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Delegations will find in the Annex the final version of the above-mentioned biennial report for adoption at the XXIIInd High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, to be held by videoconference on 22 June 2021.

EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs -**Draft Biennial Report 1 June 2019 to 31 May 2021**

This report is the result of a regular analysis of the activities carried out in relation to the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) from 1 June 2019 to 31 May 2021. The information contained in this report is limited to inter-regional programmes and does not contain any information on other EU-funded programmes at regional and bilateral levels in the field of drugs.

I. EU-CELAC High-Level Meeting and Technical Committee Meetings

The XXIInd High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs was initially scheduled to take place in Zagreb, Croatia, on 2-3 April 2020, under the co-presidency of Croatia and Mexico. However, due to the COVID-19 crisis, it was postponed to 2021. The EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs therefore plans to hold its XXIInd High-Level Meeting in virtual format on 22 June 2021. The Outcome Document and the Biennial Report June 2019-May 2021 are scheduled for adoption at the High-Level Meeting.

In preparation for the XXIInd High-Level Meeting, six meetings of the EU-CELAC Technical Committee on Drugs have been held: on 7 November 2019 under the co-presidency of Finland and Suriname, when the results of the Suriname High-Level Meeting were discussed, on 22 January and 19 February 2020 under the co-presidency of Croatia and Mexico, on 29 October 2020 under the co-presidency of Germany and Mexico, and on 4 May and 8 June 2021 under the co-presidency of Portugal and Mexico. Countries and regions present at the meetings of the Technical Committee provided an update on the drug situation and policy developments in their respective countries and regions.

At the meetings of the Technical Committee on 7 November 2019, 22 January 2020, 19 February 2020, and 29 October 2020, participants exchanged information and views on preparations for the reconvened 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) held on 12-13 December 2019 in Vienna, the 63rd session of the CND held on 2-6 March 2020 in Vienna, and the reconvened 63rd session of the CND held in Vienna on 2-4 December 2020 in hybrid format due to COVID-19-related restrictions, focusing specifically on resolutions to be supported and side events to be held.

At the Technical Committee meeting on 22 January 2020, COPOLAD presented a Report on the Third Bi-regional Meeting for the exchange of best practices between the countries of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union: Accreditation and quality assurance in Drug Demand Reduction, which was held in Panama City on 27-28 November 2019. The invitation to participate in this meeting was also extended to CELAC and EU delegates attending the Technical Committee meeting of the Mechanism, whose participation was evaluated as extremely useful, and made a positive contribution to the preparatory works of the XXIInd High-Level Meeting of the Mechanism, due to the links between this topic and the thematic debate in the field of Drug Demand Reduction (regulatory frameworks).

It is important to note that the Technical Committee meeting of 19 February 2020 was held in the presence of national experts on drug policies from the capitals of CELAC countries. The meeting was co-chaired by the Ambassador of Mexico in Brussels, Mr. Mauricio Escanero Figueroa, on behalf of CELAC.

On 4 May 2021, participants exchanged views on preparations for the XXII High-Level Meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs. The outcome document of the XXII High-Level Meeting was specifically discussed at the meeting of the Technical Committee on 8 June 2021, when participants also worked on the draft agenda, identifying topics, speakers, and presentations for the thematic debates of the High-Level Meeting.

II. EU-CELAC Cooperation - Cooperation Programme on drugs policies between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union

COPOLAD is the only EU-funded programme covering the entire CELAC region and providing support for a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and scientific evidence-based approach to the worldwide drug situation **in Latin American and Caribbean¹** countries. COPOLAD covers the various fields of drug policy from both a drug demand and a drug supply reduction perspective, as well as promoting evidence-based policies, with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and with the task of providing technical support to the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs.

COPOLAD II²

The second phase of COPOLAD, which started in 2016, ended its work in June 2020. During that period, in close cooperation with CELAC and the EU Member States, the programme implemented its working plan to reinforce National Observatories on Drugs and to adopt quality and evidence-based criteria, in terms of both demand reduction and supply reduction strategies. It also introduced sustainable approaches through capacity-building and bi-regional exchanges of best practices and lessons learned, providing as much support as possible for the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, a key instrument for dialogue and progress in the development and implementation of public drug policies in both regions.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the COPOLAD II Closing Conference, which had been scheduled for 1-2 April 2020 in Zagreb, Croatia, had to be cancelled and was replaced by a virtual closing event which took place on 4 June 2020. During that event, the outcome and achievements of the programme were presented to the 193 participants and recognised by CELAC and the EU Member States' representatives who participated in the meeting.

