperation, to combat drug trafficking regionally and internationally.
- Improve analysis and monitoring of the origins of the cocaine seized on the territories of Member States in order to identify where the threat is coming from and to plan the fight in accordance with the results, strengthening the exchange of information between countries in the region and the members of the Dublin Group.
- Encourage the members of the Dublin Group to support the Colombian government's efforts to implement comprehensive reform of the rural system.
- Support and encourage potential proactive measures by the Colombian institutions responsible for reducing domestic consumption of all types of narcotic substances.

(Points 4 and 5 of the report have not been amended, pending the proposals of the various members of the Dublin Group. Delegations which wish to add recommendations or requirements are requested to communicate them before the meeting to be held on 4 October at the offices of the Spanish Embassy. This will allow them to be incorporated into the draft and debated during the meeting.)

ECUADOR

1. Assessment of the general situation in Ecuador with regard to drugs.

Ecuador remains a key element in the fight against drug trafficking in the region. Aspects that marked the period were the foreseeable effects of Colombia's peace process along the northern border, and the emergence of a new exit route for cocaine on board small-scale fishing vessels.

Since the cessation of coca-crop spraying in Colombia, the area under cultivation has expanded from around 120 000 hectares to 200 000 hectares at present. Although the peace talks between the government and the FARC guerrillas achieved their goal of a definitive ceasefire, observers fear that the discussions and demobilisation of the FARC may create a power vacuum that would allow organised crime to restructure and diversify its trafficking. By way of example, the FARC's 40th Front, deployed along the border between Colombia and Ecuador, has made known that it does not agree with the outcome of the talks. Given the growing area under cultivation and the divisions within the FARC, Colombian traffickers still view Ecuadorian territory as an ideal route for transporting their drugs to the Pacific and, from there, to Europe and other continents.

One consequence of the ceasefire agreement is already being felt in Ecuador. The *Movimiento Revolucionario Alfarista* (MRA) – which has both Ecuadorian and Colombian nationals as members – has emerged in certain parts of Sucumbíos Province, planting explosive devices in establishments which refuse to be extorted from; this could be the first in a series of new armed groups whose main activity will be drug trafficking, although they may try to present themselves as being part of the popular struggle against injustice, to win the support of their fellow citizens.

The use of Ecuadorian ports – of which there are 18 in total: four commercial, nine privately managed and five small-scale fishing ports – for drug trafficking continues to rise. However, over the last year, there has been a change in the methods used by drug trafficking groups.

As regards the four ports of Guayaquil, and primarily the Contecón port, seizures have fallen sharply. The same is true of the Guayaquil port terminal, which specialises in refrigerated exports. Intelligence analysis suggests that due to the major seizures made at those ports in 2014 and 2015, the criminal groups have changed tack. This year, drug traffickers have been using Ecuador's five fishing ports, in particular the port of Ancón in Esmeraldas and the port of Anconcito in Manabí. Using small-scale fishing boats and the Galapagos Islands as a port of call, they transport drug shipments to Central America, and primarily Guatemala. From there, the drugs are sent on to Europe and the United States. One consequence of that change is that over 300 Ecuadorian fishermen, captured offshore, are in jail in Colombia, Guatemala and the United States. So far this year, over 100 Ecuadorian fishermen have landed on Colombian and Guatemalan shores as 'presumed castaways', some of them up to seven times, and after receiving humanitarian assistance, they return to Ecuador without having to face criminal proceedings. Admiral Fernando Noboa, commander of the Ecuadorian Navy, has publicly declared that maritime intelligence is not effective.

Drug seizures in the first eight months of 2016 totalled 77 tonnes, compared to the 79 tonnes seized in 2015 as a whole, of which 38 tonnes were for international trafficking. These data demonstrate that the Ecuadorian authorities continue to be effective in this field, although the steady rise in drugs seizures suggests that the problem has taken on a worrying dimension.

Of the 77 tonnes of drugs seized in 2016, it was found that 10 tonnes were intended for domestic consumption and 38 tonnes for international trafficking, while it was not possible to establish the final destination of the remaining 29 tonnes. Of the 38 tonnes intended for international trafficking, 3.5 tonnes or 9.21 % (58.45 % in 2015) were bound for Europe, 4.7 tonnes or 12.36 % (30.93 % in 2015) for North America and 26.1 tonnes or 68.42 % (7.38 % in 2015) for Central America. The remaining 3.7 tonnes were bound for other continents. The changes in percentages in 2016 clearly demonstrate the new drug-trafficking strategy mentioned above.

The total amount of drugs seized in 2016 breaks down as follows: 67.8 tonnes of cocaine hydrochloride; 8.4 tonnes of marijuana; 1.5 tonnes of cocaine base paste; and 88 kg of heroin.

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

When approved and implemented, the draft Organic Code on Citizen Security Bodies, which is still before the National Assembly, will bring about an organisational change with regard to the national police force and police careers, with a view to turning the force into a more efficient and coordinated institution and bringing it into line with the requirements of a modern, citizen-friendly police force. The Unit Against Trafficking for Domestic Consumption (UCTCI) was set up recently and is yielding very good results in the fight against drug trafficking.

The creation of the Technical Secretariat for Drugs to replace the National Council for Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (CONSEP) has made the fight against micro-trafficking more effective, with the result that 85 % of the anti-drugs police officers are now dedicated to fighting this type of crime, while the rest focus on fighting drug trafficking.

3. International cooperation

The cooperation involving 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, the European Commission and the United States. Bilaterally, efforts have also been made by France, Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. Ecuador actively participates in drugs cooperation programmes financed by the EU, such as COPOLAD, the second phase of which became operational in early 2016 and also includes the Caribbean countries, PREDEM, AMERIPOL-EU, PRELAC, GAFISUD-EU and, in terms of political dialogue on this issue, EU-CELAC, in which Ecuador is a very active participant.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

- a) Above all, increase the contribution towards training in the control and prosecution of money laundering, offering international advice on the development of Ecuadorian legislation to combat money laundering.
- b) One issue that remains to be resolved is whether the Financial Analysis Unit should be attached to the Ministry of Finance or the Ministry of the Interior; discussions are ongoing on this issue. Linked to the above is the draft reform of the law on the prevention, detection and eradication of the crime of money laundering and the financing of crime, which is currently under negotiation.
- c) Stress the benefits of improved coordination among 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, the current policy of cooperation and coordination should be continued so as to organise seminars and courses, etc., with such activities being conducted by specialists from Member States wishing to participate.
- d) Urge Ecuador to exercise greater control over the country's port infrastructure, especially its fishing ports, by creating a database of all artisanal vessels – something which is lacking at present – and establishing regular inspections to identify vessels and their true owners.
- e) In the talks between the Colombian government and the FARC, the guerilla group has stated that it is willing to permanently disengage from the drug trade; however, it is still possible that groups of ex-fighters, lacking any other form of real economy, may not only continue trafficking but also extend their activities into parts of other neighbouring countries, such as Ecuador; the police and military authorities should therefore plan for that eventuality via preventive and, if necessary, reactive operations.

