

12600/97

LIMITE

CORDROGUE 77

**NOTE**

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from : the Presidency

to : the Horizontal Drugs Group

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No. prev. doc. : 9946/1/97 CORDROGUE 58 REV 1

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Subject : **Coordination mechanism with Latin America/Caribbean**

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**A.**

1. At its meeting of 13 November 1997 the Council formally adopted the text on a cooperation mechanism with Latin America/Caribbean that is in document 9946/1/97 CORDROGUE 58 REV 1.

On page 1 § 4 of the document it is stated that the text on the mechanism agreed by the Council is a basis for discussion with partners of Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. Consultations with the partners took place on

- 31 October 1997 (Presidency, Council Secretariat, Commission with delegations of Paraguay (Rio group), Guatemala (San José group) and Trinidad and Tobago (Caribbean group));
- 11 November 1997 - Troika in full association with the Commission and supported by the Council Secretariat with delegations of Paraguay (Rio group), Guatemala (San José group) and Trinidad and Tobago (Caribbean group);
- 19 November 1997 - Troika including Spanish delegation, in full association with Commission and supported by the General Secretariat of the Council with Troika and other interested delegations of the Rio group and the San José group. Caribbean delegations were not present at this meeting.

At these meetings the modalities of the mechanism and the draft agenda for the first meeting of its regional structure were discussed as well as the follow up to be given to the declaration of ministers of the EU/Rio group meeting in April 1997 in Noordwijk.

**B.** Following specific points were raised :

**1.** Role of the Rio group

Representatives of San José group and Caribbean countries felt that their cooperation structures should have an equal status in the text as the Rio group.

**2.** Holding of first regional structure meeting on 11/12 December 1997

Various delegations were of the view that the date of 11/12 December 1997 could be premature. Consensus should first be reached on the modalities of the mechanism.

**3.** Follow-up to the meeting in Noordwijk.

Representatives of the Rio group stressed the necessity to organize, preferably in cooperation with the regional level meeting, the meeting of the Rio group announced in the communiqué of the meeting in Noordwijk.

**4.** At the meeting of 19 November 1997 a revised version of document 9946/1/97

CORDROGUE 58 REV 1 was studied as well as a first draft of the agenda of the regional level meeting. Results of this work are in document 9946/2/97 CORDROGUE 58 REV 2 and document 12628/97 CORDROGUE 79.

**C.** The Presidency invites the group to take a position on the following questions :

**1.** Is it feasible to organise a first meeting of the regional structure already on

11/12 December 1997 or should a preparatory meeting be held on 11 or 12

December 1997 during which the text of the coordination mechanism and the agenda for the first meeting will be adopted ?

The UK delegation has offered to organize this first meeting on 25/26 March 1998.

2. The intention of the Presidency to organize on 11 December 1997 a meeting with the Rio group pursuant to the commitment of the Ministerial meeting of 7 April 1997 in Noordwijk. The meeting could treat the following themes :
    - Coordination mechanism European Union-Latin America/Caribbean
    - Co-responsibility principle
    - Préparation of special session of General Assembly.
  
  3. Are the mechanism set out in document 9946/2/97 CORDROGUE 58 REV 2 and the draft agenda acceptable ?
  
  - D. The Presidency intends to inform the Latin American/Caribbean partners and COREPER on the conclusions of its work on questions listed under C.
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