¹ An initial phase of the programme (2011 to 2015) covered all Latin American countries and – based on the evaluation of its results – a second phase was launched, including all CELAC countries, in response to the demand of Caribbean countries.

² COPOLAD II (2016-2019) was a regional cooperation programme funded by the European Union, with a total budget of EUR 10 000 000, and managed by the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Public Administration and Policies, Spanish Cooperation (FIIAPP). The first phase (COPOLAD I), also managed by FIIAP, ended in June 2015.

The activities were developed as scheduled, with significant and proactive participation on the part of CELAC, and European Union countries, and with the support of key multilateral partners such as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP) and the NGOs Ibero-American Network of NGOs working on drug addiction (RIOD) and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).

The objectives set at the beginning of the programme were achieved, and several were exceeded. The most relevant of those objectives are presented below.

COPOLAD's contribution to the tasks of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

- One of COPOLAD's main objectives is to provide technical support for the work developed by the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs. In this context, active and coordinated work has been carried out with the EU and CELAC Co-Presidencies of the Mechanism, and with the countries of both regions. COPOLAD participated in the Technical Committee meetings of the Mechanism, reporting on COPOLAD's activities, and contributing with specific information on the latest developments and outcomes in the various fields covered by the programme, providing insights and contributing to preparations for the XXIInd High-Level Meeting of the Mechanism.
- Technical Committee delegates have participated in sectorial meetings organised by COPOLAD and, at the same time, delegates from national drug agencies attended the Technical Committee meeting of the Mechanism in Brussels in February 2020. These initiatives have reinforced capacities in the various fields of drug policy and have promoted the exchange of information and coordination of all the key actors participating in the EU-CELAC Mechanism on Drugs. The contributions of COPOLAD to the tasks of the Mechanism have been evaluated as positive by all the actors and institutions involved. A specific coordination meeting was organised by COPOLAD in Brussels on 19-21 February 2020 with the aim of analysing COPOLAD's links and contributions to the Mechanism, with the participation of 29 CELAC countries.

Implementation of Early Warning Systems (EWS)

- By the end of COPOLAD I, the implementation of two EWSs was supported, one in Colombia and one in Uruguay. **COPOLAD II ended with seven EWSs** implemented in the region: the two mentioned above, which have been further reinforced and acted as regional leaders and contributed to the implementation of the five other EWSs in Argentina, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. Meanwhile, **the following three other EWS are in the initial phase**: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas and Ecuador.
- **Publication of a Manual to promote and guide the implementation of EWS on drugs and emerging problems with a national scope.** This aims to support the other CELAC countries which have not yet established their EWSs. The Manual is available in Spanish and English.

Preparation, editing and dissemination of National Drug Reports

- **18 countries³ produced their National Drug Reports within the framework of COPOLAD II**, 14 of them for the first time.
- **A methodological guide to the drafting of National Drug Reports** has been produced, which includes an accompaniment for the National Observatory, on steps, dimensions, and selected indicators, to assist those countries which have not yet drafted their first National Drug Report. The Guide is available in Spanish and English.
- A support **document** has been drafted **describing how to prepare an effective information dissemination plan, adapted to the different target audiences.** The document is available in Spanish and English.

³ Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. Although some Caribbean countries had already been preparing national reports, based on their sub-regional information network, 14 countries on this list prepared their national reports for the first time.

Other documents for the consolidation of the National Drug Observatories

- At the request of participating countries, and through the development of Working Groups inspired by the model of triangular cooperation, the following documents were also produced: Support for the validation study of indicators of the ‘problematic use’ of drugs; Conceptual and Methodological aspects for the identification of threats and emerging problems in the region.

Progress towards the implementation of regulatory frameworks for Quality Assurance in Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) in most CELAC countries

- 22 countries⁴ in Latin America and the Caribbean have successfully completed the piloting and validation exercise - in a real-life context - of the quality criteria in the Prevention and Treatment of problematic drug use, previously agreed within the framework of COPOLAD I. All those countries are committed to incorporating them into their regulatory frameworks.
- 12 countries⁵ are moving towards the articulation of accreditation (Quality Assurance) within their regulatory/legal frameworks. At the request of those countries (except for the Bahamas), technical assistance was provided to them in order to anchor quality standards and evidence in their quality accreditation frameworks in the social/health field, on the basis of the individual situation of each country.

Progress in the planning and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes

- Planning and evaluation tasks are considered by countries as a key element for improving the effectiveness of their policies and programmes and repeatedly referred to the training gap that exists in the sector. Sensitive to these demands, **COPOLAD II has launched the interactive programme ‘One Step@a Time’, a support instrument based on the Logical Planning Model, to facilitate** the implementation of interventions in an orderly, systematic, and evidence-based manner.

⁴ Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Dominica, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Uruguay, Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago.

⁵ The Bahamas, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

- Managers of the National Observatories, together with those responsible for planning in Drug Demand Reduction of the National Drug Agencies of **30 countries, were trained to use the ‘One Step@a Time’ instrument in the three face-to-face workshops held in 2019 in Buenos Aires (Argentina), Nassau (Bahamas) and Panama City (Panama)**, a sub-regional training programme for trainers’ activities that can be replicated later on in each individual country. 90 policy makers and 200 professionals responsible for planning DDR received training. **Several other training programmes were replicated at the national level in 2020 in Jamaica, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, and the Bahamas.**

Sustainable Capacity-Building Strategy in Drug Demand Reduction

- More than 1,900 professionals working in the field of the prevention and assistance of problematic drug use have been trained during the four years. This means that **the scope of the training offered during COPOLAD II saw a 900% increase compared to the first phase of the programme, significantly exceeding the initial objective of achieving a 50% increase in the number of trained professionals.**
- This achievement has been attained by offering **eight international editions of the courses:** four in Spanish for the Latin American countries and four in English for the Caribbean countries, implemented in cooperation with the leadership of countries in the region. A total of 478 students from 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries attended those courses, with a pass rate of over 60%. Thanks to the positive evaluations of participants and the high demand generated, **several national editions of the courses** took place. In COPOLAD II, **19 national editions have been held in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela.** This has strengthened the professional response capacity in Latin American and Caribbean countries on key issues for institutions which often have high professional turnover rates. It also confirmed the sustainability, accessibility and broad scope of the training strategy promoted by COPOLAD since its first phase, together with its future potential.

Developments and work on Alternative Development (AD)⁶

- This is an area that - due to its promising results - is of growing interest in the CELAC countries⁷. Therefore, COPOLAD has worked towards the incorporation of an evidence-based methodology, as well as the **promotion** of inter-institutional support in each country, in order to achieve real and long-term commitments. Three **countries have created a specific directorate/office to cover Alternative Development** (Paraguay, Mexico, and Guatemala), and **five countries have launched AD strategies/projects for the first time** (Guatemala, Jamaica, Paraguay, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago).
- **COPOLAD has worked to facilitate an intra-regional exchange of best practices and mutual learning in AD**, through the organisation of regional forums and peer-to-peer workshops. All activities were carried out in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
- COPOLAD has also promoted the implementation of evidence-based policies on AD. Therefore, a **Study on Institutional Capacities for the Implementation of Alternative Development** was produced with the participation of Peru, Paraguay, and Guatemala, with the aim of facilitating a general review of existing institutional capacities in the field of AD at national level. It introduced an overview of the institutional capacities of organised stakeholders implementing AD approaches in their own specific countries, with the purpose of identifying lessons learned in order to better implement AD strategies in individual countries.

⁶ While we use the term ‘Alternative Development’ to present the work carried out in this area, we consider and recognise all the various terms used in the different CELAC countries in relation to this subject-matter (for instance, Sustainable and Integral Development, Preventive Alternative Development and Rural Development, among many other definitions).

⁷ In COPOLAD I, the four Andean countries were included in AD activities. By the end of COPOLAD II, 16 countries were working in this field within the framework of the programme: the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

- On 27 May 2020, a virtual event on Alternative Development took place with the purpose of reviewing the work and related progress accomplished in the area through COPOLAD II.

Law enforcement activities and control of drug precursors

The area of Drug Supply Reduction (DSR) aimed to promote the exchange of information, intelligence, best practices, and lessons learned between the stakeholders involved in the CELAC and the EU, with the aim of generating targeted and effective responses to the threats posed by transnational criminal organisations.

- **COPOLAD II has worked to promote alternative measures to incarceration and to review the management of criminal, penitentiary, and reinsertion policies in CELAC countries.** The first meeting of COPOLAD II in this area (in 2017 in Costa Rica) provided an opportunity to analyse the situation in the region, where the average rate of persons deprived of liberty is rising alarmingly.

Considering that the needs in this area continue to exist, **COPOLAD II, together with two other EU-funded programmes (EL PAcCTO and EUROsociAL+)**, joined forces and working methods to organise a **Bi-regional Conference on the development of the use of alternative measures to incarceration, held in September 2019 in Montevideo (Uruguay)**. The high level of participants from countries demonstrated the growing political awareness within CELAC of the need to gradually incorporate these measures into their penal policies. A high-level virtual follow-up to the conclusions of the Declaration of Montevideo took place on 3 June 2020 under the co-organisation of COPOLAD II, EL PAcCTO and EUROsociAL+. The event was a success, involving at least 193 participants.

- Other important areas covered by COPOLAD II were **money laundering and asset recovery, as well as cocaine drug trafficking routes, both by air and sea**, organising specific bi-regional meetings to promote the exchange of intelligence and better coordinate bi-regional efforts among police units, border security forces, Interior Ministries and Customs and Public Prosecutors of the EU and CELAC countries.

- **In controlling chemical precursors for the manufacture of illicit drugs, a joint model for action has been established among Latin America, Caribbean, and EU countries within COPOLAD.** Both regions have exchanged intelligence/information and the most effective methodologies to address the challenge posed by the proliferation of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), the importance of voluntary agreements with the private sector, and the role of forensic laboratories, in addition to analysing legislation on chemical precursors.
- These achievements have been attained by holding **four COPOLAD Annual Weeks on Precursors** (in Barcelona, Brasilia, Lisbon, and Buenos Aires), and by setting up **two Working Groups on Precursors**, one composed of ten Latin American countries⁸ and the other of five Caribbean countries⁹. Bi-regional collaboration has been promoted, involving police units, Interior Ministries, Customs and Specialised Prosecutors' Offices.

COPOLAD III

The contract for the third phase of COPOLAD was signed in December 2020. Implementation started in February 2021 for a period of 48 months and with a budget of EUR 15 million.

COPOLAD III is managed by a consortium formed by the International Ibero-American Foundation for Public Policies and Administrations, Spanish Cooperation (FIIAPP) and the Italian-Latin American International Organization (IILA), with the participation of the EMCDDA and the envisaged participation of GIZ.

⁸ Working Group 1: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The Group has produced a very interesting and useful document on best practices and lessons learned to prevent the illicit traffic of chemical precursors (available in Spanish).

⁹ Working Group 2: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago. The Group has worked on legislation regarding drug precursors and has produced a very interesting and useful document on a Draft Chemical Precursors Act (available in English).

Building on the achievements of its previous phases, COPOLAD III will continue to promote technical and political dialogue between CELAC and the EU, to strengthen the technical capacity of national observatories on drugs and to support the LAC region in terms of drug demand and supply reduction. Through dialogue and cooperation, the programme will boost the relevance and comprehensiveness of public policies on drugs.

COPOLAD III will establish its actions in accordance with an evidence-based approach, while activities will mainstream gender equality, human rights, and public health issues. Moreover, the programme will rely on:

- A results-oriented methodology based on the demands and needs of participating countries;
- A ‘Team Europe Spirit’, which fosters coordination, complementarity and synergies between EU Member States, institutions and agencies (EMCDDA, EUROPOL, GIZ) and related programmes (El PacCto, EUROFRONT, CRIMJUST, etc.) as well as DDR policies in CELAC countries in the region;
- A strengthened strategy to reduce the supply of and demand for illegal drugs in both regions by building strong partnerships in the region, based on the experience developed by EU countries against drug trafficking.

At **regional level**, the programme will operate through the creation of Working Groups (WG) bringing together countries with similar interests, while promoting **south-south or triangular cooperation**. The expertise provided by Task Forces will ensure the necessary support for implementing action plans and specific technical assistance.

At **national level**, specific technical assistance will be offered through roadmaps based on the needs identified by participating countries and their national authorities.

