



**COUNCIL OF
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CORDROGUE 9

NOTE

from:	Presidency
to:	Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
Subject:	Presidency - priorities on drugs

The trio presidency formed by Spain, Belgium and Hungary for the next 18 months has fixed as goals for the term the promotion of a united Europe on behalf of its citizens, building on the main achievements and respect for its rich cultural and social diversity. Within these goals the definition of a post-Lisbon strategy and the construction of an EU social agenda are the objectives more directly related to the EU drug Policy.

The Spanish Presidency agenda has been built upon the base of an enhanced support to the European unity and the coordination of actions between the Member States and the European Institutions. The external relations are proposed within the frame of the principles of effectiveness, coherence, visibility and respect for human rights, in accordance to the trio presidency programme.

1. Preparation of the EU position at the 53rd Period of Sessions of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. After evaluating the progresses and barriers related to the fulfilment of the commitments acquired in the 20th extraordinary period of sessions of the General Assembly (UNGASS process) a new period opens for issues as relevant as the need to improve the quality of the information systems. The Spanish presidency seeks to coordinate and elevate the positions of the EU Member States during the celebration of the 53rd Regular Period of Sessions of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs, reaching consensus at the different intervention projects, adopting the common positions determined with regards to the draft resolutions presented and any other general interest subjects and representing the European Union during the new Period of Sessions. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objective 18, Actions 56 and 57.*

2. Generating information for decision making and building evidences applicable to drug policies within the EU: Subsequent to the Resolution of the 52nd Period of Sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on Improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data (E/CN.7/2009/L24/Rev.1), and the official position of the European Union at the UNGASS 2008 Process (13501/08, CORDROGUE 71/UD 172, 25-09-2008) the Spanish Presidency wants to support the development and implementation of improvements of the information system, capable to face a more effective evaluation of the European strategies and action plans as well as enhancing the generation of information to build evidences. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objectives 8, 23 and 24. Actions 19, 65, 70 and 72.*

3. Encouraging cooperation among and reaching out to drug researchers, citizens, professionals, planners and programme managers on drugs. The Spanish presidency aims to bring research closer to design of strategies and decision making in order to support drug policies based on the available scientific evidences. With that purpose it is intended to support the EU Action Plan activities directed to strengthen the drug research managing instruments:

Identifying needs, promoting the creation of working teams and generating EU work programs adequate to these needs. National dissemination of funding opportunities and reporting will be a complement to these activities. The Spanish Presidency will promote collaboration with international excellence research centres.

The Presidency will also organize a Meeting at the University of Menéndez Pelayo in Santander, on the 28th-29th of June 2010, bringing together researchers and Programme Managers within the EU. During the Meeting the priorities on research related to drugs issues will be discussed. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objective 21, Action 63.*

4. Intensifying cooperation with other health multilateral stakeholders in order to focus drug-addictions from a public health perspective. The Spanish Presidency seeks to establish cooperation mechanisms with the World Health Organisation and other UN bodies related to drugs to enhance cooperation and information exchange, preventing duplication of activities. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objective 18, Action 59.*

5. Promotion of participation and cooperation of the Member States on funding initiatives against drugs by the European Commission. The EC is running numerous funding initiatives capable to cover different drug related working areas. The funding sources are scattered all over the EU structure and occasionally they are hardly known to the MS and the potential beneficiary regions. The EU Spanish Presidency seeks a monographic updating of these funding sources and their results, in order to encourage the interest and participation of the MS.

6. Improving the effectiveness of the EU/LAC Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism. The Spanish Presidency seeks to enhance the effectiveness of this instrument of cooperation with LAC. With that purpose, it aims to identify specific work areas considered in Port Spain (2007) and Quito (2009) declarations, capable to generate benefits for the population and reinforced institutions. The XIIth Meeting of the Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism will be held in Madrid on the 26th and 27th of April 2010 and its results will be brought to the EU-LAC Summit to be held in Madrid on the 18th of May 2010. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objective 16, Action 46.*

7. Fostering an integrated approach to drug policies through promoting the coordination of drug policies in Member States: A close cooperation among the different national drug policy departments constitutes a first step towards its reflection at a European level. Information exchange, access to research registration systems and coordination of operations between states and police forces constitute the key elements to improve police efficiency in drug trafficking fight. These goals need the coordination of different departments at national and European levels.

Within national level coordination, the creation of funds destined to drug policies coming from confiscation could constitute an element of articulation and coordination among the activities dedicated to reduce the supply and demand and to reinforce the effectiveness of national policies. The Spanish Presidency foresees an EU conference on Integrated Focus on Drug Policies, to be held in Madrid on the 23rd and 24th of March 2010. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objective 3, Action 6.*

8. Improving the effectiveness of the current frameworks of cooperation and information exchange with other regions. International cooperation on drug trafficking fight is the keystone to reduce the supply available in illegal markets and prevent crimes related to drug trafficking. The Spanish Presidency seeks to foster the fight against drug trafficking in Africa in accordance to the Council Conclusions of November 2008¹ on reinforcing the action of the EU Member States police forces in the fight against drug trafficking in West Africa, complemented by the Council Conclusions of November 2009 on “Strengthening the fight against drug trafficking in West Africa”². For that purpose, the role of the African platforms will be empowered, and the matrix of the collaboration projects developed in the region will be updated. It will also be promoted the setting up of a platform of EU liaison officers in Latin America, encouraging information exchange both with the current African platforms and Europol. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009 -2012. Actions 35, 36, 46, 47 and 48.*

9. Enhance law enforcement cooperation establishing joint investigation teams. The Spanish Presidency will pay special attention to previous national experiences and will use the ‘Joint Investigation Teams Manual –ECI-’ as a reference (doc. 13598/09 + COR 1). *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objective 11, Action 25.*

10. Intensify the law enforcement efficiency regarding the use of ‘non-commercial aviation by criminal organisations in drug trafficking’: The Spanish Presidency will promote best practice exchange among the MS. The actions developed by the ‘Airports platform’ of the Pompidou Group will be taken into consideration. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objective 11, Actions 24 and 25.*

¹ 15812/1/08 REV 1 JAI 645 CORDROGUE 82 COAFR 368

² 16451/09 JAI 864 CORDROGUE 75 COAFR 374 ENFOPOL 300

11. Empower the initiatives developed by the EU Asset Recovery Offices. The Spanish Presidency will promote the process of setting-up new offices encouraging cooperation among them, submitting equally the conclusions of the CEART (Centres of Excellence on Asset Recovery and Training) Project in this matter to the HDG. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objective 14, Action 33 and 34.*

12. National Drug Coordinators Meeting: The Spanish Presidency aims to approach drug use prevention and associated risks with a monographic focus on ‘Alcohol as a protagonist on polydrug use’. The presence of alcohol in combination with other substances affects the EU as a whole, fomenting adverse effects, burden, disability and mortality on adults and young people. Taking as a starting point the ‘EU Alcohol Strategy’, due to end in 2012, and the current European situation, the Spanish Presidency aims to evaluate the advances and identify future challenges with the support of the European Commission, DG-SANCO, EMCDDA, other International organisations and researchers within Europe. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objective 5, Action 10.*

TROIKAS:

The Spanish Presidency seeks to strengthen its relationship with the USA, foster collaboration with the Western Balkans and West Africa and reinforce the Union for the Mediterranean, including a Troika with Morocco in the program.

Finally, a special attention will be paid to the enhancement of the EU – LAC Co-operation Mechanism by holding a High -Level Conference in Madrid and transmitting its results to the EU - LAC Summit, to be held in Madrid in the first semester of 2010. *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. Objectives 45, 46, 47 and 51.*
