

17 February 2005

Original: English

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

Vienna, 7-11 February 2005

**Report of the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law  
Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 7 to  
11 February 2005\***

**Contents**

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention . . . . .	1-6	3
A. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council . . . . .	1	3
B. Recommendations adopted by the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe . . . . .	2-6	4
II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation . . . . .	7-16	6
III. Consideration of topics by working groups . . . . .	17-25	9
IV. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe . . . . .	26-27	13
V. Organization of the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe . . . . .	28-31	14
VI. Other business . . . . .	32-34	15
VII. Adoption of the report . . . . .	35	15
VIII. Organization of the Meeting . . . . .	36-43	15
A. Opening and duration of the Meeting . . . . .	36	15
B. Attendance . . . . .	37-40	16

\* The present report is being issued in English, French, Russian and Spanish, the working languages of the subsidiary body.



	C. Election of officers . . . . .	41	16
	D. Adoption of the agenda . . . . .	42	16
	E. Documentation . . . . .	43	17
	IX. Closure of the Meeting . . . . .	44	17
Annex.	List of documents before the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe . . . . .		18

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

## **A. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council**

1. The Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe, recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

### **Frequency of meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 53/115 of 9 December 1998, 54/132 of 17 December 1999, 55/65 of 4 December 2000, 56/124 of 19 December 2001, 57/174 of 18 December 2002, 58/141 of 22 December 2003 and 59/163 of 20 December 2004, in which the Assembly stressed the importance of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in all regions of the world, and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and encouraged them to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcome of the twentieth special session of the Assembly,

*Recalling also* that, in its resolution 1990/30 of 24 May 1990, entitled “Establishment of a Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, European Region”, it decided to establish a Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, with the status of a subsidiary organ of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

*Recalling further* its resolution 1992/28 of 30 July 1992, entitled “Improvement of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs”, in which it requested the Commission to examine further, on a regular basis, the functioning of its subsidiary bodies,

*Recalling* its resolution 1993/36 of 27 July 1993, entitled “Frequency of and arrangements for meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe”, in which it invited the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to convene the Third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, in 1995, and thereafter to convene such meetings every three years,

*Alarmed* at the threat posed by organized criminal groups, especially through the growing linkages between drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and money-laundering,

*Convinced* that further action is required to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the members of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, to effectively tackle drug trafficking within the region,

*Also convinced* that it is essential for the heads of all national drug law enforcement agencies in Europe to meet regularly to discuss trends in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the action taken to combat it,

*Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, in 2007 and thereafter to convene such meetings every two years under the auspices of the Office.

## **B. Recommendations adopted by the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe**

2. The Sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, adopted a number of recommendations made by its respective working groups. Those recommendations are presented below.

### **Issue 1. Illicit heroin in Europe: current trafficking trends, modus operandi and criminal organizations**

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 1, “Illicit heroin in Europe: current trafficking trends, modus operandi and criminal organizations”:

(a) Governments should ensure that their drug law enforcement agencies are aware of the surveillance lists of non-controlled chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin and that the necessary mechanisms are in place to exchange information on seizures of acetic anhydride in support of the international initiative coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board, Operation Topaz;

(b) In response to the increase in opium production in Afghanistan, Governments should be encouraged to be proactive in their support for the development of closer operational cooperation and the establishment of regular exchanges of information between their national drug law enforcement agencies and foreign counterparts;

(c) To enhance regional cooperation, expand operational effectiveness and increase the information available to drug law enforcement agencies about the activities of heroin trafficking groups, Governments should encourage the regular planning and implementation of joint cross-border and interregional targeting operations between drug law enforcement agencies.

### **Issue 2. Reviewing controls over sea container traffic**

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 2, “Reviewing controls over sea container traffic”:

(a) To protect the security of their borders and the integrity of their international trade links, Governments should take steps to introduce effective control measures at their cargo ports that handle sea containers, so as to ensure efficient screening, examination and processing of goods arriving and departing through cargo terminals;

(b) Governments should be proactive in their efforts to ensure a secure international trade environment, by encouraging and supporting cooperative partnerships between their drug law enforcement agencies and the commercial sector, whose business is based upon the management and transport of commercial sea containers;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to establish multi-agency drug law enforcement interdiction teams at container ports, develop harmonized risk indicators as part of the process of container control and maintain regular exchanges of information between counterparts at different ports on transit consignments as part of their response to effectively identifying containers of interest and at risk of being used in trafficking illicit drugs.

