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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Illicit drug traffic and supply: world situation with regard to drug trafficking and action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

Action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Report of the Secretariat

Addendum

II. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies

E. Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe**

1. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe, recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

* E/CN.7/2005/1.

** The Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, was held in Vienna from 7 to 11 February 2005.



Frequency of meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 53/115 of 9 December 1998, 54/132 of 17 December 1999, 55/65 of 4 December 2000, 56/124 of 19 December 2001, 57/174 of 18 December 2002, 58/141 of 22 December 2003 and 59/163 of 20 December 2004, in which the Assembly stressed the importance of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in all regions of the world, and of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and encouraged them to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcome of the twentieth special session of the Assembly,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 1990/30 of 24 May 1990, entitled “Establishment of a Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, European Region”, it decided to establish a Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, with the status of a subsidiary organ of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling further its resolution 1992/28 of 30 July 1992, entitled “Improvement of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs”, in which it requested the Commission to examine further, on a regular basis, the functioning of its subsidiary bodies,

Recalling its resolution 1993/36 of 27 July 1993, entitled “Frequency of and arrangements for meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe”, in which it invited the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to convene the Third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, in 1995, and thereafter to convene such meetings every three years,

Alarmed at the threat posed by organized criminal groups, especially through the growing linkages between drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and money-laundering,

Convinced that further action is required to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the members of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, to effectively tackle drug trafficking within the region,

Also convinced that it is essential for the heads of all national drug law enforcement agencies in Europe to meet regularly to discuss trends in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the action taken to combat it,

Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, in 2007 and thereafter to convene such meetings every two years under the auspices of the Office.

2. Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

2. Following a review of trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation, the Sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority in Europe. Consideration of those issues was facilitated by the discussions that had been held during informal meetings of the working groups established for that purpose. In addition, the implementation of previous recommendations was reviewed.

3. The Sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, adopted a number of recommendations made by its respective working groups. Those recommendations are presented below.

Issue 1. Illicit heroin in Europe: current trafficking trends, modus operandi and criminal organizations

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 1, "Illicit heroin in Europe: current trafficking trends, modus operandi and criminal organizations":

(a) Governments should ensure that their drug law enforcement agencies are aware of the surveillance lists of non-controlled chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin and that the necessary mechanisms are in place to exchange information on seizures of acetic anhydride in support of the international initiative coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board, Operation Topaz;

(b) In response to the increase in opium production in Afghanistan, Governments should be encouraged to be proactive in their support for the development of closer operational cooperation and the establishment of regular exchanges of information between their national drug law enforcement agencies and foreign counterparts;

(c) To enhance regional cooperation, expand operational effectiveness and increase the information available to drug law enforcement agencies about the activities of heroin trafficking groups, Governments should encourage the regular planning and implementation of joint cross-border and interregional targeting operations between drug law enforcement agencies.

Issue 2. Reviewing controls over sea container traffic

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 2, "Reviewing controls over sea container traffic":

(a) To protect the security of their borders and the integrity of their international trade links, Governments should take steps to introduce effective control measures at their cargo ports that handle sea containers, so as to ensure efficient screening, examination and processing of goods arriving and departing through cargo terminals;

(b) Governments should be proactive in their efforts to ensure a secure international trade environment, by encouraging and supporting cooperative partnerships between their drug law enforcement agencies and the commercial

sector, whose business is based upon the management and transport of commercial sea containers;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to establish multi-agency drug law enforcement interdiction teams at container ports, develop harmonized risk indicators as part of the process of container control and maintain regular exchanges of information between counterparts at different ports on transit consignments as part of their response to effectively identifying containers of interest and at risk of being used in trafficking illicit drugs.

Issue 3. The cocaine threat in Europe

6. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 3, “The cocaine threat in Europe”:

(a) With the majority of cocaine trafficked by sea, Governments should ensure that their law enforcement agencies responsible for maritime control are trained, equipped and supported so as to be effective in their interdiction efforts to counter cocaine smuggling;

(b) In response to the increasing trend in the use of transit countries such as those in the Balkans and West Africa as staging points for smuggling cocaine into Europe, Governments should ensure that their drug law enforcement agencies are equipped to develop the intelligence necessary to respond and take effective action to disrupt trafficking on those routes;

(c) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the European Police Office and the International Criminal Police Organization, is encouraged to make further efforts to refine data collection to determine a more accurate assessment of cocaine manufacture, seizures and consumption.

Issue 4. Witness protection

7. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 4, “Witness protection”:

(a) Governments that have yet to establish witness protection programmes are encouraged to do so as a matter of priority and to consider introducing appropriate supporting legislation;

(b) Governments should encourage their police or prosecution services to consider the European Police Office’s operational guidelines for witness protection and directory of witness protection legislation;

(c) Governments are encouraged to ensure that law enforcement agencies receive adequate budgetary provision to fund the establishment and maintenance of effective witness protection schemes.