

**AGREEMENT****between the European Community and the United Mexican States on cooperation regarding the control of precursors and chemical substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances**

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY,

hereinafter referred to as the 'Community',

of the one part, and

THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES,

hereinafter referred to as 'Mexico',

of the other part,

hereinafter referred to as the 'Contracting Parties',

DETERMINED to prevent and combat the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by controlling the supply of precursors and chemical substances frequently used for such purposes;

ACKNOWLEDGING Article 12 of the United Nations Convention of 1988 against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

REAFFIRMING the necessity of strengthening international cooperation by the conclusion of bilateral agreements, in particular between regions and countries involved in export, import and transit of controlled substances;

CONVINCED that international trade constitutes a specific risk factor and that only cooperation arrangements between the regions concerned can prevent this danger, in particular by linking export and import controls of controlled substances;

AFFIRMING their common commitment to setting up assistance and cooperation mechanisms between Mexico and the Community in order to combat the diversion of controlled substances to illicit purposes, in harmony with the orientations and actions decided at international level;

HAVE DECIDED to conclude an Agreement on cooperation regarding the control of precursors and chemical substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, and, to this end, have designated as their plenipotentiaries:

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:

John F. COGAN,  
Minister Plenipotentiary,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland,

Alfred KOMAZ  
Director in the Directorate-General of 'Customs and Indirect Taxation'  
(DG XXI, Directorate A) of the Commission of the European Communities

THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES:

Manuel ARMENDARIZ ETCHEGARAY  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Head of the Mexican Mission to the European Union,

WHO, having exchanged credentials of their full powers, found in good and due form,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1***Scope of the Agreement**

1. This Agreement sets out measures to promote cooperation between the Contracting Parties to prevent the diversion of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, without prejudice to the due recognition of the legitimate interests of trade and industry.

2. For this purpose, the Contracting Parties shall assist each other, as set out in this Agreement, notably in:

- (a) monitoring the trade between them in controlled substances, with the aim of preventing their diversion to illicit purposes, and
- (b) providing mutual administrative and legal assistance ensuring that the provisions of the relevant-substance trade-control legislation are correctly applied.

3. Without prejudice to possible amendments which might be adopted within the competence of the Joint Follow-up Group, this Agreement applies to the chemical substances listed in the Annex to the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as amended, hereinafter referred to as 'controlled substances'.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Trade monitoring**

1. The Contracting Parties shall consult and inform each other on their own initiative of any suspicion that controlled substances may be diverted to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, in particular when a shipment occurs in unusual quantities or under unusual circumstances.

2. With regard to the controlled substances listed in Annex A to this Agreement, the competent authority of the exporting Contracting Party shall, at the same time as the export authorization is issued and prior to the departure of the consignment, forward a copy of the export authorization to the competent authority of the importing Contracting Party. Specific information shall be provided where the operator benefits, in the exporting country, from an open individual authorization covering multiple export operations.

3. With regard to the controlled substances listed in Annex B to this Agreement, the export shall be authorized only when the importing Contracting Party has given its consent.

4. The Contracting Parties undertake to provide, reciprocally and in good time, due feedback on any information provided or measure requested under this Article.

5. When implementing the abovementioned trade-control measures, the legitimate interests of trade shall be duly respected. In particular, in cases covered by paragraph 3, the reply by the importing Contracting Party shall be provided within 20 working days after the reception of the message from the exporting Contracting Party. The absence of a reply within this delay shall be deemed as granting an import authorization. The refusal to grant an import authorization shall be notified in writing to the exporting Contracting Party within this delay and must be substantiated.

#### *Article 3*

##### **Suspension of shipment**

1. Without prejudice to any possible implementation of technical enforcement measures, shipments shall be suspended if, in the opinion of either Contracting Party, there are reasonable grounds to believe that controlled substances may be diverted to the illicit manufacture of

narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, or where, in the cases described in Article 2 (3), the importing Contracting Party requests the suspension.

2. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in supplying each other with any information relating to presumed diversion operations.

#### *Article 4*

##### **Mutual administrative assistance**

1. The Contracting Parties shall supply to each other, either on their own initiative or on request, any information to prevent the diversion of controlled substances to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances and shall investigate cases of suspected diversion. Where necessary they shall adopt appropriate precautionary measures to prevent diversion.

2. Any request for information or precautionary measures shall be complied with as promptly as possible.

3. Requests for administrative assistance shall be executed in accordance with the laws regulations and other legal instruments of the requested Contracting Party.