### **Issue 3. The cocaine threat in Europe**

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 3, “The cocaine threat in Europe”:

(a) With the majority of cocaine trafficked by sea, Governments should ensure that their law enforcement agencies responsible for maritime control are trained, equipped and supported so as to be effective in their interdiction efforts to counter cocaine smuggling;

(b) In response to the increasing trend in the use of transit countries such as those in the Balkans and West Africa as staging points for smuggling cocaine into Europe, Governments should ensure that their drug law enforcement agencies are equipped to develop the intelligence necessary to respond and take effective action to disrupt trafficking on those routes;

(c) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in collaboration with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the European Police Office (Europol) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), is encouraged to make further efforts to refine data collection to determine a more accurate assessment of cocaine manufacture, seizures and consumption.

### **Issue 4. Witness protection**

6. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 4, “Witness protection”:

(a) Governments that have yet to establish witness protection programmes are encouraged to do so as a matter of priority and to consider introducing appropriate supporting legislation;

(b) Governments should encourage their police or prosecution services to consider the Europol operational guidelines for witness protection and directory of witness protection legislation;

(c) Governments are encouraged to ensure that law enforcement agencies receive adequate budgetary provision to fund the establishment and maintenance of effective witness protection schemes.

## **II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation**

7. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 7 February, the Meeting considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it two documents prepared by the Secretariat, on statistics on drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide (UNODC/HONEURO/2005/CRP.1) and the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation: South-Eastern and Eastern Europe (UNODC/HONEURO/2005/2). In addition, reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine and by Europol (UNODC/HONEURO/2005/CRP.2-27).

8. A representative of UNODC introduced the item and made an audio-visual presentation providing an overview of trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and illicit drug production and trafficking in Europe and worldwide. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to the Office. Information was also provided on the plan to establish a Central Asian regional information centre to support regional cooperation in drug law enforcement. The representative of the UNODC Project Office for South-Eastern Europe in Sofia presented the demonstration site of the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM), which had been developed as a key product of the Paris Pact initiative<sup>1</sup> and was to become a secure web-based technical assistance coordination tool for use by donors, beneficiaries and partners throughout the region affected by trafficking in opium from Afghanistan. Statements, including audio-visual presentations, were made by the representatives of Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and by the observers for the European Commission and Europol.

9. Several representatives referred to the involvement of organized criminal groups in drug trafficking and drug-related crime and to the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, such as smuggling of migrants and illegal production of counterfeit currency and documents. The representative of Bulgaria considered prevention and countering of organized crime to be a national priority and made reference to its national strategy and the recently established National Service for Combating Organized Crime. New legislative initiatives had been introduced that would strengthen the framework for a successful fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. The representative of Bulgaria called upon UNODC to enhance its technical cooperation in the Balkan States, which in turn would serve the security of both the region and other European States. The representative of Turkey also underlined that drug trafficking had to be fought as a type of organized crime, requiring special investigation methods such as controlled delivery. Recent experience with a large controlled delivery operation involving 17 countries had encouraged Turkey to make more use of such methods in the future. The representative of Turkey also referred to the work undertaken by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC), in particular its training programmes on drug- and organized crime-related matters.

10. Most representatives emphasized the critical importance of multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the region to counter illicit drug trafficking. Major developments had taken place within the European Union. The European Commission had developed the European Union Drug Strategy (2005-2012), based on the results of an evaluation of its previous strategy and action plan. The legislative framework at the European Union level had been strengthened in various areas, such as in relation to minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking, as well as to information exchange, risk assessment and the control of new psychoactive substances. Regulations in relation to precursor control within the Community and between the Community and third countries had also been strengthened. Operational support to member States of the Union had been provided by Europol, which was using a target-oriented approach by focusing on the criminal organizations involved. Europol welcomed the agreement concluded with UNODC, which enabled the exchange of strategic reports and reiterated their interest in enhanced cooperation with Interpol to better coordinate work.

