

5 July 2017

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Report of the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 27 to 30 June 2017

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

1. Participants in the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe, adopted a number of recommendations made by its working groups. Those recommendations are presented below.

1. Use of the Internet for drug-related activities

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Use of the Internet for drug-related activities”:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to ensure that their law enforcement agencies are well informed, professionally trained and suitably resourced so as to be effective in the investigation of cyber-related offences and the related use of the Internet for illicit trafficking;

(b) Governments must work together to overcome the obstacles encountered in undertaking the investigation of cyber-related trafficking offences across multiple jurisdictions and introduce the changes needed in legislation, practices and procedure to expedite information-sharing, enquiries with Internet service providers and the transfer of evidence;

(c) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to develop the specialist skills that will support the investigation of cyber-related offences and lead to successful criminal prosecutions.

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.



2. Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and public safety

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and public safety”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to make full use of alternatives to imprisonment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system, particularly at the time of their arrest and at the pretrial stage;

(b) Governments are encouraged to promote and implement institutional mechanisms, including through induction and training programmes, that enable the police to screen, assess and refer appropriate cases to treatment facilities, taking into account their dual role as the first responders and the first criminal justice actors encountered by people with drug use disorders when they come into contact with the criminal justice system;

(c) Governments are encouraged to adopt or amend legislation, policies, and guidelines that allow flexibility when handing down sentences for drug-related offences that take into account the nature and gravity of the offence as well as the personality and background of the offender;

(d) Governments are encouraged to employ a multidisciplinary approach in providing treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to conviction or punishment and to promote and develop the capacity for institutional coordination between justice, health, and social services authorities;

(e) Governments are encouraged to implement measures to increase public awareness of the benefits of using alternatives to imprisonment;

(f) Governments are encouraged to collect and analyse gender- and age-disaggregated data on the use of alternatives to imprisonment and, if applicable, to undertake periodic evaluation of existing initiatives to provide treatment as an alternative to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders.

3. Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to collect and analyse gender-disaggregated data to obtain more information about the situation and circumstances of women drug users and the various roles women assume in drug-related crime and in organized crime groups with a view to developing and implementing effective and comprehensive policies and programmes;

(b) Governments are encouraged to ensure non-discriminatory access to health-care services for women, including in prison, and to develop gender-sensitive prevention, primary care, treatment and reintegration policies and programmes, particularly for pregnant women and women with caretaking responsibilities;

(c) Governments are encouraged to ensure close cooperation and collaboration among all relevant national authorities in developing and implementing gender-sensitive drug policies and programmes that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the world drug problem.

4. Money-laundering, illicit financial flows and effective countermeasures

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Money-laundering, illicit financial flows and effective countermeasures”:

(a) In support of the investigation of money-laundering offences and the recovery of the proceeds of crime, Governments are encouraged to enable access by

their law enforcement authorities to the information held by their financial intelligence units;

(b) Governments are encouraged to ensure that evidence gathered through investigations of money-laundering offences by their financial intelligence units has legal standing in their courts if used in prosecutions brought by other law enforcement agencies;

(c) Governments are encouraged to make use of the tools available for training and building the capacity of their law enforcement authorities, financial investigators and prosecutors available through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other training institutions;

(d) Governments are encouraged to share with UNODC the results of their national money-laundering risk assessments to facilitate a coordinated global response and to strengthen the capacity of competent authorities and financial institutions to thwart attempts at money-laundering.

II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

6. At its 1st meeting, held on 27 June 2017, the Meeting considered item 3 of the agenda, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it two reports prepared by the Secretariat, entitled “Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide” ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/2](#)) and “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe” ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/3](#)). In addition, country reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Armenia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey and Ukraine ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/CRP.2-22](#)).

7. Representatives of the Secretariat introduced the item. Two audiovisual presentations provided an overview of illicit drug trafficking trends across the region and worldwide and informed about the support provided by UNODC through its regional programme for South-Eastern Europe.

8. The Meeting discussed current drug trafficking trends in Europe and approaches to addressing and countering them, with reference to particular cases and important seizures made. The involvement of organized criminal groups in drug trafficking was also discussed. The need to focus the proceeds of crime related to drug trafficking was highlighted, as well as the linkages to other forms of crime.

9. Reference was made to seizures of heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine. Information was shared on the continued use of the Balkan route for heroin trafficking from Afghanistan. One delegation noted a decline in the use of the northern route for the trafficking of opiates from Afghanistan and an increased importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran as both a transit State and a manufacturing site for heroin.

10. It was observed that synthetic drugs were a growing challenge, and that they were manufactured within the region as well as trafficked into it. Organized crime groups were employing foreign nationals as couriers in an attempt to disguise their illegal activities. Trafficking groups were also making full use of new technologies to support their illegal operations, often using equipment more sophisticated than that available to law enforcement authorities. The negative effect of synthetic drug production on the environment was highlighted.

11. Participants discussed emerging challenges, in particular the rise of new psychoactive substances and the use of the Internet for drug trafficking purposes.

Some delegations referred to the need for a unified approach to addressing new psychoactive substances (NPS), in particular with regard to their legislative control and efforts to detect them.

12. Several speakers made reference to the use of the darknet and social media applications as platforms for promoting illicit drug sales and facilitating communication between trafficking groups. These new communication platforms posed new but not insurmountable challenges to law enforcement. One speaker underlined that it was important to obtain the cooperation of social media companies to effectively address the problem.

13. A number of speakers addressed the illicit proceeds of drug trafficking. They called for more attention to be given to recovering those illicit proceeds from criminal groups and applying strong anti-money-laundering measures. Concern was expressed that illicit proceeds threatened to destabilize the rule of law, particularly when used to finance terrorist groups and their activities.

14. Several speakers stressed that, to effectively address the world drug problem, it was important to take a balanced approach that covered demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

15. At its 1st meeting, held on 27 June 2017, the Meeting also considered item 4 of the agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe”. The Meeting had before it a document on that topic, which had been prepared by the Secretariat ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/4](#)), which was based on information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting of Heads of Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe. The document reflected the replies received as at 28 April 2017, namely those from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan and Turkey. After that date, responses to the questionnaire had been received from Belgium, Canada, France, Malta, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which the Secretariat, due to the late submission, had not been able to include in the report.

16. The Secretariat informed the Meeting about the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eleventh Meeting on the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP); the Container Control Programme; the handling of synthetic drug production and the response to changing trends in drug use, NPS and precursors; and measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows.

17. The Meeting was informed about the level of involvement of several delegations in the AIRCOP and the support provided to it. Many countries reported that the law enforcement agencies present at their airports closely cooperated and exchanged information, and some indicated that they had established joint airport interdiction task force units under AIRCOP. Most countries reported having taken action on operational cooperation between authorities in the sharing of information such as advanced passenger information and passenger name records. In some countries these initiatives were related to the implementation of a European Union directive.

18. The Meeting was informed about various measures taken to implement the Container Control Programme and to increase cooperation with drug source countries and transit States. Some Governments had already joined the Programme and used the Container COMM system, while others were still considering that

option. Most countries indicated they were cooperating with others in investigating drug seizures made in container freight destined for Europe. Some States reported on relevant training provided at the international level, including in the framework of the Programme.

19. Regarding the handling of synthetic drug production and the response to changing trends in drug use, NPS and precursors most Governments reported that they had implemented control measures regarding the status of NPS. A number of countries reported adding NPS to their lists of controlled substances, some of those NPS being defined as coming under the generic definitions of specific groups of substances. Other countries scheduled NPS individually. Many countries reported undertaking research into the harmful effects of NPS on human health. A number of countries had established a national early warning system in cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. With respect to the sale of NPS using the Internet, many countries reported having increased cooperation with international postal and courier services to develop strategies to intercept such substances.

20. Regarding measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows most countries reported that they shared information with their national financial intelligence units at the early stages of investigations. Some countries reported having developed guidelines for financial money-laundering investigations, in others investigations had been conducted jointly by law enforcement agencies and their national financial intelligence units to ensure that information was shared at the earliest stage possible. As recommended a number of countries had established joint inter-agency investigation teams to investigate the laundering of proceeds of drug trafficking.

IV. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016

21. At its 2nd meeting, held on 27 June 2017, the Meeting discussed item 5 entitled “Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had available to it the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as well as the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”.

22. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC addressed the Meeting, as did the facilitator of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for matters related to the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

23. Regarding the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action the Meeting was reminded that contributions by Member States to the established follow-up mechanism through the annual report questionnaires were crucial in measuring progress towards achieving the goals set out for the target date of 2019.