The integration of a gender equality perspective will be a priority for COPOLAD III. The specific needs of women and girls will be mainstreamed by the programme, and attention will be paid to reducing gender inequality by adopting tailored-made approaches for each component.

The programme is now in its inception phase.

III. Other EU-funded inter-regional initiatives in which some CELAC countries participate

A. The Cocaine Route Programme in CELAC countries

The multi-annual Cocaine Route Programme (CRP) was launched in 2009, and since then the EU has committed over EUR 60 million to more than 40 countries along the cocaine route(s) from countries in Latin America to Europe via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa. In 2019, the CRP was re-grouped with the Heroin Route Programme (HRP, in its third phase now known as ‘EU-ACT’), Interpol’s iARMS project and the UNODC Firearms Project to form the Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP), which was launched on 25 November 2019 in Brussels. The Cocaine Route Programme was renamed the Global Illicit Flows Programme in January 2020.

The overall objective of this trans-regional programme is to enhance the capacity for international cooperation by law enforcement and judicial services of the partner countries in order to contribute to the fight against international criminal networks, thereby encouraging south-south cooperation and exchanges of best practices. By providing support to partner countries through technical advice and encouraging cooperation via ten self-standing components, the CRP has been carrying out activities in six main domains, notably the interception of illicit flows of drugs, the fight against money laundering, the improvement of information-sharing, criminal justice cooperation and joint investigations, research, and the enhancement of integrity.

As the programme has evolved, the focus of Article 5 of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) on a trans-regional approach has been emphasised. Projects such as AMERIPOL-EU, GAFILAT-EU and PRELAC - which had a regional focus - ended under the CRP and have, in most cases, been integrated in different forms into EU regional programmes. Concentrating on its core trans-regional focus, the GIFP currently has two ‘operational’ components delivered through four projects:

- The interception of illicit flows of drugs by air (AIRCOP and COLIBRI) and sea (SEACOP); and
- The improvement of criminal justice cooperation and investigation (CRIMJUST).

In addition, the Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS) project, the programme’s monitoring and support mechanism, assists the European Commission in managing the integration of the various CRP components into a coherent, mutually reinforcing programme, as well as ensuring coordination with other relevant initiatives. It also provides the European Commission with advice and analysis on project implementation as well as updates on relevant trends.

a) Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP)

Implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Airport Communications Project (AIRCOP) was launched in 2010. AIRCOP aims to strengthen the detection, interdiction, and investigative capacities of participating international airports through the sharing of operational information and the establishment and training of inter-service Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) to better equip beneficiary countries in the fight against illicit trafficking and other forms of transnational organised crime. To encourage the real-time transmission of information aimed at intercepting illicit shipments, JAITFs are connected to international law enforcement databases and communication networks (INTERPOL I-24/7 and WCO CENcomm).

CELAC countries included in AIRCOP's geographical scope are: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Panama and Peru.

Currently, AIRCOP covers 36 beneficiary countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East, and seven associate/observer countries. In total, 25 JAIFs are currently operational, and nine JAIFs are under establishment, including - most recently - Colombia (Bogota and Cartagena), Costa Rica (San José), Cuba (Havana), Trinidad and Tobago (Port of Spain), Ecuador, Mozambique, and Ethiopia. In addition, two K-9/dog anti-drug units have been established, and more than 7 615 people have been trained (18% of whom are women) through 418 training and mentoring actions. The established task forces participated in 33 international joint operations, during which controls on departing, transiting, and arriving passengers, cargo and mail were heightened.

Since the operationalisation of the first JAIFs in 2012, the various task forces have recorded over 2 709 arrests and 3 586 seizures, in both passengers and cargo areas. Those seizures have amounted to: over 21 tonnes of drugs, including 8.8 tonnes of cocaine, 3.4 tonnes of khat, 6.8 tonnes of cannabis, 2 tonnes of methamphetamine, 500 kg of heroin, 140 kg of amphetamine and 1.5 tonnes of precursors; 19.3 tonnes of falsified/fraudulent medicines; USD 28 million in undeclared cash; 10.5 tonnes of cigarettes and tobacco; 269 kg of gold, 1 tonne of ivory; 1.8 tonnes of pangolin scales; fake/fraudulent passports and visas; and arms and ammunition. The JAIFs have also intercepted nine potential foreign terrorist fighters in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Niamey (Niger), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Punta Cana (Santo Domingo) and Togo (Lomé). Four wanted persons (Interpol notices) were also intercepted, as well as 14 victims of human trafficking, and several migrant smuggling networks were identified.

b) Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP)

Launched in 2010, the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) is currently embarking on its phase V (indicatively in April 2021). It is being implemented by FIIAPP and EU Member States' law enforcement agencies. In addition to the 11 countries in the Caribbean from Phase III (British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Dominica, St Lucia, Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago), seven priority countries in the LAC region have been included in Phase IV, to include Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, and Panama, and potentially also Ecuador and Peru.

