



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 8 June 2023
(OR. en, es)

10245/23

LIMITE

JAI 814
JAIEX 31
COLAC 58
COSI 115
CRIMORG 89
ENFOPOL 284
CORDROGUE 57

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers for the Interior of the Member States of the European Union and the Ministers with responsibility for security matters of the Member States of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security

Delegations are provided in the ANNEX with the draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers for the Interior of the Member States of the European Union and the Ministers with responsibility for security matters of the Member States of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (EU-CLASI Joint Declaration). This document will be presented by the Spanish delegation at the COSI Support Group meeting on 14 June 2023. Delegations are invited to provide written comments to the draft Joint Declaration to cosi.UE2023ES.maec.es@reper.maec.es and in cc to jalario@interior.es; laura.lopez@reper.maec.es; cosi@consilium.europa.eu by 22 June 2023, COB.

Draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers for the Interior of the Member States of the European Union and the Ministers with responsibility for security matters of the Member States of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security

1. We, the Ministers for the Interior of the Member States of the European Union and the Ministers with responsibility for security matters of the Member States of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI), meeting for the second time in this configuration;
2. Aware of the criminal threats facing our countries and their impact on the security and well-being of our citizens;
3. Aware of the transnational, polyvalent, highly flexible, and increasingly violent nature of criminal networks which abuse legal business and use corruption to infiltrate public structures and to destabilise the rule of law, violate human rights and fundamental principles affecting our societies and our economies as a whole and, increasingly, the environment;
4. Recognise that concerted, coordinated and solidarity-based efforts are key to tackle common threats to the security of our citizens and societies, in particular drug trafficking, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, firearms trafficking, financial crime, cybercrime and environmental crime, the mitigation of which requires concerted, coordinated and solidarity-based efforts;
5. Recognise that the rule of law and the respect for all human rights are of key importance for our cooperation, noting in this regard that the protection of personal data is essential to allow for the exchange of information in the area of law enforcement and criminal justice;
6. Acknowledge that our cooperation on security issues is a key element to address the global and regional challenges threatening the security and defence of citizens' rights, the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of our countries;

7. Reiterate our determination to continue working together in the interest of political dialogue and the development of regional and international cooperation within and between both regions;
8. Affirm the significance, in terms of those goals, of the creation of CLASI, representing a major step forward in the coordination of Latin American countries' efforts to combat transnational serious and organised crime, and express our full support to the further development of CLASI;
9. Reaffirm our mutual commitment to continue promoting the further development of existing and the creation of additional instruments to enhance cooperation on security and justice among our countries, as a means of strengthening the ties between the two regions and making progress on shared objectives;
10. Recall that the European Union has established several agencies and instruments which enable cooperation with third countries on the fight against serious and organised crime, such as Europol, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)¹, Eurojust and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), as well as bilateral and regional dialogues and cooperation programmes, such as the Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD), the Europe Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime (EL PAcCTO) and the component projects of the Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP), and networks for international cooperation on asset recovery and confiscation such as the Camden Inter-Agency Asset Recovery Network (CARIN), which facilitates exchanges with third country asset recovery offices as well as regional asset recovery interagency networks such as RRAG (Red de Recuperacion de Activos de GAFISUD – Latin American Asset Recovery Network);

¹ Name to be changed following publication of the new EU Drugs Agency Regulation.

11. Recall that the European Union has established working methods that have proven effective in this regard, such as the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), which incorporates mechanisms to facilitate bilateral and multilateral dialogue, as well as operational cooperation, including with Latin American partners, to tackle priority crime areas through EMPACT operational action plans (OAPs);
12. Highlight the establishment of operational action plans (OAPs), following the model of EMPACT, under the coordination of CLASI, in the framework of the Latin American Interdisciplinary Platform against threats and in support of the Security Cycle (APLICAMOS), with the aim of aligning strategic, tactical, and operational actions in the region;
13. We, the Ministers of the EU and of CLASI, agree to consolidate and strengthen efforts in order to tackle serious and organised crime, including by building effective capacities to fight the illicit profits and focusing primarily on illicit drugs, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants, child sexual abuse, cyber, environmental and financial crimes, including money laundering and the criminal use of cryptocurrencies, as well as corruption;
14. Undertake to work towards the establishment of a Latin American security cycle, following a similar working methodology as in EMPACT and aligned on the same timing, including a monitoring mechanism through CLASI;
15. Undertake to align the timing of the launch of the Latin American Documentation and Threat Assessment Instrument (IDEAL) in Latin America with that of the already established Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) in the EU, both being cornerstones of the respective security cycles;

16. Undertake to step up the cooperation to tackle the drug situation that affects both regions by addressing both drug supply, drug demand and harm reduction, including with an increased exchange of information and joint operations involving financial investigations;
17. Welcome the establishment of the bi-regional Counter Narcotics Task Force on combatting drug trafficking², with a first operational meeting held in October 2022 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, demonstrating how the political commitments taken at strategic level are leading to concrete operational results and call on the Task Force to launch joint operations, taking into account the findings from SOCTA and IDEAL;
18. Assert the importance of further strengthening Ameripol's role in the operational, tactical and strategic fight against serious and organised crime in the region;
19. Undertake to work together to incorporate into EMPACT further instruments and actions to strengthen collaboration with Latin American partners;
20. Undertake to increase cooperation between competent agencies in our respective regions and to foster active cooperation between the EMPACT and the CLASI operational action plans (OAPs) as well as between the responsible stakeholders so as to jointly make progress on shared objectives and encourage the participation of law enforcement experts in planned operational actions;
21. Undertake to include the gender approach as a key aspect in the joint fight against serious and organised crime, through the instigation of institutional strategies that promote the leadership of women in this field, as well as a shared analysis of the impact of crime on women and the promotion of best practice and approaches for action;

² The EU-CLASI Joint Declaration (3 March 2022) called for the establishment of a Counter Narcotic Task Force to launch joint operations.

22. Call, lastly, for the dialogue which began with the creation of CLASI and which is reaffirmed by this joint declaration to continue moving forward at political, strategic, technical and operational level, and for it to enable the development of a shared culture of cooperation, so as to attain greater security and well-being for our citizens; welcome, in this regard, the important work carried out by the EL PAcCTO programme on the bi-regional partnership between Latin America and the European Union and encourage the continuation of this work;
23. We, the Ministers of the EU and of CLASI, look forward to meeting again in the same configuration to review progress at a date to be determined.
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