24. The Meeting was informed about the comprehensive and inclusive approach to the follow-up process, led by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to the special session of the General Assembly, as well as the equal importance of and attention devoted to all seven chapters of the outcome document.

25. One speaker highlighted the importance of operationalizing the outcome document. Cooperation among the relevant national authorities was considered a key element in effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem and in contributing to a successful implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document.

V. Consideration of topics by working groups

26. At its 3rd to 5th meetings, held from 28 to 29 June, the Meeting established working groups to examine four topics under item 6 of the agenda, entitled “Consideration of topics by working groups”. The observations made by the working groups and the conclusions reached are presented below. (For the recommendations made by the working groups and adopted by the Meeting, see section I above.)

1. Use of the Internet for drug-related activities

27. The working group held one meeting, on 28 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Cybercrime is developing into a service industry in which information technology contractors are selling their services to criminal groups, thereby facilitating the development of illegal businesses;

(b) More awareness is needed among law enforcement officers and agencies of what constitutes a cybercrime offence and how such offences may be carried out;

(c) The darknet drives illicit trafficking activities through thousands of loosely connected websites, which contributes to the strength of its security and affords anonymity to its users;

(d) Much of the information needed to investigate cyber-related trafficking offences and identify the individuals behind them is kept in the records of private sector Internet service providers;

(e) The International Narcotics Control Board actively raises awareness of the need for suitable controls over the Internet sale of pharmaceutical preparations.

28. The working group reached the following conclusions:

(a) Gathering evidence of cyber-related offences requires specialist knowledge, training and skills;

(b) Law enforcement agencies should adopt proactive strategies to undermine and dissuade the use of the darknet;

(c) Private companies are often concerned about their reputations and do not want flaws or failures in their information technology systems exposed to public scrutiny, making the gathering of information, related records and evidence in the investigation of cyber-related offences difficult;

(d) Tor, the software that enables anonymous communication on the Internet by routing messages through multiple Internet service providers in multiple jurisdictions, poses a challenge to investigators seeking to gather evidence relating to or share information on investigations into cyberrelated offences.

2. Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and public safety

29. The working group held one meeting, on 28 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) In many regions of the world, including Europe, the global prison population has been steadily increasing and a large percentage of prisoners are imprisoned for drug-related offences;

(b) Drug use disorders are a serious public health issue that places a significant burden on the affected individuals, their families, communities and society at large;

(c) The international drug control conventions allow the use of alternatives to conviction or punishment, including measures such as education, rehabilitation, social integration, treatment and aftercare, and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) provide comprehensive guidance on the administration of such non-custodial measures;

(d) In line with the principle of proportionality, sentencing should always take into account the nature and gravity of the offence as well as the personality and background of the offender, balanced against the need for protection of society.

30. The working group reached the following conclusions:

(a) Imprisoning those who have committed drug-related crimes of a minor nature is oftentimes disproportionate punishment that does not prevent drug use;

(b) Using alternatives to imprisonment for appropriate cases of a minor nature is not only in line with existing international legal instruments and the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, but can also be effective as a policy to address global prison overcrowding and result in cost savings for the State in the long term;

(c) As drug use disorders are complex, multifactorial chronic health disorders characterized by relapses, it is necessary to take a multidisciplinary approach that involves all relevant actors, including officials of the criminal justice system, health professionals and social workers;

(d) It is important to implement measures to increase public awareness of the benefits of using alternatives to imprisonment;

(e) Treatment and rehabilitation of minors who are in contact with the criminal justice system for drug-related offences should be a priority;

(f) Early intervention, including in the form of diversion to treatment, is an effective way to deal with people with drug use disorders who are in contact with the criminal justice system, and law enforcement officials play a key role in that regard;

(g) There is a need to enhance the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on alternatives to imprisonment, as well as to periodically evaluate existing initiatives on treatment for people with drug use disorders as an alternative to conviction or punishment.

3. Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes

31. The working group held one meeting, on 28 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative gender disaggregated data, and conducting research on gender perspectives in relation to the world drug problem is important to better respond to the specific needs of men and women, as well as to develop and implement targeted measures to prevent crime;

(b) Women affected by drug abuse and drug-related crime are more vulnerable than men and are stigmatized more often; they often bear a heavy burden of violence and deprivation, with economic and social factors shaping their involvement in drug-related crime;

(c) Violence, including domestic violence, can undermine the effectiveness of drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation policies and programmes;

(d) Women with substance use disorders are often deprived of or limited in their access to health services and effective treatment taking into account their specific needs and circumstances;

(e) Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

32. The working group reached the following conclusions:

(a) It is important to collect and analyse gender disaggregated data in order to design effective gender-sensitive drug policies and programmes and to involve women in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of such policies and programmes;

(b) With the number of women drug users and women involved in drug-related crime increasing, it is important to tailor policies and programmes to specific circumstances that women may face, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and trauma;

(c) More research needs to be conducted on the various roles women assume in drug-related and organized crime groups;

(d) Targeted training and capacity-building, including the dissemination of guidelines or handbooks, can support the implementation of gender-sensitive drug policies and programmes.

4. Money-laundering, illicit financial flows and effective countermeasures

33. The working group held one meeting, on 29 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Business entities have been established that provide exclusive, sophisticated and complex money-laundering services to criminal groups that seek to invest the proceeds of their illegal activities;

(b) Lack of coordination and information-sharing between national law enforcement authorities investigating organized crime and related offences remains an obstacle to preventing money-laundering;

(c) Authorities must be able to act quickly when suspicious financial transactions related to money-laundering are detected;

(d) Financial intelligence units perform an invaluable role in identifying suspicious financial transactions linked to money-laundering;

(e) Law enforcement agencies and other recipients of information from financial intelligence units should provide adequate and timely feedback to those units on how the information was used;

(f) Trafficking offences are often predicate offences for subsequent attempts at money-laundering.

34. The working group reached the following conclusions:

(a) Trafficking groups' illicit proceeds are at their most vulnerable while attempts are made to introduce such proceeds into the legitimate financial system;

(b) The business models used by organized crime groups and the diversity of their illegal operations are often too complex for a single national law enforcement agency to successfully identify and dismantle;

(c) When a financial intelligence unit identifies an attempt at laundering the proceeds of crime, regardless of the type of illegal activity, it should be able to report this to the competent national authority empowered to investigate such offences;

(d) Financial intelligence units should be able to obtain information held by all relevant national law enforcement authorities, including police, customs, tax authorities, immigration, anti-drug agencies, anti-corruption agencies, and intelligence services, in a timely manner;

(e) To prevent the risk of disrupting the successful prosecution of those engaged in money-laundering offences, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units should be encouraged to share information when it is apparent they are investigating common targets.

VI. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1 on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

35. At its 2nd meeting, held on 27 June 2017, the Meeting considered item 7 of the agenda entitled “Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1 on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs”.

36. Introductory statements were made by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the Secretariat with a view to the practical implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1. In that decision the Commission decided, in response to the invitation contained in paragraph 97 of General Assembly resolution 71/211, and mindful of the requests contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10 and the operational recommendation contained in paragraph 6 (c) of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, to examine how its subsidiary bodies could better contribute to the implementation of the outcome document; to inform its subsidiary bodies of the invitation contained in General Assembly resolution 71/211; and to invite the subsidiary bodies to consider that invitation at their upcoming meetings and report back to the Commission in due course.

37. The role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was highlighted as the central policymaking body in the United Nations system for drug-related matters, as was the important role played by its subsidiary bodies, which provide the regional perspective.

38. Several speakers underlined the importance of focusing on the practical implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session and the important role played by law enforcement authorities in translating those operational recommendations into action. Some speakers stressed the important contributions of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies to the implementation of the commitments made in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

39. With respect to the implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, some speakers underlined the need to keep and strengthen the role of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies as an exchange platform for law enforcement. Some other speakers expressed the view that the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe should primarily concentrate on law enforcement issues and that demand reduction and other topics would better be dealt with in other forums. Other speakers highlighted the importance of taking into account the global discussions, held in the context of the follow-up to the special session, relating to demand reduction issues, such as prevention and treatment, as well as gender, human rights and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, and to strengthen the exchange of information and experiences among practitioners from different areas. No consensus was reached on the matter.

40. One speaker underlined the importance of ensuring a holistic approach to law enforcement, focusing in particular on the close cooperation among all relevant national authorities to ensure a comprehensive and balanced approach. In that

regard, the speaker welcomed the additional working groups held at the subsidiary bodies to discuss cross-cutting issues identified in the outcome document of the special session.