11. Cooperation between certain member States of the European Union had even gone further than what had been agreed upon by its 25 members. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for example, had created a joint investigative team, whereby British law enforcement agencies posted in the Netherlands were provided with the same investigative authorities as their colleagues in that country. A European Joint Unit on Precursors (EJUP), supported by Europol, had been set up by six member States (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom), whose representatives would collect, investigate and exchange operational information on criminals trafficking in precursors, especially precursors required for the manufacture of synthetic drugs. The representative of Belgium reported on the close collaboration of that country with its neighbouring countries, including the strengthening of police cooperation with Luxembourg and the Netherlands, in order to exchange information and conduct joint operations. Belgium, together with France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom, was also part of the working group in charge of developing initiatives to tackle problems related to amphetamine-type stimulants within the framework of the Comprehensive Operational Strategic Planning for the Police of the European Police Chiefs' Task Force.

12. Spain had organized within the framework of European Union cooperation programmes a number of European conferences on a variety of drug control issues, which had been attended by practitioners and by representatives of European and international organizations, including the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Financial Action Task Force against Money Laundering, together with its branches in Latin America and the Caribbean. Regular meetings had been held with Latin American countries cultivating coca bush, in order to highlight drug-related problems and encourage stronger cooperation with Europe. Close cooperation also existed between Morocco and Spain, in particular to combat cannabis production and trafficking. Spain was also especially concerned about growing trends in the abuse of synthetic drugs by young people. Efforts to tighten links and information exchange and to facilitate direct cooperation among law enforcement agencies within a region, especially also within the framework of the Comprehensive Operational Strategic Planning for the Police, were welcomed.

13. The representative of Finland referred to the cooperation framework among northern European countries, the Task Force on Organized Crime in the Baltic Sea Region. The five Nordic countries, the three Baltic countries, Germany, Poland and the Russian Federation had organized working groups at which issues such as amphetamine profiling had been considered from an operational perspective.

14. As serious drug-related crime was on the increase, the need for international cooperation was also underlined by the representative of the Russian Federation. Bilateral cooperation agreements had been signed recently with a number of countries (including Azerbaijan, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tajikistan and Viet Nam) and cooperation with drug control authorities abroad was considered a priority. A successful international drug law enforcement operation, called “containment”, was carried out in 2004 by member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, including Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan (with observers from Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan), in order to detect and block illicit drug and precursor trafficking channels along the northern trafficking route (Afghanistan—Central Asia—Russian Federation—Europe) and in the regions adjacent to Afghanistan. Efforts had been made to deploy a “security belt” around Afghanistan and the representative of the Russian Federation also mentioned in this context the importance of the Paris Pact process and the round-table meeting hosted in Moscow in June 2004, during which the UNODC *World Drug Report* had been launched.

15. The representative of Kazakhstan referred to the problems of being a transit country for opiates coming from Afghanistan. A number of bilateral cooperation agreements had been signed and cooperation with UNODC had been increased. The representative of Kazakhstan also mentioned the international conferences that had led to the exchange of information among countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and to the work undertaken by the research centre established in 1998, which had hosted international seminars for the Central Asian States. New regional projects for Central Asian countries on a variety of drug control topics, including analysis of intelligence, controlled delivery methods and precursor control, were to be launched. Cooperation with foreign authorities, including those of the Russian Federation, was not limited to one single operation, but took place on a continuous basis and had led to large seizures and the arrest of and investigations into the organized criminal groups involved. More cooperation was also being attempted in the fight against synthetic drugs. The representative of Kazakhstan mentioned that more efforts were required to monitor trafficking within its borders and that a sound national data system was essential in order to share information among national agencies and to strengthen cooperation with border services.

16. Good coordination and multidisciplinary collaboration at the national level were considered pivotal to successful investigations and essential to effective international cooperation. The representative of the United Kingdom referred to the work of its National Criminal Intelligence Service, which was a key partner in the Government’s Concerted Inter-Agency Drug Action group, which had responsibility for drug control action at the national and international levels and brought together all of the national agencies, targeting priority areas especially heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine. The representative of the United Kingdom noted that the National Criminal Intelligence Service would become part of the new Serious Organized Crime Agency, which would start work in 2006, address organized criminal



activities (including trafficking in drugs and firearms and illegal immigration) and focus on activities concerned with financial intelligence and combating money-laundering.

