



European Union

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
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Statement by Hungary on behalf of the European Union  
Agenda item 6/ b  
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AS DELIVERED

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: Supply reduction and related measures

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The Candidate Countries Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and the potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Norway, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine associate themselves with this statement.

2. Madam Chairperson, international illicit drug trafficking continues to present a serious problem to the international community in tackling the world drug situation. Moreover, despite continuing efforts to counter drug cultivation, illicit drugs are still easily accessible worldwide. Transnational organised criminal groups adopt entrepreneurial behaviour and diversify their activities, trafficking routes functions and capacities, increasing also the use of modern technologies and finding new methods for laundering the money resulting from illicit activities, which seriously challenges law enforcement capacity. We believe that further enhancement of international and regional cooperation is crucial to prevent and counter this threat and we actively support UNODC's efforts to facilitate this cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> Croatia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

3. At the same time, our efforts to tackle drug-related crime – as guided by the UN Drug Conventions - should at every level of intervention be unconditional in our commitment to uphold human rights and human dignity, to support the rule of law, to ensure proportionality in our responses and to respect the principle of shared responsibility. These rights and freedoms should never be considered in contradiction with or compromised by counter narcotics efforts and initiatives.

4. The European Union plays an active role in the international efforts against the illicit production of drugs and drug-trafficking. In this regard, the EU is stepping up the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime along the cocaine and heroine routes, notably through capacity building programmes under the Instrument for Stability. A further objective is to respond rapidly and effectively at operational, policy and political levels to emerging threats. This is also the purpose of the European Pact to combat international drug trafficking that was adopted in June 2010. It is a practical application of the Stockholm Programme and of the European Internal Security Strategy adopted by the European Union.

5. The EU Drugs Strategy for the period 2005–2012, which aims to offer a high level of security for the general public as well as safeguarding the protection of public health, addresses the drug problem in an integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach defining specific objectives to be implemented by the EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012. It includes a series of objectives such as to enhance effective law enforcement and judicial co-operation in the European Union to prevent and counter production, trafficking and diversion of drugs and precursors and to prevent and combat money laundering related to their trafficking. Furthermore, this includes the implementation of the European policy to alternative development based on a comprehensive approach to rural and sustainable social and economic development in drug producing and drug transit countries in order to address in the long term the conditions leading to the establishment of illicit drug economies.

6. We welcome UNODC's Report on the World Situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2011/4). As the Political Declaration recognised, the global drug situation – despite the efforts undertaken at global level to curb the drug problem – continues to pose considerable challenges which require a more effective and coordinated response. We strongly believe that an open and universal exchange of information, comparable and reliable statistics and analyses are essential for a realistic apprehension of the latest trends in illicit drug cultivation, production

and trafficking at all levels, as well as a better understanding of the effectiveness of our responses to address these. In the past year, the EU has taken further steps to enhance efforts aimed at the development of indicators, information tools and research that will help monitoring drug markets, drug-related crime and to evaluate supply reduction responses.

7. Cannabis continues to dominate the world's illicit drug markets in terms of the pervasiveness of cultivation, volume of production and number of consumers. Unlike other illicit crops such as coca leaf and opium poppy, cannabis lends itself to diverse cultivation methods, as it is easily grown in a variety of environments. Recent estimations published by the EMCDDA suggest that cultivation in Europe is spreading and possibly increasing. In 2008 seizures of herbal cannabis in Europe were 2,5 times higher than in 2003, while the estimated number of seizures of cannabis resin exceeded those of herbal cannabis both in number and amount seized. Seizures of cannabis plants have increased steadily.

8. Global illicit cultivation of opium poppy and production of opium continues to be dominated by Afghanistan. Estimations show that most of the heroin consumed in the EU originates in Afghanistan. Therefore we welcome the encouraging findings of the Afghanistan Opium Survey 2011, which predicts a slight decrease in cultivation for 2011 despite the increase in the price of opium poppy. For the third year in a row estimations show that cultivation is decreasing. However, we also note that cultivation has increased in some former poppy-free provinces, while the continued significant overall increase (75% compared to 2009) in illicit poppy cultivation in the South East Asian Region is another cause for concern. At the same time, the EU remains aware of the vulnerability and critical situation in which farmers find themselves, especially in Myanmar and Laos and stresses the need for increased and sustained development interventions diversifying and strengthening livelihood systems to address food insecurity and other human needs to reduce farmers dependency on illicit opium poppy cultivation and to strengthen sustainable licit income sources on the long term.