PARAGUAY

A. General situation:

Paraguay is still facing major challenges in the fight against drug trafficking. In terms of **SUPPLY**, it remains a producer country and, together with Colombia, it is the **largest marijuana producer** in South America. No new data are available on the area under cultivation, which is still estimated to stand at around 6 000 ha and to produce approximately 16 500 tonnes, accounting for around 15 % of world production. The annual yield of the crop at local wholesale prices is in excess of USD 350 million. The main market for Paraguayan cannabis is Brazil, to which 80 % of production is sent. According to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB report 2015), the increase in the level of cannabis seizures worldwide is mainly due to the **increase in seizures** in South America, and particularly in Paraguay⁴, Colombia and Brazil (in descending order). There are still no initiatives to **map** crops or to promote **alternative crops**. Both questions are central to UNODC's National Integrated Plan.

At the meeting, the Paraguayan authorities expressed growing concern at the **increasing presence of synthetic substances**, some of which they were not even able to identify. With respect to cocaine, there have been no new developments that point to a decrease in the transit, mentioned in previous reports, of cocaine (90 % from Bolivia) to Brazilian ports (from where it is smuggled into Europe via Africa), or that indicate a fall in the number of laboratories. On the contrary, over 2 tonnes were seized in 2015. Of particular concern is the presence in Paraguay of base paste, which is being exchanged for marijuana at the border with Bolivia.

⁴ In 2015, around 350 tonnes were seized and 1 600 ha destroyed in Paraguay.

On the **demand** side, it should be noted that the Paraguayan authorities are devoting increasing attention to the **public health** aspect of the drugs issue. The **growing prevalence of the use of base paste**, popularly known as 'crack', which has devastating effects on the health of those using it, 80 % of whom are minors⁵, is a matter of particular concern. Measures are therefore being taken in the areas of **data collection, awareness-raising initiatives and training activities**. With respect to data collection, the third survey of schoolgoers was conducted in 2015⁶; work is also being carried out on awareness-raising with the design of a campaign involving comics (the 'Vos decidís' campaign); thirdly, a group of experts has been established to draw up manuals for teachers. In addition, a farm school ('Granja Don Bosco') for young addicts has opened in Piribebuy, around 75 km from Asunción, and has received 80 000 dollars through Japanese cooperation. This initiative has its origins in a previous meeting of the mini Dublin group; it currently has the capacity for 70 young people. In spite of this, there continues to be a serious shortage of treatment and rehabilitation centres. As well as the Don Bosco centre, there is one national centre with 30 beds. In addition, there are 42 private centres, which are difficult for persons with few resources and lacking official certification to access. Since 2008 there have been minimum standards for building permits, and an authorisation mechanism for the methods used is currently being worked on.

B. Institutional framework:

Action against drug trafficking is **managed and conducted primarily by SENAD**, which is at ministerial level and reports to the office of the President of the Republic. The National Anti-Corruption Secretariat (SENAC) also plays a growing role in the fight against drugs owing to the inter-relationship between politics and drugs. The Secretariat for the Prevention of Money Laundering (SEPRELAD), the national police, the armed forces and the prosecution service complete the institutional framework. In parallel, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays an active role of interinstitutional coordination in relations with international actors. Major shortcomings as regards interinstitutional coordination remain, though some progress has been made.

⁵ This problem was specifically highlighted in the 2015 INCB report.

⁶ Its findings confirm that 10 % of students are affected by drugs.

It should be noted that work has been ongoing since mid-2015 on the design of the **National Drugs Policy**. It is currently in the final stage of preparation, and the aim is to present the final draft for government approval in November or the first week of December. The Paraguayan authorities insisted on several occasions on the importance of implementing a nationally-developed policy, and of not repeating the error of importing models from other countries. Another noteworthy development was the approval in February by Decree of the **National Plan to combat corruption**. In May, the Chamber of Deputies gave preliminary approval to a **draft law on the administration of seized assets**. Lastly, it is important to draw attention to the fact that the President of the Republic **vetoed the new law on banks** owing to the restrictions it placed on the investigation of possible cases of money laundering. In fact, money laundering was highlighted by the SENAD representatives at the meeting as one of Paraguay's weak points.

C. International cooperation:

One of the issues discussed at the meeting was the **UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs** held in April 2016. Paraguay supported positions on essential issues such as the abolition of the death penalty, the proportionality of sentences (SENAD recognised that this was an unresolved issue for Paraguay; the average sentence for murder is eight years, while the average sentence for drug trafficking is 15 years), the future of the three UN Conventions, the increased focus on public health, and a better balance between supply and demand policies.

The Paraguayan authorities also expressed their **opposition to liberalisation of the consumption of marijuana**, as it would require a level of State control that Paraguay is currently unable to take on, and would create new problems.

On the **EU** side, it was pointed out that EU support was mainly channelled towards multi-country projects in the region, such as COPOLAD and PRELAC; however, it does not rule out making specific contributions in the future to Paraguay's anti-drugs policy. Paraguay will attend the first meeting of the second phase of COPOLAD in the Netherlands in June. Paraguay participates in the programme, although it has not managed to be included as a partner.

UNODC works closely with the Paraguayan authorities on the basis of the National Integrated Plan (NIP). The NIP ends on 31 December 2016, since no provision has been made at this point for a further integrated programme with the government. Resources will continue to be invested in transparency measures thanks to a new contribution from Germany which was formalised recently. Support has been provided for the drawing up of the national anti-corruption plan through a voluntary contribution by Germany to the NIP, technical assistance in drawing up a prison system management manual has been delivered, and the preparation of a legislative framework for the administration of seized assets is being supported through the *Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative* (STAR). Involvement by UNODC in the implementation of the NIP depends on voluntary contributions. Of the three NIP sub-programmes, the first (organised crime and illicit trafficking) lacks funding; the second sub-programme receives a contribution from the German government (justice and anti-corruption); while sub-programme 3 (drug demand reduction and treatment) receives funding from Spain and SENAD.

