



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 2 December 2010**

**17012/10**

**CORDROGUE 99  
USA 123**

**OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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Of: Meeting of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs and the USA  
On: 17 November 2010  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in doc. CM 5365/1/10 REV 1.

**2. Drug Control Strategies of the European Union and of the United States**  
*Assessment and perspectives*

The US delegation gave an overview of the drug situation in the US and actions taken to combat drugs, highlighting that a new US drug control strategy was released in 2010 which continues to focus on prevention, prescription drugs and drugged driving. It was stated that the national drug survey of 2009 demonstrated an increase of 9 % of drug abuse in the US and that the use of prescription drugs (for non-medical use) exceeded for the first time the use of marihuana.

It was explained that the roots of the problem lie in doctors prescribing drugs in too large quantities which are later kept at home and are accessible to children. Efforts were made to educate doctors and dentists as well as the general public about this issue.

Regarding international cooperation in the field of drugs, the US was giving priority to cooperation with Russia and to fighting the flow of money and guns from the US to Mexico through the South western border. A special US-Russia presidential commission was established notably making efforts to broaden Russia's drug policy focus. The US delegation informed that the new Transnational Crime Strategy, which should be approved next year, among other challenges responds to the growing convergence between drug trafficking and other crime groups.

A representative of COM presented the evaluation of the EU Drugs Action Plan and the latest EMCDDA report on the drug situation in Europe highlighting an increased number of new substances on the market and the increased capability of drug traffickers to use sophisticated material to smuggle drugs. In general it was noted that the number of HIV cases among drug injectors decreased, law enforcement agencies stepped up their cooperation, drug related research was reinforced and the European pact to combat international drug trafficking was adopted. The challenges were addressing the issue of the new substances, paying more attention to the external drug related policy and the expected change of drug trafficking routes.

### *Alternatives to imprisonment*

A representative of EMCDDA presented the EU position on the alternatives to imprisonment, which have been demonstrated as more efficient in fighting drug abuses than imprisonment. The concept that has grown over the last 10-15 years that dependent users should be considered as people requiring help and not as criminals was present in national strategies and legislation, albeit in different forms.

Some EU Member States have introduced drug courts. In DE a programme "friend" addressing very young offenders brought positive results. However, a success of such alternatives is often subject to different factors.

The US delegation spoke about the drug courts in the USA stating that while the experience with them was positive, they were very expensive and therefore could not be expanded to address all the needs and alternatives to supplement the drug courts were studied. It should also be guaranteed that people who have committed more serious crimes were sent to the drug courts.

### **3. Improving U.S.-EU Coordination in West Africa:**

#### *Assessment of the actions undertaken and Objectives for 2011*

A representative of COM presented the EU projects conducted in West Africa to combat the international drug trafficking and specified that currently the second phase of AIRCOP project was being prepared. The project would address the capabilities of the airports in West Africa and in some Latin American countries and involve specialized training on profiling, investigation techniques, development of international cooperation, international communication systems, etc. It was implemented jointly with UNODC and Europol. The SEACOP project would start in March and deal with setting up the maritime control units and providing the on spot training.

A representative of Europol informed the meeting that there were indications of drug trafficking routes moving from Western Africa to Eastern Africa or Southern Africa.

The Presidency emphasized the need to better coordinate all the technical assistance provided by international organizations and EU Member States for West Africa, notably in order to ensure that the estimated 4 billion euros of EU assistance to West Africa were used efficiently.

It was suggested to include the projects scheduled for the next year into the West Africa matrix, consider the possibility to have it on-line using a similar system as ADAM for Afghanistan and guarantee that the document reached all the interested parties. The US delegation agreed on the need to animate matrix so that it could be viewed from different perspectives.

### *Announcement of Trans-Atlantic Symposium*

The US delegation informed about their government initiative on the Trans-Atlantic Symposium, which would be co-financed by the COM and should be launched in May 2011 in Portugal, which offered to host the meeting. As France was also planning to host a ministerial meeting at the end of the first semester of 2011 on the flows of cocaine in West Africa, there was a need to collaborate so that these meetings would compliment rather than duplicate each other: the symposium could become a follow up to the ministerial meeting.

#### **4. Update on situation and responses in Central America and more particularly in Mexico**

The US delegation gave an overview of the cooperation with Mexico where 1.4 billion dollars of assistance was provided since 2007 with about 60 activities in 4 main domains: disrupting organized criminal groups, implementing institutional reforms in police and justice sectors, strengthening border control and building strong civic communities.

The US programme for Central America was similar, but of a smaller scale and because many programmes existed for the region, the efforts were made to consolidate these programmes.

A representative of COM noted that there was a great potential for a possible coordination on a number of issues and informed that EU cooperation with Mexico was at its initial stage, with an expert mission only recently launched to diagnose the situation, give indications/recommendations for possible EU projects and set the basis for a specific security dialogue with Mexican authorities. The projects and security dialogue should be started next year.

Until now there was no specific drug related programmes for Central America and the EU financing concentrated on security programmes.

## **5. Status of Request from Bolivia regarding the coca leaf**

The Presidency informed about the EU coordinated position vis-à-vis the Bolivian request regarding the coca leaf and enumerated the political and legal objections which lead to a negative answer. The US delegation supported the named objections and both sides expressed the fear that the acceptance of the request would significantly weaken the Convention itself. Nevertheless, the EU and the US stressed on the need to continue the dialogue with Bolivia and agreed that the meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna on 2 December 2010 would be the right place for this. It was emphasized that a group of states had to object to the request and not a single state so that the issue would not go to the plenary session and that the negative decisions should be communicated simultaneously.

## **6. Afghanistan**

The US delegation briefly presented their new strategy on Afghanistan, focusing on the internal development of the country and support for its anti-drug policy. Last year the largest single seizure in history was made with 9 million of tones of drugs being seized.

## **7. Any other business**

No items were discussed under AOB

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The following working documents were made available in the meeting room:

- Inventory of the EU Member States', Commission's and USA activities in West Africa
- Presentation of the United States National Drug Control Strategy