



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**I/A ITEM NOTE**

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from : Horizontal Working Party on Drugs  
to : COREPER/Council  
Subject : Council conclusions on drug trafficking along the cocaine route

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1. The Portuguese Presidency presented on 5 September 2007 draft conclusions of the Council on drug trafficking along the cocaine route to the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs. The presentation of the text reflected the concerns of the Presidency on cocaine trafficking especially through Western Africa.
2. At its meeting of 10 October 2007 the Horizontal Working party on Drugs agreed on the text of the conclusions that is in annex.  
The text has taken on board observations by delegations at the meetings of the Working Party on 5 September and 10 October 2007 as well as written observations by delegations.
3. The Working Party invites COREPER to confirm the agreement and forward the text to the Council as an A point for approval.

### **Council Conclusions on drug trafficking along the cocaine route**

The Council recognises the serious effect on the countries of Latin America, the Caribbean and increasingly West and North Africa, of cocaine production and trafficking, including drug use, harm to the social and political fabric and contribution to armed conflict, as well as the significant impact of such illegal activities on the EU itself. The Council stands in full support of the governments and people of those regions in tackling this damaging phenomenon.

The Council welcomes the continued cooperation with its partners in Latin America and the Caribbean in tackling drugs production and trafficking along the cocaine route to the EU, through its support of alternative development and demand reduction efforts, as well as measures such as sharing information and best practice in the EU-LAC Intelligence Sharing Working Group.

It looks forward to sustaining this cooperation in preparing for the EU-LAC Summit in Lima in May 2008. The Council reaffirms the shared responsibility between the EU and its LAC partners expressed at the IX High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, held at Port of Spain on May 22-23, 2007 and calls for the implementation of the recommendations agreed at the High-Level Meeting, considering these to be an effective and visible sign of action against the drugs trade.

Aware that cocaine trafficking in / through West Africa is mainly directed towards Europe, the Council recognises the serious threat that this growing phenomenon presents to the stability and prosperity of those regions. Bearing in mind the need for an effective and firm response to the problem, the Council underlines the importance of the MAOC-N intelligence and law enforcement mechanism, which has been recently formalized throughout an International Agreement.

The Council also recognizes that Africa's most fragile states are particularly vulnerable to the corruptive and disruptive action of drug trafficking organisations, which are capable of undermining the authority of governments and the capacity of their institutions, thus creating lawless territories where all kinds of organized crime, including terrorism, can find safe havens.

The Council is committed to supporting and working closely with relevant national and regional authorities in West and North Africa in the fight against cocaine trafficking in / through the region and to ensuring that drug issues, including drug use, are part of wider strategies and programmes in the areas of good governance, capacity building, strengthening of the rule of law and development. The Council welcomes the first steps to cooperation which were made at the EU-ECOWAS drugs meeting on 6 September.

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