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THE COUNCIL

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CORDROGUE 47

NOTE

from : the Irish Presidency of the Dublin Group
to : Horizontal Drugs Group

No. prev. doc.: 7238/99 CORDROGUE 21

Subject : Restructuration of the Dublin Group

I. Introduction

At its meeting of 23-24 June 1999, the Dublin Group discussed under point 7 of its agenda

“The restructuration of the Dublin Group on the basis of :

- a note of the Irish Presidency (7238/99 CORDROGUE 21)
- room documents of the UK and Japanese delegations
- introductory remarks in the report of the Netherlands delegation on Central Europe.

These contributions are in an addendum to this note.

2. The discussion showed a high degree of convergence between suggested approaches of delegations.

- a) There was a general awareness that the guidelines for cooperation in the Dublin Group (cf. 7432/97 CORDROGUE 16) are basically appropriate, the problem is in their implementation.

Under point 5 of the guidelines it is spelled out that regional reports must be sent to the Secretariat of the Council, at least eight weeks before the meeting of the Central Dublin Group. In practice this time limit has never been respected. Most reports arrived only some days before the meeting or on the day of the meeting. Apart from timing problems the structure of the reports did not always reflect the format provided for in annex 2 of document 7432/97 CORDROGUE 16. An example of a report that respects this structure in an exemplary way is the report presented by the Spanish delegation on Central America and Mexico.

- b) A major item that came up regularly is the relation between the Central and the Mini-Dublin Group. Various delegations said that the Central Group should discuss more in depth reports from regional chairs notably the recommendations in these reports. Clear precise guidance has to be given by the Central Dublin Group to regional groups. One delegation stressed that the Dublin Group is an informal mechanism and that this should be reflected in the relation between the Central and Regional Groups.

The group did not challenge the view expressed on behalf of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union that a back-to-back meeting of the Central Dublin Group and the Major Donors Group in Vienna is not appropriate. In autumn Dublin Group meetings could be held in Brussels in the week preceding the Major Donors Group meeting.

More attention has to be given to the coordinating role of the Central Dublin Group.

The Presidency concluded that

- there was considerable support for aforementioned suggestions including those of the NL delegation providing for thematic discussions and creation of subcommittees.
- there was agreement that
 - * mini-Dublin Groups should be invited to define priorities.
 - * UNDCP will be a full member of the Dublin Group

On the basis of these considerations the Presidency presents suggestions to the group that are listed under II.

Delegations are invited to comment before end September 1999 on those suggestions in order to enable the Dublin Group to take a decision at its session of December 1999.

II.

A. Purpose of the Dublin Group.

The coordination of bilateral drug policy should be added to the scope of the Dublin Group. Where appropriate, Dublin Group fora should cooperate with regional organisations such as CICAD, SADC, Pompidou Group.

B. Membership

UNDCP will be a full member.

C. Structure of activities.

1. Reports of mini-Dublin Groups and coordination of work with Central Dublin Group.
The reports of the mini-Dublin Groups should be presented to the Central Group at least one month before the meeting of the group.
The reports should respect the format set out in Annex 3 of document 7432/97 CORDROGUE 16. Their value may be increased by focusing on specific issues.
2. Central Dublin Group should invite international and regional organisations such as World Bank, UNDP, UNO, UNICEF, CICAD, EMCDDA and Europol to meetings as appropriate.

* At the regional level

Regional chairs should endeavour to produce policy-oriented recommendations on regional policies on the basis of discussions among participants of the mini-Dublin groups and should then submit them to the Central Dublin group for consideration, taking into account the Regional Action Plans and the sub-regional Action Plans of the UNDCP.

Regional reports should respect the format set out in Annex 2 of document 7432/97 CORDROGUE 16 and should be presented to the Central Group at least one month before the meeting of the group.

Before the meeting of the Central group the Council Secretariat will draw up a single note containing recommendations suggested in the regional chair reports. Not later than a week after the meeting of the Central group a succinct note containing agreed conclusions and recommendations will be sent out notably to the attention of mini-Dublin groups.

State of implementation of the recommendations should be part of the report of regional chairs to next meeting of the Central Dublin group.

* At the local level

Mini-Dublin groups should invite relevant international organisations and regional organisations in addition to the World Bank and UNDCP to consult on the drug situation and projects in the recipient countries.

D. Central Dublin Group

Term of presidency of Central group should be 2 years.

E. Mini-Dublin group

The chairs of mini-Dublin groups should prepare meetings in close cooperation with the UNDCP country office if it exists.

The role of the mini-Dublin groups is set out in document 7432/97 CORDROGUE 16. A role of the mini-Dublin group is to maintain dialogue with the Government of the recipient country and therefore the mini-Dublin groups are encouraged to invite Government officials of the recipient country to the meeting if appropriate.

F. Secretariat

In preparing meetings of the Central Dublin group the Council Secretariat closely involves UNDCP and European Commission with a view to draw on the experience and expertise of these organs.

G. Collaboration between Dublin group and Major Donors Group Meeting of UNDCP

The Dublin group and Major Donors group of UNDCP have different and distinctive mandates. However, both groups share common interests in tackling the drug problems of region/countries. It is therefore useful for both groups to share relevant information with a view to ensuring the maximum effectiveness and efficiency of the two groups.

Toward this end, the two groups should exchange conference documents and information through the secretariats in particular concerning the drug situation in regions/countries.

[The agenda of each meeting should be coordinated by the presidency of the Dublin group and the chair of the Major Donor group.]