



European Union

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
54th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 21-25 March 2011
Opening Statement by Hungary on behalf of the European Union
21-25 March 2011**

AS DELIVERED

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all, I would like to reiterate the message of condolences and support expressed by the European Council last Friday to the people and government of Japan, following the devastating earthquake and tsunami. At the request of Japan, the European Union has activated the European Civil Protection Mechanism to coordinate assistance from Member States, and stands ready to help the Japanese government and people.

2. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The Candidate Countries Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, 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, Republic of Moldova, Norway, San Marino and Ukraine associate themselves with this statement.

3. Let me start by welcoming you, Your Excellency, into the Chair of this 54th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. We have a number of important issues to consider and we would like to assure you and the other members of the Bureau of the full cooperation of the European Union in carrying out your work. Let me also welcome the Executive Director in his first regular session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. We would like to express our appreciation for the work of the Executive Director and look forward to assisting him in fulfilling his challenging mandate.

4. The European Union reaffirms its commitment to respond to the world drug problem following an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach between drug demand and drug supply reduction, based on the principles of shared responsibility and proportionality, in full consistency with the basic principles of the dignity of all those affected by the global drug problem, including dependent drug users and in full respect of fundamental freedoms and human rights. In this regard, we recall CND resolution 51/12 on *Strengthening cooperation between UNODC and other UN entities for the promotion of human rights in the implementation of the international drug control Treaties*. These three international drug control

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

Treaties continue to provide the international legal framework for tackling the world drug problem.

5. Drug-related problems remain one of the major concerns of the citizens of the European Union and pose a major threat to the security at national and international levels, and health of individuals, communities and societies. It is also in this context that the European Union, complementary to national drug control strategies, has developed EU Drugs Strategies and Action Plans which serve as an effective tool for enhanced cooperation and better coordination of drugs policies in Europe. The EU Drug Strategy for the period 2005 – 2012 sets the framework, objectives and priorities for two consecutive four-year Action Plans. Confirming the European Union's integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach, it concentrates on two policy fields, demand reduction and supply reduction, and on three cross-cutting themes: international cooperation, as the global nature of the drug problem calls for regional, international and multilateral approaches, coordination, as a key element to establish and conduct a successful strategy against drugs and, finally, research, information and evaluation, resulting in a better understanding of the drug problem and the development of an optimal response to it including clear indications about the merits and shortcomings of actions and activities taken. It is also worth mentioning that, as an integral part of the EU's anti-drug strategy, a European Pact to combat international drug trafficking was adopted in June 2010, focusing on disrupting cocaine and heroin routes.

6. Within the next two years, the EU will analyse the implementation of these key EU drug policy documents through an external, independent evaluation. The findings of this process will play a key role in determining the Union's drug policies for the next decade, combining lessons learnt with new developments and challenges posed by the global illicit drug phenomenon.

7. The European Union would like to recall the importance of implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem as adopted at the conclusion of the High-Level Segment of the 52nd session of the CND in March 2009. In this regard the EU welcomes the rearrangement of the CND agenda as it puts more prominence on the implementation and follow-up of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. We anticipate that the new format of round tables will contribute to having more interactive and fruitful debates, with interesting outcome. We would like to thank the regional groups which proposed the relevant themes of the debates to be dealt with at this session.

8. Madam Chairperson, the European Union has tabled 3 draft resolutions. These resolutions will address – in our view - some of the key issues in drug policy, including the availability of reference and test samples of controlled substances at drug testing laboratories, the provision of effective drug-related treatment and improving our understanding of the drug phenomenon. We hope these draft resolutions will enjoy broad support from all delegations during the CND and we ask for their wide co-sponsorship. We are ready to explain the content and thrust of these resolutions in more detail to interested delegations.

9. The European Union welcomes the adoption of the new Annual Report Questionnaires by the reconvened 53rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In this regard, the EU would like to thank again Mr. Ulises Canchola Gutiérrez of Mexico, Chairman of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Data Collection for his effective and wise guidance throughout the finalization of the new annual report questionnaires. The EU emphasises the need for a broader quorum of responding states, in order to better understand the global drug

phenomenon and its trends whilst making decisions on how to respond to them at the global level. The European Union is therefore calling for further capacity building and technical assistance projects in relation with data collection as well as support for improving the quality, reliability and comparability of data collection at international level.

10. The EU reaffirms that the main objective of the international drug control conventions is to ensure adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse. The EU takes note of the annual report of the INCB with this year's thematic chapter on drug related corruption and on the supplement report on the availability of Internationally Controlled Drugs: Ensuring Adequate Access for Medical and Scientific Purposes. We would like to encourage the mutual efforts of WHO and INCB in this field to assist Member in improving access to essential controlled medicines to relief pain and suffering by – inter alia - enhancing the exchange of expertise and best-practices and by ensuring proper regulation and administration at national level

11. On a final note, the European Union welcomes the continued implementation of the thematic and regional integrated approach, which we see as a major step towards improving the funding situation of the UNODC and creating necessary condition for it to be more sustainable and avoiding duplication of efforts and programs. We believe that this is beneficial for the focus of UNODC.

12. Madam Chairperson, at this stage we would like to conclude with these general remarks. The European Union has prepared statements under agenda items 4; 6 and will be delivering these at the relevant times.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson