

Brussels, 6 March 2026
(OR. en)

7066/26

CORDROGUE 32
SAN 128
COSI 42
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EUDA
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	5 March 2026
To:	Delegations

No. prev. doc.:	6433/26
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Subject:	Council conclusions on the EU Drugs Strategic Framework
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Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on the EU Drugs Strategic Framework, approved by the Council (Justice and Home Affairs) at its 4159th meeting held on 5 March 2026.

**Council conclusions
on the EU Drugs Strategic Framework**

1. Europe faces significant health, social, security and governance challenges linked to the trafficking and use of illicit drugs. Growing, sophisticated and violent drug markets impact the safety and security of our societies and contribute to increased drug related harms, including overdoses, the spread of infectious diseases, drug-related crime and environmental degradation, destabilising communities and straining public resources. Drug use and drug trafficking continue to pose serious health and security challenges in the EU. Young people are particularly affected by the drug situation and are increasingly being recruited into organised crime. Democracy and the rule of law are under threat, as corruption and infiltration of the legal economy by organised criminal groups are now seen on a scale not witnessed before.
2. To address the increasing challenges associated with drug use, related harms and drug trafficking, the Commission presented a Communication on an EU Drugs Strategy¹, based on the evaluation² of the former EU Drugs Strategy³ and its Action Plan⁴ 2021-2025.
3. The Communication on the EU Drugs Strategy is the result of ‘co-creation’ between the Council and Commission. It takes into account contributions from dedicated workshops in the Council preparatory body in charge of drugs policy and exchanges with Member States and EU agencies, in particular the EU Drugs Agency (EUDA) and Europol, as well as with civil society.

¹ 15573/25

² 11320/25 + ADD1

³ 14178/20

⁴ 9819/21

4. The new EU Drugs Strategic Framework is composed of the EU Drugs Strategy and the future implementation framework. The Council endorses the Commission Communication on the EU Drugs Strategy, taking into account the following elements (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Strategy’). The Strategy takes an ambitious approach to the EU’s policy in the field of drugs and provides the main political priorities in this area.
5. The Strategy is based on the long-standing commitment of the EU and its Member States to an approach based on evidence, addressing all the aspects of the drugs phenomenon in a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, balancing the reduction of drug supply, drug demand and drug-related harm, and ensuring maximum synergies and complementarity between local, national, EU and international levels. The EU Drugs Strategic Framework aims to protect and improve the well-being of society and individuals, promote public health, offer a high level of security for society and enhance preparedness to be able to anticipate and respond to drug-related health and security threats.
6. The EU Drugs Strategic Framework also reaffirms the importance of the respect for EU values, international law and human rights, all of which shall guide the implementation of the framework’s various aspects⁵. The strategy aligns with the EU’s global commitments, such as the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. Meaningful engagement of civil society, including community organisations and those with living and lived experience, as well as academia and the scientific community is to be ensured when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating drug policies.

⁵ The EU Drugs Strategic Framework respects the fundamental principles of EU law and upholds the founding values of the EU, respecting the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU: respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law and human rights. It is also based on international law, the relevant United Nations (UN) Conventions (the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) which provide the international legal framework for addressing the illicit drugs phenomenon, and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

7. On the external dimension of EU drugs policy, the EU should continue to develop and strengthen its cooperation with key international partners through impactful dialogues, capacity building and enhanced operational cooperation, ensuring that it speaks with one voice, and in a way commensurate to the stakes: at multilateral level and in particular in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, through direct engagement in the framework of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, the EU-CLASI⁶ Dialogue and through EU bilateral Dialogues with Brazil, Central Asia, China, Colombia, the Eastern Partnership, the U.S. and the Western Balkans.
8. It is essential that the implementation of the Strategy respects established practices between EU institutions, including in terms of preparation and chairmanship, inter alia for the EU dialogues on drugs and the definition of new dialogues on drugs, and for the Justice and Home Affairs dialogues. It shall also respect the mandates of the EU agencies and shall not prejudge future discussions on the revision of their mandates.
9. Without pre-empting negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the need for appropriate resources for the implementation of all the objectives of the Strategy should be taken into due consideration. Resources should be directed proportionally towards those strategic priorities, areas and actions that are most likely to achieve the aims of the Strategy. Under the current MFF, funding in support of the priorities set in the Strategy should be allocated from cross-sectoral EU funding sources including, notably, the Internal Security Fund, the EU4Health programme, the research part of Horizon Europe, Cohesion Policy Funds, the Digital Europe programme and the Rights and Values programme.

⁶ Latin American Committee for Internal Security

10. To implement the Strategy and to complete the EU Drugs Strategic Framework, the Council, with the support of the Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EUDA and Europol, will draw up conclusions on an implementation framework that covers the full spectrum of the strategic priorities of the Strategy⁷ with concrete commitments. To address the growing challenges of drug trafficking, the Commission presented a Communication on an EU Action Plan against drug trafficking⁸. The Council takes note of the proposed EU Action Plan, which could form a part of the implementation framework. The Council will examine the EU Action Plan against drug trafficking proposed by the Commission, with a view to possible endorsement as part of the implementation framework.
11. The implementation of the EU Drugs Strategic Framework should facilitate synergies and consistency between policies on drugs at EU and national level, through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. The Commission, taking into account information provided by the Member States and the EEAS, and that available from the EUDA, Europol, other agencies and EU bodies, as well as from civil society, should monitor the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategic Framework. Close cooperation and coordination are essential in this area, given the intertwined competences at EU and national level. In order to facilitate coordination and allow any necessary policy follow-up, including monitoring, the Commission, the Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG), as the Council preparatory body in charge of drug policy, should closely cooperate together.

⁷ The Strategy includes priorities based on five pillars: 1) enhancing preparedness and response; 2) protecting public health; 3) improving security and protecting society; 4) addressing risks and harm; 5) building strong partnerships.

⁸ 16353/25

12. The Council invites the Commission, taking into account information provided by the Member States, the EEAS, the EUDA, Europol, other relevant EU institutions, agencies and bodies and civil society, to prepare an overall report on the implementation of the new EU Drugs Strategic Framework. This report should be based on specific, standardised, comparable, regularly updated and measurable indicators, where feasible, provided by the EUDA and to be included in the implementation framework. This report should be made available to the European Parliament and to the Council as soon as it is available, and at the latest by the end of 2032, in order to be discussed in the relevant fora and in particular in the HDG. These discussions should form the basis for the definition of the future development of EU drugs policy and of a future EU Drugs Strategic Framework if deemed necessary, in cooperation between the EU and its Member States in line with their respective competences.