9. Moreover, the EU expresses its utmost concern at the remaining high level of opium cultivation, heroin production and trafficking, but also at its increasing consumption in the region and stresses once again the serious harm that it causes to the security, development, governance and public health of Afghanistan, to the region as well as internationally, and to the success of the international efforts. In this regard, the EU also welcomes the development of a new regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries which intends to build on

the successful operation of the Rainbow Strategy; to expand initiatives with potential for cross-border impact, to increase coherence of UNODC work in the region, to establish a framework to monitor the impact and progress of regional intervention, to maximise synergy across different country programs. The regional programme will also serve to draw multiple partners and actors in the region closer by enhancing the sharing of information.

10. The EU commends UNODC for its sustained efforts in enhancing the Paris Pact and its Rainbow Strategy and welcomes the Pact's most recent recommendations to develop a more integrated regional strategy to deal with drug trafficking, chemical precursor control and drug-related criminal intelligence, as well as improving the use of special investigative techniques such as controlled delivery, and develop compatible standard operating procedures within the regional framework, from a regional, institutional and law enforcement perspective. In this regard the EU supports the organisation of the third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact initiative in the second half of this year in Vienna.

11. The EU also welcomes the publications of UNODC's coca cultivation surveys for the Andean region countries. It is worth noting that the total estimated area under coca cultivation continued to decrease in 2009 by 5%, and is now well below the average production level of the 1990's, even though there have been important shifts in cultivation volumes in between producers countries. Seizures at a global level showed a slight increase. The EU remains aware of the challenges posed by cocaine and the need for intensified international cooperation to sustain reductions achieved, and are seeking closer cooperation – inter alia – in regional security platforms such as the Maritime Analysis Operations Centre – Narcotics, the first regional maritime law enforcement body set up to fight drug trafficking across the Atlantic into the European Union. The European Union also develops joint efforts in supporting inter-regional cooperation in drug issues, i.e. in West Africa and with Latin America.

12. We remain highly concerned about drug trafficking to the EU particularly through Western Africa. In this regard we will continue our efforts to tackle this serious problem as it contributes to instability and undermines prosperity, governance and security of those regions. In this light we underline the importance of the established intelligence and law enforcement mechanisms. The EU also recognises that Africa's most fragile states are particularly vulnerable to the corruptive and disruptive action of drug trafficking organizations, in relation with other networks of transnational organized crime. We therefore welcome the comprehensive Regional

Programme for West Africa 2010-2014 developed by UNODC in close co-operation with ECOWAS as UNODC plays a key role in fighting organized crime in the region due to its mandate and specific competence. The European Union is working very closely with ECOWAS aimed at building a strong ECOWAS-EU-UNODC partnership in the fight against drugs and organised crime in West Africa.

Madam Chairperson,

13. The continued high trends in seizures in trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor chemicals used for their production as well as the situation with regard to the consumption of synthetic drugs remains of great concern to the EU. International initiatives such as Project Prism have been set up to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals through a system of pre-export notifications for licit trade and the reporting of shipments stopped and seizures made when suspicious transactions occur, are valuable international cooperation tools.

14. The European Union remains committed to improving and expanding its cooperation with law enforcement agencies internally and with other countries in order to tackle the common problem of drug trafficking. The major progress in the EU in this field has been made in police and judicial cooperation, which results in more effective law enforcement intervention. EUROPOL and EUROJUST play the main role in facilitating operational cooperation.

15. Let us stress that the global effort to reduce the supply of illicit drugs is effective when developed from the perspective of a balanced approach between drug demand and drug supply reduction, regional and international cooperation and technical assistance.

16. Finally, Madam Chairperson the European Union recognises the integrated nature of the global drugs problem and therefore believes in the significance of preventing and countering illicit drug production and trafficking. In this context, emphasis should be placed on development measures in order to address the root causes of illicit drug economies on the medium and long term and to counter the vicious cycles of poverty, debt, and the marginalization of those who are forced to cultivate drugs. Those efforts are directly contributing towards ending poverty and hunger, the first out of eight Millennium Development Goals. The European Union is firmly committed to the MDGs and is working to meet this global challenge.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson