

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

EU – Central Asia Senior Officials Dialogue on Drugs

Brussels, 12 November 2013

The Heads of Delegations of the European Union and Central Asian countries,

Wishing to give further impetus to the implementation of the European Union's Strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia adopted by the European Council on 21 June 2007,

Recognising that the EU and the Central Asian Partner countries have a shared interest in enhancing cooperation to address common threats and new risks to security in Central Asia and the wider region, notably as regards possible developments in Afghanistan after 2014,

Highlighting the high importance given by the EU and Central Asian countries to actions against illicit drugs and the drug-related problems to protect and improve the well-being of the society and the individual, to protect public health and to offer a high level of security for the general public ,

Taking into account the *third Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy for Central Asia : Implementation Review and outline for Future Orientations*, adopted on 25 June 2012, which called for strengthening implementation of the EU-Central Asia cooperation to tackle the drugs phenomenon,

Welcome the progress achieved since 2009 , notably in the framework of the 2009-2013 Action Plan on Drugs between the EU and Central Asian states which has contributed to building a relationship of trust between countries of both regions and has given an impulse to constructive co-operation between partners in this crucial sphere.

Taking into account the EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020) which consolidates a balanced and evidence-based approach to drug policy, we resolve to work together towards strengthening regional cooperation in the areas of both drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction, with a view to help reduce the drug use, drug dependence and drug-related health and social harms, and to effectively address new challenges like the constantly changing trafficking routes and methods of operation of criminal networks,

Reaffirm thereby their common wish to further enhance co-operation in all fields of tackling the drug problem by endorsing the EU - Central Asia Action Plan on drugs 2014-2020 aiming at supporting effective, balanced, integrated and evidence-based approaches to the drug phenomenon for measurable reductions of drug trafficking and drug use with effective law enforcement, judicial mechanisms and harm reduction measures,

Express their commitment to support the implementation and the achievement of Action Plan's goals, by means of projects and programmes of the European Union and the EU Member States, which would aim to contribute to, and be coordinated with, the actions under this Action Plan. The close coordination of planned actions with other donors in the region will also be ensured,

Decide to hold the next EU HDG Central Asia Senior official Dialogue on drugs in 2015 to review the situation, responses and progress achieved , review their cooperation activities, and consider practical steps to continue the implementation of the European Union - Central Asia Action Plan on Drugs for 2014-2020.