

4 July 2019

English only

**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 (c): Addressing the illicit manufacture and diversion of and trafficking in precursors**

1. The working group held one meeting on 4 July. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The regulatory aspects of precursors control in Europe was considered satisfactory, with the European Commission coordinating meetings and discussions in the region to adapt to changing scenarios in the illicit precursors trafficking;

(b) Law enforcement and regulatory agencies face difficulties in investigating and prosecuting cases related to non-controlled substances used for the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Effective application of relevant international provisions, such as the European Union regulations applicable to precursor control, may require the reversal of the burden of proof to the importer of the chemicals.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) The provision referred to as “Catch all” clause provided the possibility for law enforcement intervention in regard of non-controlled substances, when necessary;

(b) There was a need for strengthening import control measures on chemicals entering the European Union as further control of these substances becomes more difficult in the absence of customs borders;

(c) The importance of raising awareness, knowledge and expertise of the relevant agencies in order to identify and investigate cases of misdeclaration, falsified import/export documents and the use of front companies was highlighted;

(d) Efforts should be made to ensure that existing tools and systems such as PEN Online system (pre-export notification online system) and PICS (Precursors Incidents Communication System) were properly used for exports of chemicals to countries outside the European region.



3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should consider making best use of international provisions, such as provisions established by the European Commission, including the “catch all” clause, allowing seizure of non-controlled chemicals, which can be used for the illicit manufacture of drugs based on grounded suspicion;

(b) Governments should consistently develop and enhance cooperation with the private sector in view of enhancing the control of controlled as well as non-controlled substances, which could be used for the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments should consider enhancing the exchange of information and strengthening cooperation in conducting joint investigations and carrying out controlled deliveries in cases of illicit trafficking of precursors.
