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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Outcome Document of the XXVIth High-Level meeting of the EU-CELAC
Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs
30 April 2026 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Delegations will find in the Annex the above-mentioned outcome document, endorsed at the XXVIth High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, which took place in Punta Cana (Dominican Republic) on 30 April 2026.

**Outcome Document of the XXVIth High-Level Meeting of the
EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs
30 April 2026, Punta Cana (Dominican Republic)**

1. We, the Member States of the European Union (EU) and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, and the European External Action Service, having met in Punta Cana on 30 April 2026, under the joint leadership of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Dominican Republic CELAC Presidency, at the XXVIth High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, and convinced of the importance to meet and discuss solutions to the challenges related to drugs hereby state the following:

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

3. In accordance with the previous bi-regional Declarations, in particular the La Paz declaration endorsed at the XXIVth High-Level Meeting of the CELAC-EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, which took place in La Paz (Bolivia) on 22 February 2024, we reaffirm the importance of the Mechanism as a bi-regional forum for dialogue and cooperation built on mutual understanding on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility, a balanced, comprehensive, integrated and evidence based approach, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments that constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system, and with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, and the Universal Declaration of Human

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

Rights, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States².

4. We commit to reinforce the Mechanism as the main platform for bi-regional cooperation on drugs to promote and intensify political dialogue, coordination and cooperation, including at operational and technical cooperation between both regions, in effectively addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem³. To this end, we also endorse the Annex to the Outcome Document on ‘Further Strengthening the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs’.

5. We reaffirm that, in the spirit of the implementation of the La Paz Declaration, we need to strengthen our individual and joint actions, programmes and initiatives at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments to address and counter all aspects of the world drug problem.

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

² Paragraph 2 of the La Paz declaration

³ Paragraph 4 of the La Paz declaration

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

7. At the XXVIth High-Level Meeting, the focus was placed on continued, bi-regional political dialogue, cooperation in the area of drugs, and the implementation of the La Paz Declaration, and bi-regional cooperation programmes as well as on fostering coordination at multilateral fora. In addition to the endorsement of the Annex to the Outcome Document, an exchange was also held on further strengthening the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs.

8. Two main thematic debates were held on priority topics related to the implementation of the La Paz Declaration, namely the impact of new technologies on the world drug problem and strengthening the asset recovery cycle, from following the money to strengthening societal resilience to organised crime. These debates related in particular to topics 1, 3 and 5 of the La Paz Declaration.

II. Orientations for continued cooperation activities in the implementation of the La Paz Declaration

9. We reaffirm our resolve to continue the operationalisation of the La Paz Declaration in our respective regions in a comprehensive and shared way, in line with the identified priority areas listed below.

10. We recognise the value of the cooperation between EU and CELAC countries, to enhance, promote and strengthen the implementation of effective drug policies at multilateral, regional, sub-regional, national and local level.

11. The joint declaration following the fourth summit of the Heads of State or Government of the EU and CELAC, and the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, having met in Santa Marta on 9 November 2025, recognises the need for a joint response to the global drug problem based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, with a balanced, comprehensive, integrated, and evidence-based approach, in accordance with international law, in particular the International Narcotics Control Regime. The joint declaration values the role of the CELAC–EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs and supports the objectives of the La Paz Declaration. In addition, the EU-LAC Alliance for Citizen Security, launched during the summit, signifies a collective pledge to fortify existing bi-regional efforts, expand cooperation across new domains, and pursue a multilateral approach to the transnational challenges posed by organised crime.

12. We encourage the EU-CLASI (Latin America Committee on Internal Security) cooperation to contribute to the objectives agreed in the present bi-regional Mechanism, in particular in view of the EU-CLASI Ministerial Meeting at the end of 2026. We welcome especially the deepening of the international cooperation among countries in our Regions as an instrument for a more effective advancement of the shared objectives of our policies. We recognise EL PACCTO's important role in supporting the EU-CLASI strategic and operational relationship.