VII. Organization of the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

41. At its 7th meeting, held on 30 June, the Meeting considered item 8 of its agenda, entitled “Organization of the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a document on that topic, which had been prepared by the Secretariat ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/5](#)).

42. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Thirteenth Meeting was to be held in 2019. The Chair invited States interested in hosting the Meeting to contact the Secretariat so that the venue could be determined as early as possible.

43. Participants were encouraged to suggest possible topics to be considered by the working groups at the Thirteenth Meeting under item 6 of the provisional agenda. The following topics were proposed: new trends in drug trafficking, including new technologies and communication modes, and new ways of delivery and concealment; innovative solutions and successes with regard to precursors; cooperation between domestic authorities, in particular law enforcement, health and justice sectors.

44. The Meeting took note of the proposals and requested the Secretariat to finalize the issues to be discussed by working groups prior to the Thirteenth Meeting. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Thirteenth Meeting was adopted:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
5. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, taking into consideration the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups.
7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision [60/1](#) on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
8. Organization of the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report of the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.

VIII. Other business

45. At its 5th and 6th meeting, held on 29 June 2017, the Meeting considered item 9 of the agenda entitled “Other business”.

46. A representative of UNODC made an audiovisual presentation on its laboratory and forensic services and highlighted their work in support of the implementation of the scheduling decisions taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

47. The representative of UNODC presented the international collaborative exercises programme, the aim of which was to assist drug-testing laboratories worldwide in assessing their own performance and taking corrective action when appropriate. Participation in such collaborative exercises, inter-laboratory comparisons or proficiency tests is an essential element of implementing a laboratory quality management system and ultimately of accreditation. In 2016, the laboratory and scientific section of UNODC collaborated in this framework with over 220 laboratories worldwide based in 70 countries, up from 80 laboratories in 2009. One speaker reported on the international training centre for combating clandestine laboratories, which offered operational training for law enforcement officers and forensic experts.

48. Meeting participants visited the UNODC drug analysis and forensic science laboratories. Practical demonstrations given of techniques and equipment used to detect and analyse drugs. Participants shared operational experiences with regard to forensic capacities for drugs analysis.

IX. Adoption of the report

49. At its 7th meeting, on 30 June, the Meeting adopted the report of its Twelfth Meeting ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/L.1](#) and Add.1-9), as orally amended, including the reports of the working groups and their recommendations.

X. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

50. The Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, was held in Vienna, from 27 to 30 June 2017. The inaugural ceremony was held on 27 June 2017 and addressed by Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, Bente Angell-Hansen, Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Pedro Moitinho de Almeida, post-special session facilitator of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Chairperson of the Twelfth Meeting, Yoni Dekker (Netherlands) also addressed the Meeting. Statements were made by the Russian Federation and Belgium.

B. Attendance

51. The following States members of the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, were represented: Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America.

52. The European Union, the European Police Office (Europol) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe were represented by observers.

53. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

54. At its 1st meeting, on 27 June, the Twelfth Meeting elected the following officers:

<i>Chair:</i>	Yoni Dekker (Netherlands)
<i>First Vice-Chair:</i>	Andrey Khrapov (Russian Federation)
<i>Second Vice-Chair:</i>	Eka Tsankashvili (Georgia)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Kris Lapiere (Belgium)

D. Adoption of the agenda

55. Also at its 1st meeting, the Twelfth Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
5. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Use of the Internet for drug-related activities;
 - (b) Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and public safety;
 - (c) Money-laundering, illicit financial flows and effective countermeasures;
 - (d) Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes.
7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1 on Strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
8. Organization of the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report of the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.

E. Documentation

56. The documents before the Twelfth Meeting are listed in the annex.

XI. Closure of the Meeting

57. The Chair of the Twelfth Meeting made closing remarks.

Annex

List of documents before the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONEURO/12/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
UNODC/HONEURO/12/2	3	Report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide
UNODC/HONEURO/12/3	3	Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe
UNODC/HONEURO/12/4	4	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
UNODC/HONEURO/12/5	8	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
UNODC/HONEURO/12/L.1 and Add.1-Add.9	10	Draft report
UNODC/HONEURO/12/CRP.2-22	3	Country reports