4. The Contracting Parties shall assist each other to facilitate the provision of evidence.

5. Administrative cooperation provided pursuant to this Article shall not prejudice the rules governing mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, nor shall it apply to information obtained under the powers exercised at the request of a judicial authority, unless the authority so agrees.

6. Information may be requested in respect of chemical substances which are frequently in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances but which are not included in the scope of this Agreement.

#### *Article 5*

##### **Information exchange and confidentiality**

1. Any information communicated in whatsoever form pursuant to this Agreement shall be of a confidential or restricted nature, depending on the rules applicable in each of the Contracting Parties. It shall be covered by the obligation of official secrecy and shall enjoy the protection extended to similar information under the relevant laws of the Contracting Party which received it and the corresponding provisions applying to the Community authorities.

2. Data relating to persons may be exchanged only where the receiving Contracting Party undertakes to protect such data in at least an equivalent way to the one applicable to that particular case in the applying Contracting Party liable to supply them.

3. Information obtained shall be used solely for the purposes of this Agreement. Where one of the Contracting Parties requests the use of such information for other purposes, it shall ask for the prior written consent of the authority which furnished the information. Moreover, such use shall be subject to any restrictions laid down by that authority.

4. Paragraph 3 shall not impede the use of information in any judicial or administrative proceedings subsequently instituted for failure to comply with substance control legislation. The competent authority which supplied that information shall be notified of such use.

#### *Article 6*

##### **Exceptions to the obligation to provide assistance**

1. The Contracting Parties shall make every reasonable effort routinely to provide requested information and assistance.

2. In cases where the requested Contracting Party is of the opinion that compliance with the request would:

- infringe on the sovereignty of the United Mexican States or of a Member State of the Community,
- present a serious issue of public policy, security or other essential interests, in particular the cases referred to in Article 5 (2) concerning natural persons, or
- be contrary to the legal system of the requested Contracting Party, including, where appropriate, the legal system of the Member States of the Community liable to provide the assistance,

assistance can be refused or compliance may be made subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions or requirements.

3. If one Contracting Party requests assistance which it could not supply itself entirely or partially on a similar request, it shall state this situation in its request. The other Contracting Party shall then decide in what form it can comply with the request.

4. If assistance is refused, the decision and its explanatory reasons shall be notified without delay to the other Contracting Party.

#### *Article 7*

##### **Technical and scientific cooperation**

1. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the identification of new diversion methods as well as appropriate countermeasures, including technical cooperation to strengthen administrative and enforcement structures in this field and promote cooperation with trade and industry. Such technical cooperation may concern, in

particular, training and exchange programmes for the officials concerned as well as the equipment necessary for the implementation of this Agreement.

2. Where new methods or techniques are developed which permit a rapid identification of controlled substances, the Contracting Party that becomes aware of such developments shall provide the other Contracting Party with all the relevant information so as to ensure the best possible application of this Agreement.

#### *Article 8*

##### **Implementation measures**

1. The Contracting parties shall endeavour to implement this Agreement by taking into account the necessity of a consistent approach of substance control legislation for the entire American continent.

2. Each Contracting Party shall appoint a competent authority or competent authorities to coordinate the application of this Agreement. These authorities shall communicate directly with one another for the purposes of this Agreement.

3. The Contracting Parties shall keep each other informed of the provisions which they adopt for the implementation of this Agreement.

#### *Article 9*

##### **Joint Follow-up Group**

1. A Joint Follow-up Group on the control of precursors and chemical substances is hereby established, hereinafter referred to as 'Joint Follow-up Group', in which each Contracting Party to this Agreement shall be represented.

2. Decisions and recommendations by the Joint Follow-up Group shall be taken by mutual agreement. It shall normally meet once a year, with the date, place and programme being fixed by mutual agreement.

Extraordinary meetings may be convened by agreement of the Contracting Parties.

3. Joint Follow-up Group shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

#### *Article 10*

##### **Competences of the Joint Follow-up Group**

1. The Joint-Follow-up Group shall administer this Agreement and ensure its proper implementation. For this purpose:

- it shall study and develop the necessary means to ensure the correct functioning of the present Agreement,

- it shall be regularly informed by the Contracting Parties of their experience in applying this Agreement,
- in the cases provided for in paragraph 2, it shall take decisions,
- in the cases provided for in paragraph 3, it shall make recommendations,
- it shall study and develop the technical assistance measures referred to in Article 7,
- it shall study and develop other possible forms of cooperation in matters relating to precursors and chemical substances.