13. We reiterate the importance of EU-funded programmes for the support to our bi-regional cooperation in the area of drugs and for the implementation of the La Paz Declaration, such as **COPOLAD III** on drug policies, **EUROFRONT** on integrated border management, **EL PACCTO 2.0** on transnational organised crime, as well as the Global Illicit Flows Programme (**GIFP**) on organised crime in relation to global illicit flows, to intensify all joint efforts in a comprehensive manner⁴.

⁴ Based on paragraph 5 of the La Paz declaration

14. We welcome in particular the extension of the third phase of COPOLAD until February 2029 with an additional budget of EUR 8 million that follows up on the accomplishments achieved during its previous phases and addresses existing and emerging challenges related to the world drug problem, in alignment with the priorities of the La Paz Declaration of the EU–CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on. We recognise COPOLAD’s important role in supporting the work of the Mechanism and comprehensive approach to the drug-related issues, in particular its integrated approach combining scientific evidence with demand-driven actions addressing both drug supply and demand as well as development-related dimensions, improving the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies, through supporting their development, facilitating the exchange of experiences, bi-regional coordination and promoting multi-sectoral, comprehensive and coordinated responses. In the current period, COPOLAD’s support has been significant in achieving a balanced fulfilment of the various priorities of the La Paz Declaration and in this regard, we look forward to COPOLAD’s future activities and efforts in support of the long-standing bi-regional work between CELAC and EU on drug-related issues.

15. We also welcome the continued implementation of the relevant components of the EU’s GIFFP, i.e. Airport Communication Programme (**AIRCOP**), Seaport Cooperation Project (**SEACOP**), the Project “Strengthening Criminal Investigation and criminal justice cooperation along drug trafficking routes” (**CRIMJUST**), the Project “Monitoring and Controlling General Aviation along the Cocaine Route” (**COLIBRI**), the Monitoring and Support Project for the Global Illicit Flows Programme (**MASIF**).

16. We welcome the continuous implementation of actions under the EL PACCTO 2.0 programme that aim: to enhance regional and bi-regional structures and mechanisms for cooperation on justice and security such as EU-CLASI, the promotion of judicial cooperation and the strengthening of AMERIPOL; to support strengthening of justice and security institutions, including actions on the economic dimension of crime, in particular addressing illicit financial flows derived from drug trafficking and related crimes and by strengthening financial investigations and mechanisms for asset recovery and return, and with a focus on women and youth-specific concerns; to address transnational criminal markets such as drug trafficking, firearms trafficking, human trafficking, cultural goods trafficking, environmental crimes, and cybercrimes.

16bis. We welcome the many initiatives and joint operations that groups of member countries of the Mechanism have taken across the two regions and within each of them. In particular, CELAC countries commit to intensify their intra-regional cooperation, building also on the mentioned support coming from the bi-regional relation.

III. Adoption of the Annual Report

17. The Annual Report of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism outlines on an annual basis the activities conducted in the framework of the Mechanism as well as in the framework of the various aforementioned programmes and initiatives.

18. The Annual Report of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 was presented and endorsed at the XXVIth High-Level Meeting.

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

19. We reaffirm that the EU and CELAC will, within the mandate of the Mechanism, continue their cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem in the framework of the United Nations, notably within the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in particular at its upcoming sessions, as well as in other relevant UN bodies, and in the framework of the international drug control conventions and other relevant UN instruments.

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

21. The next co-Presidencies of the Mechanism will be held, for CELAC by Peru for the term 2026/2027, and for the EU by Ireland during the second semester of 2026 and by Lithuania during the first semester of 2027.

22. We agree to convene the XXVIIth High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union in the first semester of 2027 in the European Union.

23. We express our will to continue to further implement the La Paz declaration of 22 February 2024 and adopt further Declarations within the framework of the High-Level Meeting of the Mechanism between the CELAC and the European Union, with the next Declaration to be adopted in 2029.

FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE EU-CELAC COORDINATION AND COOPERATION MECHANISM ON DRUGS

The European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) reaffirm the importance of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs (MCCMD) as a key platform for bi-regional dialogue and cooperation on drugs.

They acknowledge the role of the Mechanism in promoting mutual understanding, exchange of experiences and a balanced, comprehensive and evidence-based approach to the world drug problem, in line with the principle of shared responsibility, as well as the value of the support provided by the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) for achieving its objectives.