Given the additional focus of Phase V on riverine trafficking, Paraguay and Uruguay will be likely additions in the next phase.

The overall objective of SEACOP is to support the fight against illicit maritime trafficking and associated criminal networks in the countries and regions targeted. Its purpose is to provide the means (equipment, IT tools and the related skills) to the countries and regions targeted in order to enable them to:

- reinforce their seaport control and maritime intelligence capacities by setting up, consolidating and equipping dedicated Units in seaports or sensitive coastal areas;
- improve or set up local maritime information and control systems;
- enhance operational delivery and cooperation at national, regional, and transregional levels.

Created with a view to strengthening capacities to combat maritime trafficking along the cocaine route, SEACOP aims to set up institutional elements called Joint Maritime Control Units (JMCU) and Maritime Intelligence Units (MIU) in key ports. By the end of 2020, at least 16 MIUs and 20 JMCUs had been set up by all the SEACOP phases combined.

SEACOP held its second Transregional Maritime Intelligence meeting in Bogota (Colombia) in July 2019.

c) Strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the Cocaine Route (CRIMJUST)

In December 2015, the EU and UNODC signed an agreement on the implementation of CRIMJUST, a four-year project with a geographical focus on selected countries in West Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The project is being implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and Transparency International.

The CRIMJUST project aims to build synergies and complementarity with the other projects which form part of the Cocaine Route Programme (primarily AIRCOP and SEACOP), and to support the Programme in its strategic approach against organised crime and drug trafficking. To do this, the CRIMJUST project carries out work in the following main areas:

- Complementary and coordinated action with other GIFP projects on capacity-building for criminal justice entities in West Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean (law enforcement and the judiciary) to detect, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate organised crime and drug trafficking cases,
- Effective inter-regional criminal justice action to tackle organised crime and drug trafficking (including south-south cooperation and the exchange of relevant experience with EU countries),

- Re-enforcement of institutional integrity, accountability and anti-corruption-related practices of criminal justice entities when dealing with organised crime and drug trafficking cases.
- Research into the production, processing, trafficking, and consumption of cocaine, resulting in the annual Global Cocaine Report, to be published for the first time in 2021.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, CRIMJUST is active in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru as associate countries, and in the Dominican Republic and Panama as beneficiary countries. In agreement with the European Commission, the geographical scope of the project has recently been extended to include Uruguay, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

CRIMJUST has been actively working on supporting law enforcement and other justice sector institutions in strengthening integrity, accountability and resilience to corruption and the influence of organised crime. Alongside capacity-building activities, CRIMJUST has developed the successful inter-regional investigative fora, bringing together prosecutors and senior investigators in organised crime cases of a transregional nature.

d) COLIBRI

COLIBRI aims to build capacity in combating customs fraud and illicit trafficking in general aviation, at both international hub airports and domestic airfields in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. Specifically, it will build capacities for intelligence, targeting and inspection techniques for business aircraft at international airports, and for methods of targeting and intercepting smuggled goods brought in by private light aircraft to small airfields or open spaces.

The project started in early 2019 and has conducted half of its scoping missions, namely in all the Latin American countries it proposes to involve in the project: Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic, plus Mali and Niger. Scoping missions in the remaining West African beneficiary countries will take place in virtual format throughout 2021 in Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde, Nigeria, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire. Most recently, COLIBRI has launched its geoportal - a global database of light aircraft to improve regional intelligence, international cooperation, and risk analysis - and will launch its training handbook in April 2021, while training for Colombia, Argentina and Uruguay took place in 2020.

e) **EL PAcCTO (Europa-Latinoamérica Programa de asistencia contra el crimen transnacional organizado)**

For the first time in Latin America, a regional programme is addressing the fight against organised crime (including drugs), covering the entire criminal chain: police cooperation, judicial cooperation, and penitentiary systems. The programme also covers money laundering, corruption, cybercrime, gender issues and human rights. EL PAcCTO is a demand-driven programme covering over 70 public institutions in 18 Latin-American countries (Ministries, General Prosecutors' Offices and Supreme Courts). Technical activities started in 2018.

In 2019, the programme made significant progress, with the creation of important EU-LA police and penitentiary cooperation networks, such as JAGUAR (environmental crimes), ELIPSIA (fighting child pornography) and REDCOPEN (penitentiary intelligence). Major achievements in 2019 also included the opening of the Bi-National Border Police Centre between Panama and Costa Rica and the regional conference on alternative measures to imprisonment (organized jointly with EUROSOCIAL+ and COPOLAD II).

The programme is the object of growing interest in our partner countries, including the Caribbean, and the participation of several EU services and agencies (DG HOME, DG JUST, EEAS, EUROPOL and EUROJUST) increased significantly over 2019. **AMERIPOL**, the EUROPOL-like organisation, already has eight partner countries, with Brazil and Argentina leading the process.

In 2020, EL PAcCTO achieved important results, reacting very quickly to the crisis. The programme launched the COVID-19 Channel as an immediate response to the pandemic: a space for exchange between the EU and LA security forces, representatives of the judicial and penitentiary systems on specific practices and protocols used during the pandemic. It also promoted the Latin American Committee for Internal Security (CLASI), inspired by the European COSI, to strengthen EU-LA cooperation on security issues, in coordination with the Council of the EU. EL PAcCTO also organised the first meeting between Latin American and European justice regional entities. The AMERIPOL Summit, together with several webinars related to the pandemic, allowed the sharing of best practices on specific issues relating to COVID-19 between EU and Latin American counterparts.

Work with INTERPOL to track fugitives has also generated a high degree of interest among Latin American countries, where several cases involving fugitives wanted for serious crimes (including drug trafficking) were solved in 2019 and 2020. EL PAcCTO represents a practical EU response to support dialogue on citizen security within the region and with the EU Member States, in line with Chapter 10 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan.

f) EUROFRONT - Support for Integrated Border Management in Latin America

Within the framework of the security development nexus, two actions were signed off in 2019 under the EUROFRONT programme to foster intra-Latin American and bi-regional cooperation in the areas of integrated border management (IBM) and the fight against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling. Human rights, gender, and values such as good governance, rule of law and fundamental freedoms, etc. are included as crosscutting topics in both components.

EUROFRONT is implemented at four terrestrial pilot border-crossing posts involving seven partner countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru). While the first component, on IBM, is being implemented by a consortium with FIIAPP as leader and IILA and IOM as partners, the second component, on the fight against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling, is managed exclusively by IOM. Moreover, EUROFRONT receives support from the EU MSs (notably ES, IT, PT, PL, and LT) and FRONTEX.

As EUROFRONT started in the second quarter of 2020, amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and closed borders, implementation was considerably hampered and delayed, for obvious reasons. Despite those challenging circumstances, EUROFRONT managed nonetheless to implement specific activities, including in the field.

Those activities included, in particular, the delivery of COVID-19 detection and protection material in each of the seven partner countries, the organisation of a series of successful webinars, an analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on illicit activities at each of the programme's pilot borders, a high-level study visit by officials from Colombia and Ecuador to the Bi-National Border Police Centre between Panama and Costa Rica, and the development of a georeferenced platform which will be made available to partner countries and adapted to their specific individual needs.

B. Implementation of Chapter 10 (Citizen Security) of the EU-CELAC Action Plan

According to Chapter 10 (Citizen Security) of the EU-CELAC Action Plan, two inter-governmental seminars and a workshop were to be organised on citizen security.

The first two EU-CELAC seminars on citizen security were held on 27-28 September 2017 in The Hague, the Netherlands and on 16-17 January 2018 in Panama City, Panama. The third event took place on 23-24 January 2019 in Belize City, Belize. The events were co-organised by the EU (INTPA and EEAS) and CELAC (Panama and Belize, in their capacity as Chapter 10 Coordinators). With the three events concluded, the requirements of Chapter 10 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan were fulfilled.

The EU-CELAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting Declaration (16-17 July 2018) called for the strengthening of the bi-regional dialogue on citizen security. Following the three seminars, a fourth one is now planned for October 2021.
