



892 WP
014

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 30 March 2000 (04.04)
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LIMITE

STUP 4

NOTE

from : Presidency

to : Working Party on Drug Trafficking

Nos prev. docs : 5205/99 CORDROGUE 5, 6771/99 CORDROGUE 16, 7957/99
CORDROGUE 24, 8580/2/99 STUP 8 CORDROGUE 31, 11668/99 STUP 19,
13373/99 STUP 25

Subject : Comparability of statistics

1. Background

- The work initiated and developed by the German Presidency (5205/99 CORDROGUE 5, 6771/99 CORDROGUE 16, 7957/99 CORDROGUE 24, 8580/1/99 Ver. 2. STUP 8 CORDROGUE 31);
- The work developed by the Finnish Presidency (11668/99 STUP 19);
- The contribution of the French delegation (13373/99 STUP 25).

2. Presidency objectives

The Portuguese Presidency has set out its objectives of continuing the discussions on the comparability of statistics and evaluating the aims of the Working Party on Drug Trafficking in the light, in particular, of the European Union Drugs Strategy (2000-2004).

3. Objectives of the European Union Drugs Strategy (2000-2004)

Two of the basic principles of the Strategy are relevant: (a) the principle of information; (b) the principle of evaluation.

The principle of information underlies action concerning a reduction in supply, specifically the approach to drug-related organised crime.

It should be noted here that the integrated and multidisciplinary strategy of the European Union requires action at different levels, in particular the reliable evaluation of the different organised criminal groups and the way drugs trafficking operates as a whole.

The principle of information underlies this action as well, when it is necessary to establish indicators for measuring progress in the field of organised crime control and prevention.

We also encounter the principle of evaluation when we establish the main targets of the Strategy in the fight against supply: significantly to reduce over five years the availability of illicit drugs, the number of drug-related crimes and illicit trafficking in precursors.

4. Proposal by the Presidency

The Portuguese Presidency considers that the objective of the Working Party on Drug Trafficking in this field must be to help define the indicators for achieving the objectives contained in the European Union Drugs Strategy, as referred to in point 3, aimed at establishing a common European system.

5. Methodology

The Presidency considers that:

- (a) it would be very useful for the EDMC and Europol to submit to the Working Party a report on current progress;
- (b) the Presidency should draw up a document, taking account of these proceedings and the Working Party's contribution.