UNITED STATES: attention was drawn to the importance of international cooperation and the advisability of sharing with Paraguay programmes that had been successful in other countries. Mention was also made of support for Paraguay in judicial and penitentiary reform, with a three-year programme that is currently coming to an end, and in money laundering and forfeiture of assets. SENAD highlighted the importance of the support provided by the US and Brazil in operations to seize cocaine and in the destruction of marijuana crops through sensitive equipment and operational financing.

JAPAN: mention was made of its contribution to projects aimed at providing education and training for children to ensure that they do not get drawn into drugs and delinquency. The official inauguration of the 'Granja Don Bosco' therapeutic centre, to which reference was made above, is scheduled for November. Work is being carried out on other projects to improve schools in districts with poor families.

UNITED KINGDOM: its cooperation with Paraguay is mainly managed from Brazil. However, in October the British Embassy in Paraguay funded a training programme on strengthening cross-border monitoring of the physical transportation of cash or bearer negotiable instruments. International experts shared the latest developments in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and more than 40 senior officials working for the competent authorities received training. These included officials from the Secretariat for the Prevention of Money Laundering (SEPRELAD), the National Customs Directorate, the national police, the National Antidrug Secretariat (SENAD), the Secretariat for the Prevention and Investigation of Terrorism, the National Directorate of Civil Aviation, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Directorate-General for Migration and the Central Bank of Paraguay.

FRANCE: various technical cooperation initiatives are being carried out. In 2015, training initiatives were carried out on conducting checks in specific zones, on land transport and on containers. In 2016 training courses for the national police were held on 'Handling crime scenes and drug trafficking' and 'Conducting checks on shipping containers'. The Paraguayan authorities stressed the importance of the French '*Écouter d'abord*' programme as a model for demand reduction.

SPAIN: the meeting was briefed on a seminar held in Montevideo in May on the economic impact of drug trafficking, with the participation of a member of the Paraguayan national police. A project on restorative juvenile justice has also been launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice.

D. Recommendations:

- There has been some progress as regards interinstitutional coordination, but it needs to be stepped up and made more effective.
- There is a **need to increase mapping** of areas of marijuana cultivation and to promote **alternative crops** through international cooperation projects.
- Importance of the entry into force of the **law on forfeiture of assets and of the effective implementation of the BIDAL project**.

- Importance of stepping up the fight against **corruption** and promoting transparency and the effective enforcement of laws.

Step up demand reduction work via more specialist training of human resources, **upgrading treatment and rehabilitation centres, increasing the coverage of school prevention programmes**, with more organised civil society participation, and conducting periodic **studies** of key populations (such as schools, homes, emergency centres, prisons and treatment centres) with regard to the prevalence of and trends in drug **consumption**, as well as associated risk factors.

PERU

The **national anti-drugs strategy 2012-2016 (ENLD)** has provided the guidelines for the actions of the Peruvian State, which, through the National Commission for Development and Life Without Drugs (DEVIDA), has committed considerable resources to combating drug trafficking.

This strategy was designed to tackle the problem of drugs through a **comprehensive approach**, incorporating, among others, the aspects of *prevention, alternative development and eradication*. In this way, during the strategy's implementation period, the area under coca cultivation was reduced by 35.5 %. The most recent official data published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - *estimated on the basis of the Comprehensive Illicit Crop Monitoring System (SIMCI)* - identifies a cultivated area of 40 300 ha, supporting the decrease in the coca-growing area.

1. Overall situation in the country:

a) Coca leaf, cocaine base paste and cocaine hydrochloride

Coca-growing area

In 2015, according to the UNODC, coca cultivation was reduced to 40 300 ha (*6.1 % less than in 2014*). This figure is consistent with the downward trend which began in 2012, and is the culmination of the implementation of the ENLD 2012-2016.

The greatest concentration of coca cultivation in Peru is to be found in the coca-growing areas of the Apurímac-Ene-Mantaro River Valley (VRAEM) with 18 333 ha; la Convención y Lares with 10 454 ha; and Inambari-Tambopata with 3 811 ha. The VRAEM accounts for 45.5 % of the total area under cultivation, and 69.5 % of potential national production.

In 2015, the programme to reduce the area under coca cultivation focused its activities on the lower Amazon (-82.7 %), Aguaytia (-40.7 %) and Pichis-Paicazu-Pachitea (-40.3 %). The production areas which increased were Inambari-Tambopata (10.3 %), and Marañón (8.8 %). This reduction programme has managed to eliminate 35 868 ha of coca.

Potential output

Potential dried coca leaf production amounted to 96 304 tonnes on 31 December 2015. However, no data was reported for potential cocaine production, as updated coca leaf to cocaine conversion factors were not available. Legislative Decree 1241 and its implementing regulation, adopted in June 2016, allow the competent authorities to carry out this kind of research. The UNODC is preparing a proposal to support the State in launching relevant studies.

It is important to note that 9 000 tonnes of the total volume of dried coca leaf produced are chewed in the traditional way, according to data from the National Institute for Statistics and Information Technology (INEI); but this data also needs to be brought up-to-date by implementing the register of coca farmers and creating a new census of coca farmers linked to the National Coca Company (ENACO S.A.).

Prices

The table below shows the change in prices in the production areas between 2014 and 2015. The fall in prices can be explained by a more abundant supply of coca leaf and more efficient processes for producing coca leaf and transforming it into cocaine base paste and cocaine.

Item	Price 2014 (USD/kg)	Change	Price 2015 (USD/kg)
Average price of dried coca leaf	4.3	-9.3 %	3.9
Average price of cocaine base paste	843	-11.6 %	745
Average price of cocaine hydrochloride	1 178	-3.8 %	1 133

Source: SIMCI-UNODC Coca Crop Monitoring Survey 2015

http://www.unodc.org/documents/peruandecuador//Informes/MonitoreoCoca/Monitoreo_de_coca_Peru_2015_WEB.pdf

Seizures

National police actions show a substantial increase in seizures. In 2015 *112 062 kg of drugs were seized, compared to 33 835 kg in 2014*. Of all drug seizures, base paste accounts for 11 621 kg, cocaine hydrochloride for 8 446 kg and marijuana for 91 995 kg.

In Peru, illicit drug traffickers generally operate in collusion with national criminal organisations ('creole cartels and family clans'). These organisations transfer the drugs from the production areas to interim destinations in towns located mainly in the Peruvian Andes, before moving them on to coastal or border towns. In these places, the shipments are put together and, from there on, controlled by the international cartels.

The shipments - *export of cocaine base paste and cocaine hydrochloride* - are carried out by all available means. Overland transportation primarily heads towards the south-eastern part of the country - *Puno and Madre de Dios* - on the way to Bolivia; drugs transported by waterway are principally bound for Brazil; the sea route is more sophisticated since it operates through the creation and use of front export companies, with the 'merchandise' being hidden in the numerous containers that are shipped from the various ports daily.

