



15-16/12/99
MINS

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 January 2000

SEMDOC

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LIMITE

CORDROGUE 8

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : the Dublin group
on : 15 and 16 December 1999
No. prev. doc.: 9780/99 CORDROGUE 46

The Dublin group met on 15 and 16 December 1999 in Brussels under the chairmanship of Mr. Byrne (Permanent Representation of Ireland to EU). The proceedings of the meeting are in the present note, whereas succinct conclusions and recommendations are in document 5264/00 CORDROGUE 7.

I. Adoption of the agenda

The group agreed on the agenda that is annexed to this note.

II. Reports of regional chairs

A. Africa, in particular Morocco, Southern Africa, Nigeria (doc. 5099/00 CORDROGUE 2)

1. In presenting its report the Swedish chair of the regional formation on Africa emphasised that Africa continues to be a major supplier of cannabis and cannabis resin for Europe. Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa have been identified by Interpol among the ten main

source countries of cannabis in the world. There are indications that large cities and seaports in all of Africa are being used for the transshipment of heroin and cocaine. Consumption is drastically increasing, cannabis abuse is steadily rising in the continent. The consumption of heroin, cocaine and methaqualone also constitutes a cause for concern. Amphetamine stimulants (ATS) is another emerging problem in Africa. On the other hand the elaboration of more and more national master plans is a positive development. As regards implementation of master plans in SADC countries it is foreseen that the present coordinator stays until June 2000.

2. The representative of UNDCP pointed out that his organisation intends to strengthen regional organisations in Africa such as SADC. The recent establishment of the regional office of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Pretoria has been very useful. A treatment centre has been set up in Soweto. He welcomed the involvement of his organisation in the EU/US mission to Nigeria. In this country prevention projects are executed under the auspices of the UNDCP. The program in West Africa focuses on fall-out of law enforcement problems in Nigeria. As for Eastern Africa more resources are needed. The drugs problem has to be tackled at grassroots level. The US delegation highlighted cooperation with the European Union in the mission in Nigeria. US authorities have training courses in Nigeria. A law enforcement officer will be posted in Lagos. Support was asked for the establishment of an ILEA in Southern Africa along the lines of the Budapest/Bangkok academies. The Swedish delegation informed the group on assistance to national master plans and its support for SADC and EU/US initiatives for Nigeria: general economic assistance of Swedish government is linked to drugs and AIDS.

B. South America (doc. 13925/99 CORDROGUE 75)

In presenting its report on Latin America, the US chair highlighted the continuing downward trend in illicit coca cultivation in Bolivia and Peru. Colombia has become the premier coca cultivating country. Colombia is also the main poppy cultivator in South America. Russian Mafia organisations get involved in trafficking in Colombia.

1. Data collection.

The US delegation pointed out that production and cultivation figures for Peru are reliable. The representative of UNDCP said that his organisation relies on WCO (World Custom Organisation), Interpol and government data. It is more difficult to obtain demand reduction than trafficking data. The French delegation noted that satellite surveillance exists in Colombia and Bolivia. The Canadian delegation announced that the multi-lateral evaluation will start in April 2000. A report will be forwarded by the end of 2000. The Austrian delegation insisted on the need for developing the database presented in the June 1999 meeting of the group. Resources have to be made available.

2. Countries

a) Venezuela

The US chair praised cooperation with Venezuelan authorities. The situation in Venezuela as well as in Ecuador needs close attention according to the UNDCP representative. The representative of the Commission informed the group on its project in Venezuela (creation of a monitoring centre).

b) Bolivia

The Belgium delegation pleaded for better coordination of eradication and alternative developments efforts.

The Canadian delegation spoke out in favour of coordination of anti-narcotic efforts on Bolivia in the framework of the forthcoming consultative donor meeting on Bolivia.

c) Colombia

The group supported the suggestion of the Austrian delegation to invite the US chair to organise a meeting of the Mini-Dublin group in Bogota.

3. General issues

The Canadian delegation informed the group on the conference in mid October 1999 of Western Hemisphere Drugs Leaders. Discussion focussed on demand reduction. The Portuguese delegation said that authorities of his country had stepped up border controls on flights to and from Peru/Venezuela.

C. Central America (doc. 5101/00 CORDROGUE 4)

In presenting the report on Central America and Mexico the Spanish chair highlighted that it is a transit-region in which many countries are badly affected by Hurricane Mitch. As regards Nicaragua, the Austrian delegation inquired on point 4 of the recommendations: financing of massive publication of Law 285, to make it known at school centres, universities, official organisms etc. ...

The US delegation agreed on proposals on training and technical assistance. It expressed the hope that creation of ILEA in Central America will be supported by the Dublin group.

D. Other regions

1. Southwest Asia (doc. 13136/99 CORDROGUE 71)

a) In presenting its report the UK chair emphasised the role of Afghanistan in this region.

Increase of Afghan poppy cultivation is a central factor. There is conflicting evidence on the implementation of the commitment by the Taliban leadership of October 1999 to cut production of poppy by one third.

Positive steps have been taken recently by Pakistan. Nevertheless, engagement of the new government has to be watched.

Developments in Iran are encouraging.

In India there are worrying figures about diversion of licit opium.

The chair felt that

- cooperation in the region has to be encouraged;
- assistance has to be increased in the field of demand reduction in view of rising consumption in all countries;
- appropriate assistance for Iran has to be considered positively.

b) Countries

i) Iran

The Finnish presidency of the Council of the European Union noted as regards paragraph 32 of the report of the chair that no permanent EU/Iran discussion structure exists. Contacts are taking place on an ad-hoc basis.

The Italian and French delegations as well as the UNDCP representative shared the assessment of the situation in Iran.

Efforts of the Iranian government have to be supported. The US delegation said that his authorities are not in a position to contact the Iran government. Nevertheless, anti-drugs efforts of Iran are appreciated.

ii) Afghanistan

The US delegation recalled that early December 1999, the Afghanistan support group met in Ottawa. The suggestion was made to organise an international meeting specifically addressing drugs issues. The representative of UNDCP welcomed the linkage of the development issue to drugs.

iii) Pakistan

The representative of UNDCP noted that Pakistan has the highest addiction rate in the world. Pakistan is an attractive trafficking location. Although the picture on Pakistan is positive in recent years it is fragile.

iv) India

US and Italian delegations expressed concerns on diversion of licit opium.

v) Re-routing through Central Asia.

In response to a question by the Norwegian delegation, it was pointed out by the Austrian delegation that 50 to 65 % of heroin passes through Central Asia. UNDCP representative said an important route goes through Turkmenistan. On the Tajikistan border important stockpiling of opiates occur.

2. Russia and Central Asia (doc. 14099/99 CORDROGUE 78)

The Italian chair presented aforementioned report Russia and Central Asia. The situation has not changed recently in this consumption and production region. Seizures of drug control is hampered by absence of appropriate law enforcement mechanisms.

The Finnish presidency of the Council of the European Union informed the group on the drug action plan on Central Asia that is being drawn up.

The Austrian delegation recalled that on 20 and 31 October 1999 a conference was organised in Almaty in cooperation with UNDCP and the Afghan development network. Drug experts of Central Asian states and Russia participated in the Conference. Every participant presented a national situation report. Thematic discussions took place on items such as adherence to instrumental conventions, drugs trafficking and demand reduction. More attention should be paid to regional approach for this region. Consumption is growing alarmingly. Civil war in Tajikistan has caused major problems. More and more laboratories are set up in Afghanistan. The Austrian government plans to organise a meeting in 2000 in cooperation with UNDCP to which countries that are part of the Afghanistan security belt (e.g. Pakistan) will be invited. From January 2000 onwards Austria is chairing the OSCE for Central Asia and is giving assistance to Tajikistan for elaboration of a master plan.

According to the Norwegian delegation, the situation in Tajikistan is a reflection of the situation in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has to be isolated by strengthening controls. The representative of UNDCP said that Tajikistan is a weak part in the chain of security belt. State apparatus is needed to control trafficking. No institution is available. For this reason, Executive Director, Mr. Arlacchi, signed a protocol with president of Tajikistan calling for assistance for the creation of a Central Drugs Agency.

Transit trafficking is a most urgent problem in the region. UNDCP is working on a project in this field. Norwegian, Austrian and Italian governments have earmarked contributions for the project. Three-quarters are still uncovered. In Turkmenistan main requirement is to keep the border and improve controls inside the country. The US delegation informed the group on the 6 (countries of the region) and 2 (Russia, US) initiative. This initiative may move into the narcotics area.

3. Southeast Asia (doc. 14048/99 CORDROGUE 77)

In presenting its report the Australian chair noted that only two out of six countries in the region are part of the 1988 Convention. The record on the 1961/1971 Convention is slightly better. Most countries of the region produce drugs whereas trafficking and

consumption takes place in all of them. At the moment there is an epidemic of amphetamine like stimulants produced in nearly all countries in the region. Establishment of a Mini Dublin group in the Philipinnes has to be considered. Data on supply and demand of heroin are not fully available. There is a concern on a link between development of routes and drug trafficking (e.g. bridge on the Mekong). China is the main gate for heroin out the region. The difficulty of obtaining appropriate information from Chinese authorities was highlighted. The Mini Dublin group could check in Peking this month.

The Japanese delegation confirmed gravity of ATS abuse. It is more serious than heroin. A conference on amphetamine stimulants in East Asia will be held in January 2000 in Tokyo. In February 2000, several experts will go to Myanmar for conducting a one-month seminar on ATS abuse and demand reduction. His government participates in a project in Myanmar, second worldwide producer of opiates after Afghanistan, targeted on the curbing of production. Since 1996 Japanese volunteers run alternative development programs in the Wah region.

The Canadian delegation informed the group on the recently signed memorandum on organised crime between his country and China.

The representative of UNDCP said that his organisation in cooperation with six countries of the region runs a project that attempts on a subregional basis to develop skills in identifying high-risk groups. Two complementary regional projects (cost: 2 Mio US dollars) have been launched on gathering of information on trafficking. One deals with enhancement of capacity to gather and exchange information by East Asia law enforcement agencies, another on development of drug control operational procedures of law enforcement agencies in East Asia: the ultimate objective is to establish natural drug intelligence units in all countries. Exchange of gathered information on a regional basis is an objective of the projects. The picture in Laos is positive. The drugs issue is integrated in national development plans. A precursor project with East Asia is entering a second stage.

4. Balkan and Middle East (doc. 5100/00 CORDROGUE 3)

The Greek chair presented the aforementioned regional report. The representative of the Commission said that through the PHARE-program 4,5 Mio ECU are being made available for anti-drug purposes. Until 2001 activity will focus on Bulgaria, former Macedonia and Romania and notably on strengthening of law enforcement capabilities. Controls at ports and airports as well as intelligence gathering need to be strengthened. This project is carried out in cooperation with UNDCP. For this purpose an office has been set up in Sofia.

Expert meetings on data collection, controlled deliveries and customs have been held. The representative of UNDCP informed the group on the visit of the Executive Director to Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Palestinian Authority. The aforementioned countries are prepared to cooperate on drugs and crime issues on pragmatic grounds. This could be a contribution to the all-over peace process. The UNDCP has opted for a regional approach in Eastern Europe that is ready to be applied to Kosovo, Montenegro and Yougoslavia once the situation is workable. Several missions have been undertaken to Albania in order to define an approach in cooperation with notably Italian and UK authorities. The strategy would be based also on the link between drugs and organised crime.

The Presidency pointed out that it had not been contacted by the Israel government as regards membership of the Dublin group.

Development of organised crime in Kosovo may undermine peace efforts in this country according to the UK delegation.

The group welcomed the suggestion of the German delegation to put on the agenda of the Mini Dublin group in Tirana the addressing of problems cited by the Greek chair and UNDCP.

5. Central Europe (doc. 5102/00 CORDROGUE 5)

In presenting its report, the Netherlands chair highlighted following problems:

- Transit: all countries in the region are transit countries. Controls at external borders should be improved if possible along Schengen standards. The situation on the Slovakian border gives rise to concern.

- Consumption: consumption is increasing.
- Production of amphetamines and synthetic drugs is increasing. All countries in the region are accession candidates to the European Union.

On request of the US delegation: the Netherlands chair said that coordination of assistance and equipment through ILEA has not been discussed in the Mini Dublin group in Budapest neither in other Mini Dublin groups. He promised to put this matter on the agenda of the Mini Dublin group in Budapest.

In the light of suggestions by the Austrian and Canadian delegations, the Presidency promised that the question of one annual reports for a certain region will be dealt with in the debate on the restructuring of the Dublin group.

6. The Baltic States (doc. 12895/99 CORDROGUE 68)

The Norwegian chair noted that situation in the Baltic States continues to deteriorate. There is an increase in number of drug addicts and drug-related crimes. Drug abuse among students and in schools and universities is on the rise. Locally produced poppy straw extracts and other opiates are still the main drug abuse. Availability of heroin and amphetamines are increasing. Prices of narcotics are low and falling. Drug related mortality is increasing in all three countries. Controls structures have to be strengthened. Nordic countries give training through the Nordic Baltic Police Academy. Organised crime is involved in drug production and trafficking.

Due to lack of personnel and lack of appropriate equipment few drugs are seized on the borders. Estonian police and border control authorities have increased efficiency because of assistance by Finnish authorities. Estonia still has to ratify the 1988 Convention.

The German delegation suggested to invite Mini Dublin groups to verify the origin of heroin in the region.

Speedy ratification of the 1988 Convention should be encouraged by Mini Dublin groups according to the French delegation.

The Finnish presidency of the CFSP group on drugs said that at a recent meeting with accession candidates the Estonian delegation had declared that ratification of the 1988 Convention is under active consideration.

7. Caribbean (doc. 14035/99 CORDROGUE 78)

The French chair presented aforementioned report. The Canadian delegation voiced concerns of the Canadian High Commission in Barbados on political will of Caribbean countries to give priority to the fight against drugs. Effectiveness of a comprehensive strategy can be put into question. This point has been raised with other heads of mission in Barbados.

III. Involvement of Russia

Conclusions of the meeting on this are in document 5354/00 CORDROGUE 9.

IV. Restructuring of the Dublin group

Conclusions of the meeting on this point are in document 5357/00 CORDROGUE 10.

V. Presidency of the Dublin group and presidency of the regional formations (doc. 13653/99 CORDROGUE 74)

Conclusions of the work on this point are in document 5358/00 CORDROGUE 11.

VII. Any other business

- Northern Africa

The group welcomed the suggestion of the French delegation to put on the agenda of the next meeting of the group a presentation by the Commission on the P.A.A.D. (drug program for Western Africa).

- Next meeting of the Dublin group

The incoming Canadian Presidency welcomed attention for Africa and invited delegations to forward / send any suggestions in regard to the Dublin group and the agenda for the next meeting to the Presidency using a list of contact addresses that was made available by the Secretariat.

Revised agenda for the Dublin group meeting on 15/16 December 1999

1. Adoption of the agenda
 2. Reports of regional chairs
 - a) Africa, in particular Morocco, Southern Africa, Nigeria
 - b) Latin America (doc. 13925/99 CORDROGUE 75)
 - c) Central America and Mexico (room document 1)
 - d) Other regions
 - South-West Asia (13136/99 CORDROGUE 71)
 - South-East Asia (14048/99 CORDROGUE 77)
 - Balkan / Near East (room document 4)
 - Russia / Central Asia (doc. 14099/99 CORDROGUE 78)
 - Central / Eastern Europe (room document 2)
 - Baltic region (12895/99 CORDROGUE 68)
 - Caribbean (14035/99 CORDROGUE 76)
 3. Involvement of Russia (9804/99 CORDROGUE 48)
 4. Review of the structure and organisation of the Dublin group
 - Endorsement of orientations (9795/99 CORDROGUE 47 + ADD 1)
 5. Election of Presidency of Dublin group and of regional formations (5493/98 CORDROGUE 5, 13563/99 CORDROGUE 74)
 6. Any other business
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