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**Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National  
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe**

Lisbon, 2–5 July 2019

**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Stewe Alm (Sweden)**Consideration of topics by working groups****Issue (b): New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and the role of customs authorities in effective border management strategies**

1. The working group held one meeting on 3 July. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) A diversification in the modi operandi and concealment methods, including “rip-on rip-off”, concealment in various shipments, concealment in structural cavities, and other hard to detect concealments, was observed by the Meeting;

(b) Customs and other law enforcement and specialized agencies, including drug control agencies, financial intelligence units and border control, played a significant role in strengthening counter drug responses. Coordination between these agencies was key in achieving concrete results in countering drug trafficking and related financial flows. The UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme was highlighted to facilitate inter-agency cooperation targeting illicit cargo flows, while facilitating legitimate trade;

(c) Intelligence led policing was highlighted as an effective approach for investigating and implementing proactive responses to the increasing challenges posed by drug-related crime at national and international levels;

(d) Delays in communication of actionable information, difficulties in reaching competent authorities in other countries, different legal frameworks, and counter-surveillance techniques used by criminals, were identified as challenges for law enforcement agencies.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) There was a need to develop and implement protocols and standard operating procedures at the national and international levels, and information on

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national points of contact for partners from other countries should be regularly updated and shared with counterparts;

(b) There was a need to shift towards adaptable and flexible risk indicators and risk management approaches rather than relying on fixed and standard ones;

(c) Close cooperation between relevant law enforcement agencies such as police, customs, and other specialized agencies was considered a prerequisite to effectively counter illicit drug trafficking and related crime;

(d) Despite difficulties in implementing controlled deliveries, this technique was considered one of the key law enforcement investigative tools to identify and dismantle illicit supply chains.

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should encourage strong cooperation between police, customs, and other law enforcement and specialized agencies at national and international levels. In addition, cooperation with the private sector, including shipping companies, exporters, postal and express courier services, should be strengthened;

(b) Platforms for regional and international law enforcement cooperation organizations and centres, including Europol, Frontex, INTERPOL, WCO and others, should be actively used for regional and international cooperation, especially for facilitating investigations of concrete cases as well as post seizure investigations;

(c) Governments should consider the utilization of artificial intelligence for the purposes of analysis, profiling, cross-checking of information, targeting drug trafficking by mail and parcels, and other customs-related activities, including with a view to adapting to the changing criminal environment.

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