2. The Joint Follow-up Group shall adopt by mutual consent decisions to amend Annexes A and B.

Such decisions shall be implemented by the Contracting Parties in accordance with their own legislation.

If, in the Joint Follow-up Group, a representative of a Contracting Party has accepted a decision subject to the completion of the internal procedures necessary for that purpose, the decision shall enter into force, if no date is contained therein, on the first day of the second month after such a completion is notified.

3. The Joint Follow-up Group shall recommend to the Contracting Parties:

- (a) amendments to this Agreement;
- (b) any other measure required for the application of this Agreement.

#### *Article 11*

##### **Other Agreements**

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the provisions of this Agreement shall replace, in matters covered by this Agreement, the provisions of bilateral agreements which have been concluded between individual or several Member States of the Community and the United Mexican States if they are incompatible with the former.

These bilateral agreements shall not prejudice Community provisions governing the communication between the competent administrative authorities within the Community of any information obtained in matters covered by this Agreement which could be of Community interest.

2. The Contracting Parties will also notify each other of any measures in substance control matters taken with other countries.

#### *Article 12*

##### **Entry into force**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the Contracting Parties have exchanged their respective instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval, according to the rules applicable for each Contracting Party.

#### *Article 13*

##### **Duration and denunciation**

1. This Agreement shall be concluded for five years and, unless otherwise disposed, it will be tacitly renewable for successive periods of the same duration.

2. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Contracting Parties.

3. Either Contracting Party may withdraw from this Agreement provided it gives 12 months' prior notice in writing to the other Contracting Party.

#### *Article 14*

##### **Authentic texts**

This Agreement is drawn up in duplicate in the Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish languages, all texts being equally authentic.

Hecho en Bruselas, el trece de diciembre de mil novecientos noventa y seis.

Udfærdiget i Bruxelles den trettende december nitten hundrede og seks og halvfems.

Geschehen zu Brüssel am dreizehnten Dezember neunzehnhundertsechsdneunzig.

Έγινε στις Βρυξέλλες, στις δέκα τρεις Δεκεμβρίου χίλια εννιακόσια ενενήντα έξι.

Done at Brussels on the thirteenth day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six.

Fait à Bruxelles, le treize décembre mil neuf cent quatre-vingt-seize.

Fatto a Bruxelles, addì tredici dicembre millenovecentonovantasei.



Gedaan te Brussel, de dertiende december negentienhonderd zesennegentig.

Feito em Bruxelas, em treze de Dezembro de mil novecentos e noventa e seis.

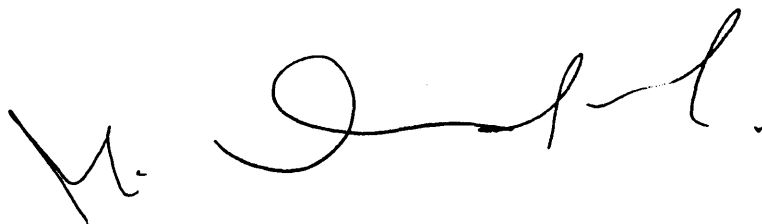
Tehty Brysselissä kolmantenatoista päivänä joulukuuta vuonna tuhatyhdeksänsataayhdeksänkymmentäkuusi.

Som skedde i Bryssel den trettende december nittonhundranittiosex.

Por la Comunidad Europea  
For Det Europæiske Fællesskab  
Für die Europäische Gemeinschaft  
Για την Ευρωπαϊκή Κοινότητα  
For the European Community  
Pour la Communauté européenne  
Per la Comunità europea  
Voor de Europese Gemeenschap  
Pela Comunidade Europeia  
Euroopan yhteisön puolesta  
För Europeiska gemenskapen

Por los Estados Unidos Mexicanos



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*ANNEX A***Substances subject to the measures referred to in Article 2 (2)**

Acetic anhydride  
Acetone  
Anthranilic acid  
Ethyl ether  
Phenylacetic acid  
Piperidine

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*ANNEX B***Substances subject to the measures referred to in Article 2 (3)**

1-Phenyl-2-propanone  
3,4 Methylendioxy-phenyl propan-2-one  
Ephedrine  
Ergometrine  
Ergotamine  
Isosafrole  
Lysergic acid  
Piperonal  
Pseudoephedrine  
Safrole

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