The air route used by illicit drug traffickers, through the construction or renovation of secret air strips, is another story altogether. In recent years, the UNODC has been involved in identifying such facilities. The resulting information has been used by the State to arrange the destruction of these air strips.

An extremely worrying phenomenon is drug traffickers' growing use of illegal light aircraft, which operate from increasingly dispersed clandestine airstrips. The authorities have drawn up regulations to deter this practice, such as the law on the control, vigilance and defence of the national air space, known as the Air Interdiction Law. However, the State should incorporate additional control systems in the implementation of this law and provide the relevant public bodies with the necessary resources and logistics.

b) Poppy and other opiates

Statistics on these substances are managed by the national police, but there is no information on the methods used to generate them, and although it is known that all finds are destroyed, that information is not sufficient to provide a scientific diagnosis of the problem. There is evidence of an increase in demand for opium latex, which suggests an increase in the supply of the raw materials (crops grown for the extraction of latex).

c) Drug consumption in Peru

Not many statistics are available, but according to a 2013 study by CEDRO, the illegal drugs with the greatest lifetime prevalence in Peru are marijuana (7.5 %), cocaine base paste (2.9 %) and cocaine (2.4 %). The situation is serious, since drugs can be obtained cheaply and from numerous sources. According to DEVIDA, around 106 000 Peruvians who consume illegal drugs urgently need treatment to tackle their addiction, a problem which clearly requires greater attention from the public authorities.

d) Main approaches and results in the fight against drugs

Eradication: In 2015, the aim was to eradicate 35 000 ha. This figure was slightly exceeded, with a total area of 35 868 ha eradicated. The analysis carried out by the UNODC shows an actual reduction of only 2 381 ha of coca production; the difference stems primarily from 're-eradication'⁷ operations carried out by CORAH (a project for the control and eradication of coca leaf in Upper Huallaga) - *in which 33 487 ha of recently planted (non-productive) coca crops were removed.*

It is worth mentioning that in 2015, eradication in the Amazon Trapezium (in the north of Peru in the Loreto region) was quite substantial. CORAH reported the eradication of more than 13 000 ha. The UNODC's most recent estimates support this figure; however, an increase in other areas close to the main area of coca eradication has been noted.

⁷ Crop eradication carried out more than once in the same area. Some farmers reinstate coca cultivation after eradication. Re-eradication prevents new crops from reaching the productive stage.

Although VRAEM continues to be the largest and the most problematic production zone, in 2015 the Peruvian government adopted, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, a new package of projects focused on 'productive reconversion' and the financing of business plans. It is understood that the new government is evaluating the results of this initiative.

Interdiction and seizures: In addition to the seizure of 112 076 kg of drugs, 573 cocaine hydrochloride processing laboratories were destroyed. The National Commission for Confiscated Goods (CONABI) has carried out a number of public auctions. Arrests of drug mules (*'burriers'*) continue to increase, especially at Lima Jorge Chávez International Airport.

2. Institutional framework:

a) Policy framework:

The national anti-drugs strategy expires this year and the national authorities are collaborating to develop a new strategy for 2017-2021.

The current strategy, in effect until December, establishes the general objective of a drastic and lasting reduction in illegal trafficking and consumption of drugs and their adverse social, political, economic, cultural and environmental effects, making coca farmers move into a legitimate economy.

This strategy has four strategic objectives: **(i) integrated and sustainable alternative development**, by making it more feasible for people to disengage themselves from coca cultivation; **(ii) interdiction and punishment**, through a significant reduction in the unlawful production and trafficking of drugs and related offences, dismantling organised crime organisations and bringing them to justice. Increased detection and investigation of money laundering is also proposed; **(iii) prevention and rehabilitation**, decreasing drug consumption nationally using preventive and therapeutic measures; **(iv) overall commitment** under the principle of shared responsibility.

b) Main institutions:

The implementation of the existing national anti-drugs strategy and the development of the new strategy for 2017-2021 is the responsibility of DEVIDA, which works together with other government bodies and is the lead agency in the fight against drugs in Peru.

Carmen Masías has taken over as head of the agency.

The institutions which support and coordinate with DEVIDA include the Ministry of the Interior, through the Anti-Drugs Executive Directorate (DIREJANDRO) and the special project for the control and eradication of coca leaf in Upper Huallaga (CORAH), the Ministry of Defence, the national tax administration (SUNAT), the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

The National Coca Company (ENACO S.A.) is a public-sector company responsible for the trade in coca leaf and for the production of derivative products. This body keeps a register of legal coca leaf producers.

Other bodies with relevant responsibilities are the National Commission for Confiscated Goods (CONABI), the regional governments, the local governments, the courts, the public prosecutor's office and the national congress (committee on defence, internal order, intelligence, alternative development and combating drugs), the SBS (supervisory authority for banking, insurance and private pension fund administrators) and the Financial Intelligence Unit.

Given the number of bodies involved, it is essential for DEVIDA to have sufficient political standing and backing to be able to effectively play its role as the lead agency.

c) Legal framework and main legislative developments:

The Peruvian government has taken legislative measures to step up the fight against drugs, notably Legislative Decree 1241 of 26 September 2015 and its implementing regulation, adopted on 24 June 2016, which strengthen the fight against illegal drug trafficking and authorise the destruction of vehicles transporting illegal substances. It reintroduces the criminalisation of the replanting of coca leaves, which can be punished by imprisonment for three to eight years. It also establishes a clearer definition of the competencies of the bodies involved in the fight against drug trafficking.

This law also includes issues related to (i) providing the national police with powers to carry out studies to determine the coca leaf to cocaine conversion factors, which need to be updated; (ii) the production of a new census of coca farmers who deliver coca leaf to ENACO; and (iii) the implementation of the register of land occupied by coca crops.

Law 30339 on the control, vigilance and defence of the national air space, also known as the Air Interdiction Law, which was enacted in August 2015 and in force from 2016, also enables law enforcement agencies to intercept 'hostile' aircraft.

3. International cooperation:

International cooperation has continued to support various programmes, particularly in the areas of alternative development, judicial and police cooperation, and demand reduction. Amongst the actions carried out, it is worth highlighting the work of the UNODC, as well as the government's funding of the anti-drug trafficking programme run by the United States government's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (which pledged USD 36 million to combating drugs in Peru in 2014) and the alternative development programme run by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which pledged USD 25.5 million in 2014. The European Union (EU) is supporting the implementation of the national anti-drugs strategy for the period from 2012 to 2016 with funding of EUR 32.2 million, in conjunction with various Member States, as well as an alternative development project in Satipo with funding of EUR 8 million, with an additional EUR 2.4 million coming from the Peruvian government. Japan is focusing on community development projects, in particular with its contributions to the programme being carried out by the UNODC in Trujillo through its Human Security Fund; Canada has been funding initiatives by the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the UNODC that benefit Peru (e.g. USD 1.5 million for the UNODC's container checking programme, to be implemented in the port of Callao) and providing direct support, such as training for the Peruvian national police by the Canadian mounted police and for the Peruvian customs (SUNAT) by the Canada Border Services Agency in risk assessment. The OAS provides support through the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) for the 'institutional strengthening' programme supporting national drug commissions in Latin America, which receives financial support from Spain. On 18 and 19 May 2016, a meeting of the expert working group on alternative development was held. The United Kingdom provides technical assistance to the prosecution service, to the judiciary and to the police in matters including oral litigation, mutual legal assistance, prohibition and seizures.

During UNGASS 2016, Peru highlighted the encouraging results it had achieved through the implementation in several regions in the country of alternative development programmes, which had been successful in reducing areas of illegal coca plantations. It should also be borne in mind that, as part of a broad, integrated and balanced approach to tackling the world drug problem, proper consideration should be given to individuals, families, communities and society at large so as to promote and protect the health, security and wellbeing of the population.

The commitment vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should also be highlighted. The Group recognises that efforts by the Peruvian authorities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and effectively tackle the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

At regional level, Peru is stepping up cooperation with neighbouring countries. In March 2016, the prosecution service (supported by the British and US Embassies and the IOM) hosted the first Latin American Summit of Attorneys General. At that summit, ten Latin American countries committed themselves to promoting more direct and secure international cooperation. Some very fruitful bi-national meetings have been held with Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Paraguay and the US, and there is good cooperation with Bolivia. Nevertheless, it would be desirable to increase the level of joint activities, which remains insufficient. The **UNODC** is implementing a European Union project worth EUR 6.5 million to combat the demand for illegal drugs in the four countries of the Andean Community. The EU is also launching a new demand and supply reduction initiative within the framework of the Latin America regional programme and COPOLAD II.

4. Recommendations:

1. **The Group notes the implementation of the national anti-drug strategy 2012-2016**, and the achievement of a number of its goals, particularly on eradication, and welcomes the fact that the country is dedicating substantial resources to combating drug trafficking. In order to achieve a more positive lasting impact in the fight against drug trafficking in Peru, the Group urges the authorities to renew and update the Strategy for the coming years in line with the operational recommendations of UNGASS 2016.

2. **The Group urges the Peruvian government to continue the work being done by the lead agency (DEVIDA) and all the departments of the ministries and public bodies with responsibilities related to combating drug trafficking**, so as to create a compact, well-coordinated and efficient state apparatus with adequate budgetary resources. The new government team is urged to continue with this policy, which should reflect a unified and sustained effort.
3. The Group suggests that DEVIDA could host regional dialogues with relevant stakeholders from civil society, the scientific community and academia, to follow on from UNGASS 2016.
4. The Group urges the Peruvian government to keep up its **efforts to ensure that the lead agency in the fight against drugs in Peru** continues its process of consolidation, by increasing its authority, convening power across sectors, and budget, so that it can coordinate all the ministries and institutions involved.
5. **The Group stresses the importance of maintaining a sustained dialogue with DEVIDA which will allow it to be regularly informed of the results** – achievement of goals and development of monitoring indicators – that are being obtained through the implementation of the new national strategy.
6. The Group considers it of the utmost importance that **an estimate of the potential cocaine production be made available as soon as possible, taking into account that there are already appropriate legal provisions which allow DIREJANDRO to carry out studies aimed at updating the coca leaf to cocaine conversion factors**, which is vital for evaluating real progress in the fight against drugs in Peru. Such studies could be resumed under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Group feels that the government should rapidly implement the register of coca farmers and the production of a new census of coca farmers linked to ENACO. The UNODC already has a proposal drawn up in the La Convención y Lares region.

7. The Group recognises the efforts made by the Peruvian government **as regards seizures**; DIREJANDRO has been carrying out operations in this area with ever better results. However, official statistics still have very little significance. In this regard, the authorities need procedures for recording and analysing data, in order to obtain standardised, reliable data. The UNODC is preparing a proposal for the establishment of a system for the standardised registration of drug seizures and chemical inputs which are diverted to illicit drug trafficking, to support the national police (DIREJANDRO) and the tax and customs administration (SUNAT).

The Group believes that a programme to identify drug distribution channels and the import of chemical inputs via land, air or river should be implemented. This includes the identification and measurement of the areas used as secret landing strips. The UNODC has carried out studies of this kind since 2011 and has a proposal to present to the relevant authorities.

8. The Group acknowledges the efforts made by the Peruvian government with respect to the control of precursors; however, we require better knowledge of how diversions occur, and we need to improve the information and the national and regional legislative frameworks, and to establish monitoring mechanisms to detect diversion attempts. SUNAT should be strengthened.

These monitoring mechanisms should be supported by the collection and analysis of reliable information. Knowledge of the distribution and diversion channels for drugs and their chemical inputs could give the State a competitive advantage over organised crime.

In the same way, it would be useful to conduct studies to determine the quantities and types of both non-substitutable and substitutable chemical precursors in order to create and update the list of controllable inputs.

9. The Group also urges the Peruvian government to step up its efforts to combat money laundering, in accordance with its action plan, since money laundering is closely linked to drug trafficking, and particularly encourages it to comply with the FATF's recommendations on combating money laundering.

10. The Group welcomes the legislative reforms which promote a better knowledge of the candidates in the various electoral processes, in order to prevent links between drug trafficking and politics.

11. The Group stresses the importance of effective action in the **VRAEM**, and urges Peru to pursue a multi-sectoral approach in this region that takes into account all the economic, social, law-enforcement and military aspects of the problem. The Group particularly urges the Peruvian government to improve coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and DEVIDA in the VRAEM. It calls for an evaluation of the implementation of the programme for productive reconversion from coca leaf to legal crops; the results of this should be used to consolidate their actions or to redefine the action strategy.

12. The Group repeats its recommendation that **national technical support should be increased, with international support whenever possible, for all authorities involved in combating drug trafficking, though they should be subject to specific effectiveness criteria, so as to ensure the continuity of ongoing technical programmes.** One of the main problems is the high turnover of senior law enforcement officials, which can make dialogue and staff training difficult. Technical assistance should also be increased in sectors such as the one responsible for procurement of equipment, in which the current procedures are hampering the State's action.

13. **The training of judges, prosecutors, public defence lawyers and lawyers throughout the criminal justice system should be stepped up** so that they can carry out thorough investigations, since trials against drug traffickers often pit them against teams of well-paid, well-prepared and well-equipped lawyers. Staff turnover is lower in this area than in the police force, but appropriate measures for improving the effectiveness of such legal proceedings are also recommended. The Group is concerned about the low number of convictions recorded thus far in proceedings against large criminal networks involved in drug trafficking, and considers it vital to secure progress in the courts.

Coordination between these stakeholders should not only be based on specific cases, but should be a continuous process of interinstitutional collaboration.

14. This is linked to the need to have a **faster exchange of accurate information** between the Peruvian authorities themselves (given the lack of coordination that at times has been observed between the prosecution service and the Peruvian National Police) and the authorities of the Group's member countries, in particular via the attachés responsible for interior affairs of the various embassies in Lima. That information and the speed with which it is transmitted are vital for achieving success in the fight against drug trafficking and dismantling international networks.

15. The Group encourages the government to continue **the efforts Peru has made over the last year to combat corruption linked to drug trafficking**, particularly at Jorge Chávez airport. It recommends that the Peruvian authorities intensify these efforts and remain extremely vigilant. The Group is also concerned by the increase in drugs leaving by sea, especially from the ports of Callao and Paita and some river ports, and urges the port authorities to step up their port control measures; similar measures should be taken at the land borders. The Group urges the Peruvian government to acquire the technical means and equipment to allow it to put a stop to illegal flights leaving the country.

16. The Group notes the **release of the funds needed** from the authorities to **co-finance the annual survey on monitoring of coca leaf crops in Peru**, which is essential for providing a rigorous, objective estimate of the areas that have been cultivated or eradicated and, hence, of the extent to which the national strategy has been implemented. It trusts that the study can be financed in the same way next year.

17. The new national strategy should ensure better coordination between the eradication programme and the implementation of alternative development so that they can be carried out simultaneously, thus avoiding time lags which merely play into the hands of criminal organisations.

Alternative development as such should be planned in a manner more consistent with the areas to be addressed and the population. Thus crops such as coffee, cocoa, etc., which have fostered growth and helped to establish legitimate economies, could be strengthened and thus lead to other productive activities (other crops, reforestation, etc.) and services such as ecotourism. To achieve this, there is an important element which must be incorporated into the planning process: academic research.

In this respect, and as a contribution to the new ENLD 2017-2021, the UNODC is drawing up a proposal based on the methodology used in the identification and measurement of, as well as the search for, coca crops, to determine the area occupied by alternative development initiatives and current trends. In the hands of the authorities, this would be an important planning tool.

In the same vein, this initiative proposes the introduction of more precise plans for the monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of alternative development, to consolidate the achievements made thus far, and to implement corrective measures (or to step up these actions, if they already exist).

18. In accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, and bearing in mind the success of the national strategy and the fact that Peru's status as a producer country means that it remains an important factor in global drug trafficking, the Group considers that **the member countries should continue their international cooperation with Peru on this issue**. The Group also congratulates Peru on its increasing international cooperation with neighbouring countries in the fight against drug trafficking and recognises the ever more active role played by DIRANDRO within the American Police Community (Ameripol) in implementing a joint strategy to control drug trafficking.

19. The Group urges the Peruvian government **not to lose sight of the aim of reducing demand for drugs in the country**, by developing prevention programmes which, whilst comprehensive, are particularly oriented towards the most vulnerable groups in society such as children, adolescents and women. This approach should facilitate the formulation of a policy which promotes the development of peoples' capacities and creates new educational, recreational and employment opportunities, thereby avoiding a situation where the most high-risk populations become involved in drug consumption and other associated risk behaviour. The Group also believes that the government must promote the generation of reliable information in this regard, for example by implementing a new national survey on drug use in order to update the information obtained from the last survey in 2010.

URUGUAY

I. General situation:

From a regional perspective, **Uruguay is not an important country in terms of production** of drugs; however, the introduction of the new law on the regulation, sale and consumption of cannabis means that there is State-controlled production of this substance in Uruguay.

The country's geographical location makes it **attractive as a transit country for drug trafficking**. The trends in such trafficking remain: cocaine from the Andean region bound for other parts of the world is the main substance that passes through the country.

The porous borders with the neighbouring countries (land border with Brazil and bridges with Argentina) continue to be the **main entry points** to the country for drugs. There are mounting concerns about traffic on the River Uruguay at the border with Argentina, although intensive efforts are being undertaken at bilateral level with Argentina to try to control the problem. The port of Montevideo, a natural entry point for goods entering or leaving Paraguay, and Montevideo's Carrasco International Airport (where 'mules' operate), remain **major transit points for drugs**. Many of those arrested in the context of micro-trafficking operations are women, which, according to the Uruguayan authorities, indicates that gender should be taken into account when considering the problem.

The government maintains that Uruguay **has not yet seen the 'cartelisation'** of groups involved in drug trafficking. Amongst these groups, Mexican, Colombian and Paraguayan organisations have stood out over the past year.

There has been mounting concern over public safety in the '*bocas*' (retail drug outlets), leading the government to increase surveillance and resulting in a higher level of control today (865 '*bocas*' were dismantled in 2015 and 347 more had been dismantled by August 2016). Forms of violence that were previously unknown in the country, such as contract killings and settling of scores, and the control by local gangs over certain areas of Montevideo, have appeared. However, the authorities assert that it is difficult to establish a direct link between the rise in crime and the increase in consumption, and that decreasing levels of public safety are part of a wider and more complex social problem.

The **national anti-drug strategy 2016-2020**, a framework document encompassing the measures to be implemented by the executive over the next four years as part of a comprehensive approach to the fight against drugs, was approved in March 2016.

At the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (**UNGASS 2016**), Uruguay presented its contribution to the debate: a document setting out five main strands required for a comprehensive approach to drugs policy. The document explains the country's innovative approach to control and regulation of the cannabis market, and argues that regulation and control represent the best methods of avoiding illegal trafficking in cannabis. It also argues that prohibiting cultivation has caused major public health and safety problems. Uruguay has therefore requested a review of the measures prohibiting cannabis, advocating the study and follow-up of the measures being implemented in Uruguay. Their authorities consider that, if successful, the measures could represent an alternative the current prohibition on cultivation which would be more beneficial for the international community.

Uruguay also presented a document to UNGASS 2016 on the link between drugs and human rights, in which it makes a cogent argument against the criminalisation of consumption, and argues that consumers are in fact victims of trafficking. Uruguay does not consider that sentences as drastic as the death penalty should be inflicted on consumers, as is the case in some countries, nor that they should be imprisoned.

Generally, their authorities consider that UNGASS has not made progress towards eliminating the death penalty, or supported risk and damage reduction strategies or essential principles such as the proportionality of sentences. In their opinion, this creates a space in which a future position can be coordinated between the USA and the EU. Bearing in mind the debates held in UNGASS and the position maintained by Uruguay, the Uruguayan authorities are working on the CICAD (OAS) Action Plans and on the Action Plan of the UNASUR Council on the World Drug Problem.

As regards the **control of supply**, in 2015 there were 2 554 arrests, compared with 1 723 in 2014. In 2015 a record 2.52 tonnes of marijuana were seized; in 2016, this record was beaten in the period January-August alone, with 3.34 tonnes seized. In 2015 a total of 134.844 kg of cocaine was seized, as well as 67.62 kg of base paste. To this must be added 54 533 doses of ecstasy. Seizures of ecstasy also increased substantially in 2016, totalling 173 212 doses in August.

It is estimated that almost 80 % of Uruguay's illegal drugs market is accounted for by **cannabis**. As regards **consumption, alcohol is still the substance consumed most in the country**, with heavy consumers totalling around 71 % of the population, one in five of whom are problem users. The trend continues to rise, with consumption starting at the age of 16. President Vázquez has said that he wants to resume efforts to reduce these figures and revive the draft bill from the previous parliament, but progress in this area seems unlikely given the lack of consensus. With regard to **tobacco**, in Uruguay 27.2 % of men and 20.4 % of women are smokers. The 2016 ruling in favour of Uruguay in the Philip Morris case should be mentioned in this connection.

According to the latest household survey carried out by the national statistical office in 2015, there were 161 000 **marijuana** consumers last year, an estimated 16.7 % of whom were problem users. 8.6 % of consumers had only used the drug once, 32.5 % a few times, 24.7 % a few times per month, 21 % a few times per week and 13.2 % had used it daily.

The Uruguayan authorities consider that the new legislation will ensure that the cannabis market will be completely regulated from now on. They also consider that the success of the new policy should not be measured purely in terms of its effect on the total number of consumers, and that other variables should be taken into account (such as bringing consumers to a safe environment).

According to data from the latest household survey carried out in Uruguay, the annual prevalence rate for **cocaine** is estimated to be 1.6 %, representing a slight dip compared with the rate of 1.9 % recorded in 2011. It is also interesting to note that 21 % of those who have consumed the drug in the past 12 months are classified as problem users.

The consumption of **cocaine base paste** increased in Uruguay in the aftermath of the 2002 economic crisis, although the latest studies carried out by the National Drugs Board show that current figures on prevalence are very similar to those for 2006, leading us to conclude that consumption has stabilised. It is estimated that there are between 6 500 and 14 500 problem users of cocaine base paste.

Increases in the consumption of **synthetic drugs** and the creation of a new consumer market continue to be of interest, although the relevant prevalence rate is only 0.4 % of the population according to the latest household survey. Uruguay has an early warning system for detecting new psychoactive substances; Uruguay and Colombia are the only countries in the region with a system of this kind. There is also a marked correlation between use of synthetic drugs and socio-economic status, with the wealthiest consuming the most.

Montevideo airport is the usual entry point for the trafficking of synthetic drugs originating in Amsterdam and bound for Buenos Aires (using the Buquebus service that connects the two sides of the River Plate), where they are consumed at 'electronic music parties'. The Uruguayan police authorities report that these substances all come from the Netherlands, via Madrid, and that drug mules (*'burriers'*) use return flights to deliver cocaine in exchange for these substances. They also suspect that the traffickers may have a base in Spain.

Uruguay is also one of the countries that has reported a rise in the **use of NPSs** (new psychoactive substances), such as ketamine, though levels of consumption are not significant and are still well below those seen in North America and Europe.

II. Institutional framework

The President of the Republic, Dr Tabaré Vázquez, has declared that he supports and will maintain the principles and instruments initiated by the previous government, as set out in the new, recently approved [national anti-drug strategy 2016-2020](#). The strategy goes beyond the traditional model of reducing supply and demand, emphasising public health, well-being and aspects linked to human rights, addressing the fight against drugs as defined by the parameters set out by Uruguay at UNGASS.

Following the entry into force of the Regulation implementing the **Law on the regulation, sale and consumption of marijuana** and the establishment of the **Institute for Cannabis Regulation and Control (IRCCA)**, registration of marijuana home-growers has started (with around 5 176 applications having been received), and 20 cannabis clubs have processed the documents needed to set up their operations. Two regulatory Decrees for the use of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes have also been approved. In October 2015 the tendering procedure for the production of cannabis was completed and the contract awarded to two private companies (Simbyosis and Iccorp) to sell the drug via the pharmacy network. The first cannabis crops have already been harvested in accordance with the new system, and are expected to be distributed to pharmacies in October 2016. Under the new rules, buyers will have to be identified using a fingerprint reader, and will be registered with the IRCCA. Registered consumers will be able to buy up to ten grams per week in pharmacies. Many in the pharmaceutical sector have expressed concerns about the new role they are to take on, although such worries have abated following the recent conclusion of an agreement between the IRCCA and the pharmacy chains.

Furthermore, a **Scientific Advisory Committee** has been set up to evaluate the application of the Law and its implementing regulation. The Uruguayan authorities are very keen to share the results of this new model with the international community and, in particular, to clarify whether it is successful in achieving its ultimate objective of protecting public health. Studies are being carried out on the impact of the new rules on health, justice, the economy and human rights.

In order to increase the **decentralisation and deconcentration** of drug operations, all departments (regions) in the country now have drugs boards with a role in the coordination of regional and national policies. Eighteen interdepartmental brigades have also been established to fight drug trafficking within the country.

Reform of the regulatory framework for establishments specialising in the care and treatment of problem drug users is being consolidated. In this context, the **Ciudadela project** on information, advice and referral for drug users now has 12 centres, and a further six are due to be set up in the period 2016-2020, ensuring that most departments in the country will have one of these bodies, which may refer problem drug users to the **national care and treatment centre (RENADRO)**.

Following the incorporation of the PRELAC project into COPOLAD II, Uruguay intends to follow the approach of the former project by setting up its own system for monitoring **chemical precursors**, with a view to extending controls to the domestic market in finished products. Although provision had been made in this year's budget, it has been carried over to 2017 as the necessary funds are not available.

