



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on the 2006 Progress Review on the Implementation of the EU Drugs Action Plan (2005-2008)

*2807th JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 12 and 13 June 2007*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"On 11 January 2007, Commission services presented to the Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) the first Annual Progress Review on the implementation of the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-2008 (doc. 17101/06 CORDROGUE 118) containing a number of observations and recommendations. The Presidency invited comments with a view to submitting final conclusions for the consideration of the Council. Consequently,

The Council of the European Union,

COMMENDS the Commission for the 2006 Annual Progress Review regarding the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-2008 which contains valuable recommendations for the attainment of the objectives set out in the EU Drug Strategy 2005-2012 and for the further implementation of the Action Plan,

ACKNOWLEDGES that although the national policies of Member States vary, reflecting their individual drug situation and policy context, there is increasing evidence of a consensus emerging at European level on the key elements for an effective response to combating the drugs problem,

P R E S S

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STRESSES the importance of continuous and overall evaluation of the Action Plan in order to assess its impact on the drug situation in Europe,

EMPHASISES the nature of the Action Plan as a dynamic policy instrument,

WELCOMES the current methodology of continuous monitoring - with an objective annual Progress Review leading to a final impact assessment in 2008 - as an effective way of keeping track of what is being done at all levels within the EU, and of the relevance of the Action Plan itself in terms of results,

WELCOMES the establishment of a Steering Group by the Commission with the task to provide guidance regarding the evaluation exercise,

CALLS on Member States, the Commission, the EMCDDA and Europol to ensure optimal use of existing channels for the collection of information required for the monitoring exercise of the Action Plan,

NOTES that for a number of actions it is proving difficult to measure progress at national level due to several factors, such as the limited availability of data relevant to certain objectives of the Action Plan. This is in particular true for the field of supply reduction. In this context it is important for Europol to receive the fullest information from Member States. Alternative ways to overcome the problems encountered so far have to be considered,

AGREES that greater uniformity and comparability of data as provided by Member States would facilitate the evaluation,

NOTES that consultation of civil society on drug-related issues is likely to add value to the monitoring exercise and make it more transparent, and that, following the publication of the Commission's Green Paper on the subject, the organisation of an appropriate consultative process is envisaged,

RECALLS that successful implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plans requires effective coordination, in full respect of the principle of subsidiarity, at all levels and between all stakeholders: within and between Member States and the EU, as well as within and between the EU Institutions, and urges all stakeholders to improve coordination at all levels,

STRESSES the need for the biannual meetings of National Drug Coordinators to focus on the implementation of the Action Plan,

RECOGNIZES the continuous commitment of Member States and the European Union towards third countries, in particular with regard to Action 35 of the Action Plan,

ENCOURAGES the Commission and the Member States to consider setting up indicators aiming at assessing the impact of projects funded by the EU in third countries/regions,

NOTES that progress is being made in EU coordination at the UN's Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The scope for a stronger framework to assist the Presidency at these meetings and to support it in negotiating EU positions should be considered,

ENCOURAGES the Member States and the Commission to continue their contributions to the evaluation process of the Political Declaration and the Decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its twentieth session (UNGASS),

REQUESTS the Commission, assisted by the Steering Group, to simplify the questionnaires sent out to Member States in the course of the evaluation process. This could be achieved by clustering the request for certain data as much as possible,

REQUESTS the Commission to examine ways of rationalising and adjusting the indicators concerned, in coordination with Europol and the EMCDDA and assisted by the steering group,

ENDORSES specific recommendations to modify or rationalise indicators in order to arrive at more targeted assessments, particularly on the supply reduction side."