The EU and CELAC underline that the Mechanism has, over the years, demonstrated its value as an effective and trusted forum for dialogue and cooperation. They recognise the important results already achieved through this framework and reaffirm their joint resolve to continue making full use of it as the key platform for advancing bi-regional cooperation on drug-related issues as well as ensuring continuity between the co-presidencies, including early exchanges between outgoing and incoming co-presidencies.

Building on the discussions held within the Technical Committee Meetings of the MCCMD in December 2025 and March 2026 and on the preliminary results of the internal consultations within the EU and the CELAC on the strengthening of the Mechanism led by the co-presidencies of Cyprus and the Dominican Republic, both regions recognise the opportunity to further strengthen its effectiveness, visibility and capacity to generate added value and concrete results.

This annex reflects shared orientations and possible avenues for further strengthening the Mechanism, grounded in a joint resolve to deepen EU-CELAC cooperation, and with a view to supporting its continued evolution, keeping pace with evolving challenges.

Shared perspectives

Both regions underline that the Mechanism should continue to:

- Promote a balanced, comprehensive and evidence-based approach, addressing both supply and demand, as well as related health and social harms;
- Facilitate the exchange of information and good practices, taking into account the diversity of regional, national and local experiences;
- Remain a flexible and inclusive platform, responsive to evolving priorities and emerging challenges;
- Increase the operational dimension of the bi-regional cooperation on drugs, coupled with intra-regional cooperation,
- Ensure continuity and complementarity between the political and technical dimensions of the Mechanism, as well as with ministerial and high-level engagements.

⁵ To the Outcome Document of the XXVIth High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, held on 30 April 2026, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Possible areas for further strengthening

Both regions express their interest in further enhancing the functioning of the Mechanism and, in this regard, note that the following elements may contribute to its strengthening:

- Enhance the interactivity of Technical Committee and High-Level meetings;⁶
- Making Technical Committee meetings more flexible by exploring hybrid formats that allow a broader range of experts from capitals to participate when in-person participation from capitals is not possible;
- Further promotion of focused discussions, strengthen the exchange of expertise and best practices, including expert or technical exchanges in the form of thematic or operational working sessions, as well as facilitating continuity between meetings through informal, virtual or hybrid exchanges, as appropriate;
- Continued exchanges on thematic priorities of mutual interest, including emerging drug trends and their health and social impacts;
- Continue to encourage the distribution of CELAC interventions on a sub-regional basis (South America, Central America, and the Caribbean) to ensure balanced representation of all three sub-regions in discussions;
- Assess the most appropriate output documents for the meetings of the Mechanism to ensure they are useful and tailored to the type of meeting;
- Strengthening exchanges ahead of, and in relevant international fora, in particular within the framework of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), by, among others, organising an online meeting in January or February before the regular sessions of the CND to exchange information and coordinate positions, where relevant, including the identification of possible joint initiatives or coordinated contributions, where appropriate;
- Continued information-sharing on ongoing cooperation efforts, as appropriate;
- Ensuring complementarity between policy dialogues under the Mechanism and operational cooperation developed under the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI), EL PACCTO, EUROFRONT, and other relevant initiatives;
- Foster exchanges and coordination to allow the EU-funded programs such as COPOLAD, EL PACCTO, and other cooperation instruments addressing drug-related issues in the bi-regional context, to support the priorities agreed in the political declarations approved at High-Level meetings;
- Provide input on drug-related issues for the EU-CELAC Summits' joint declarations.

Final considerations

Both regions reaffirm their commitment to continue working together within the Mechanism and to further strengthen its role as an effective platform for bi-regional dialogue and cooperation.

This annex may guide future work, as appropriate, within the framework of the Mechanism and may be updated as appropriate.

⁶ Some examples may include using guiding questions for the thematic debates; limiting the length of panellists' interventions in order to allow for more time for discussion; reducing the number of thematic debates from four to two and integrating a supply and demand lens into each one of them; continuing the practice of using smaller rooms and mixed seating to encourage more spontaneous discussion; and continue to encourage the distribution of CELAC interventions on a sub-regional basis - South America, Central America and the Caribbean - to ensure adequate representation of all three sub-regions in discussions, among others.