August 2012 saw the adoption of **the National Strategy and Action Plan** against money laundering and financing of terrorism, and work continues on the application of the FATF and IMF recommendations. Uruguay considers that the Action Plan has been carried out in its entirety and indeed has exceeded what was initially provided for. Uruguay will be evaluated in 2019. Whilst it is recognised that the authorities are doing some good work in this area, particularly in terms of legislation, Uruguay remains vulnerable to money laundering and financing activities.

The National Drugs Board intends to bolster the **Confiscated Property Fund** during this parliament (2015-2020) so that it can work more effectively and allocate resources to the different areas covered by the National Strategy. It should be noted that the Fund will increase in 2016 as a result of the amounts received due to the rise in the numbers of seizures.

III. International cooperation

The National Drugs Board's international cooperation objectives include strengthening national capacities in order to take an integrated approach to a 'global and transnational issue', as well as 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; this project ended recently but might move into a second phase in 2017; the COPOLAD Programme (Latin America/European Union); support for the fight against money laundering in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (European Union/GAFISUD project).

With Uruguay's support, the network of Drug Observatories in UNASUR member countries was created in order to provide a stronger regional vision, with the focal points already designated. In February 2015, Uruguay and UNASUR signed an agreement to that effect. Uruguay has been elected as the project leader, due to an Uruguayan company having been awarded the tender.

Uruguay was an active participant in UNGASS 2016, maintaining that **the drugs problem can be tackled with new approaches. Many countries in the region are receptive to and supportive of the Uruguayan position within the framework of the OAS, CELAC and UNASUR.**

IV. Recommendations

- The progress made on cooperation between departments and decentralisation and on strengthening institutions and technical training in the police and judicial spheres should continue.
- Recognising Uruguay's efforts on money laundering, we recommend that it follow the recommendations of the IMF and FATF, as well as the Action Plan against money laundering and financing of terrorism, and take them into account when drafting its five-year plan. It is also recommended that the Group maintain a continued dialogue with the recently created National Secretariat for the Fight against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (SENACLAFT) in order to closely monitor progress made in this area.
- Efforts and international cooperation with regard to control of chemical precursors, with a view to preventing their diversion to other countries, should be maintained.
- As regards the law on the regulation of the marijuana market, we recommend that dialogue be maintained with international specialist bodies that have expressed doubts about the new rules and their compatibility with relevant international law (the INCB visited Uruguay in November 2015).

- At the same time, it would be helpful to analyse the adopted rules and to monitor the implementation thereof and their effect on drug consumption in Uruguay. Particular attention should be paid to analysing the studies currently being carried out by the Scientific Advisory Committee; the Dublin Group should maintain an open dialogue with the former, given the innovative nature of Uruguay's legislation on cannabis.
- The Group expresses its concern at the trafficking of synthetic drugs ('ecstasy') from Amsterdam and at the fact that Montevideo is being used as a point of transit to Argentina. The Group takes the view that it would be extremely helpful to provide funding for training courses, as requested by the Uruguayan police authorities, to help combat such trafficking. In this connection, any collaboration on the part of the Netherlands authorities could be very useful.

The Uruguayan authorities have also expressed interest in receiving help from the Dublin Group countries for the purpose of financing visits by experts, technical assistance and training in different areas related to the fight against drugs. In particular, they are requesting support for studies by the network of international experts set up to evaluate the impact of Law 19.172 and support for activities involving the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. The Group supports these requests.

VENEZUELA

The meeting of the members of the Venezuela mini Dublin Group (MDG) began at 10.00 on 20 September 2016 in Caracas, at the Spanish Embassy in Venezuela, with representatives attending from the embassies of Italy, Portugal, France, the Netherlands, the USA and Spain.

The agenda was as follows:

- (a) General analysis of the issue of drugs in Venezuela, supply reduction (with each participant's point of view).
- (b) Presentation by the representatives of the various embassies of their collaborative actions and programmes with Venezuela in the fields of preventing and combating drug trafficking.
- (c) Statement of the number of citizens (if any) from each MDG member country being detained in Venezuelan prisons for drug trafficking.
- (d) Recommendations.

General analysis

Due to its geographical location, Venezuela continues to be a key step on the cocaine route from the main producing countries (Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador) to North America and Europe.

No regulatory or structural changes have been observed within anti-drugs institutions since the last report in May 2016. However, it should be noted that the country's ability to crack down on drug trafficking has been curtailed as a result of the economic crisis.

With regard to trafficking flows, it should be pointed out that, following strengthened controls at Maiquetia airport and a reduction in the number of direct flights from Caracas to Europe, drug 'mules' are opting to use other, smaller international airports such as Valencia or Maturín. They first stop off at islands in the Caribbean before heading to Europe. With regard to nationality, there has been a reduction in the number of Europeans detained in Venezuela; however, there has been an increase in the number of Venezuelans heading for European airports who have been arrested on drugs charges.

There is a consensus among the delegations that personal contacts continue to form the basis for relations with the Venezuelan anti-drug trafficking institutions. This is inefficient and makes it hard to ensure continuity.

However, it is felt to be a positive sign that some officials in the anti-trafficking institutions are remaining in their posts for a longer period of time, thereby enabling them to improve their knowledge of the field and strengthen external relations.

The impact that consumption is having on everyday crime, and vice versa, should be highlighted. An analysis of the gangs involved in kidnapping and extortion shows that the vast majority of members are regular users of 'Crispy'. This is one of the reasons for the high level of violence among gang members.

Persons detained

Among those currently detained in Venezuela for drug trafficking, there are seventeen Italian citizens, eleven US citizens, three French citizens, six Portuguese citizens and twelve Spanish citizens.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made by the Group:

- Venezuela must continue and step up the fight against money laundering and the criminal organisations involved in drug trafficking, by promoting operational analysis.

- The competent authorities must be urged to use the legal instruments provided for in the 1988 Vienna Convention which are designed to combat drug trafficking, especially those related to controlled deliveries.
- Strengthen international cooperation and the transmission of information at both strategic and operational levels.
- Promote the provision of training courses in Venezuela on investigation into money laundering and the fight against drug trafficking, delivered by EU specialists and aimed at trainers.
- Encourage participation and active representation in the international fora and bodies that deal with these issues.
- Draw up a regional plan to analyse developments in this phenomenon.
- Review prevention and detoxification policies, especially among the prison population and the most disadvantaged sections of society.
- Review and strengthen coastal surveillance and control capacities.
- Improve the transparency of and access to statistical information to enable forward and situation analyses to be carried out.
- Commit to the implementation and completion of support programmes to be carried out within the framework of international cooperation.

With no other business to discuss, the MDG meeting was closed two hours after it began.