### III. Consideration of topics by working groups

17. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, on 8 and 9 February, the Meeting established working groups to examine four issues under item 4 of its 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 chapter I above.)

#### **Issue 4 (a). Illicit heroin in Europe: current trafficking trends, modus operandi and criminal organizations**

18. The working group held one meeting, on 8 February. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Illicit opium production in Afghanistan remained the principal source of heroin available on the European market. Despite the significant drug seizures made by countries along this route, trafficking through the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey and along the Balkan routes remained the most popular means of delivery. The most common modus operandi for its bulk carriage remained concealment within the bodies of international road transport (TIR) trucks, in their commercial consignments, and in passenger buses;

(b) Another trafficking route for illicit opium and heroin produced in Afghanistan that had emerged was the "Silk Route", through the Central Asian States to the Russian Federation. What still remained unclear, however, was the proportion of heroin that stayed in the Russian Federation and the proportion destined for Western Europe;

(c) The assessed increase in illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and the forecast of a greater availability of illicit opium in 2005 indicated the importance of closely monitoring information relating to illicit manufacture, availability, price and purity of heroin;

(d) There were reports of traffickers undertaking so-called "dummy runs" of chemicals in order to test whether and where law enforcement controls were in place to intercept the precursors required for heroin manufacture;

(e) Trafficking in heroin in Europe had been and still was characterized by the involvement of distinct ethnic groups. There was, however, a clear trend towards a lessening of the exclusivity of their individual operations and evidence of a cross-flow of knowledge and contacts between them;

(f) Trafficking groups no longer limited themselves to trafficking in one particular drug, but were increasingly found to be engaged in the transport of a combination of drug types while also utilizing their existing trafficking networks to transport other illicit commodities or contraband;

(g) There was information suggesting that sites for the further refinement of heroin from morphine existed in Europe, specifically in Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Romania.

19. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Detailed knowledge about changes in and influence upon heroin trafficking by routes and by regions was still far from comprehensive. In this regard more intelligence was needed on the current significance and capacity of the Silk Route;

(b) The monitoring and control of precursor and other chemicals used in the manufacture of heroin had been recognized as a significant strategy in tackling heroin manufacture and trafficking;

(c) The modus operandi and concealment methods employed by traffickers transporting diverted precursor chemicals to be used in the illicit manufacture of heroin were becoming more sophisticated and difficult to detect;

(d) Further efforts were required by Europe's drug law enforcement agencies to strengthen their operational cooperation and to improve the regular exchange of information on the activities of individuals and criminal organizations engaged in domestic and regional heroin trafficking.

#### **Issue 4 (b). Reviewing controls over sea container traffic**

20. The working group held one meeting, on 8 February. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The abuse of maritime freight containers for criminal activity, in particular for trafficking in illicit drugs and smuggling contraband, was well documented;

(b) The volume of international trade carried in commercial sea freight containers continued to increase. It was estimated that there were currently more than 200 million containers in circulation in international commerce;

(c) A full physical examination of one commercial seafreight container in search of illicit drugs or contraband was extremely labour-intensive and could take several hours. To reduce that burden on agency resources, authorities were developing new and innovative approaches to container selection, such as the development and application of risk assessment;

(d) A multi-agency approach, making available information and intelligence held by different drug law enforcement agencies investigating persons involved in illicit trafficking, was an effective way to develop and support effective profiles upon which to base container risk assessment programmes.

21. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The illegitimate use of containers to facilitate illicit drug trafficking was an abuse of international trade facilitation arrangements and a threat to both trade security and economic development;

(b) The development of risk indicators based on such elements as the origin of shipment, transport risk area, risk indicators, such as those related to type of

goods, and sub-indicators, such as those related to information of previous offences, greatly enhanced the ability of law enforcement agencies to select containers of potential interest from the hundreds arriving daily at ports and control points;

(c) Law enforcement agencies wishing to develop effective risk assessment programmes for container selection should encourage all sectors working in the sea container industry—shipping companies, freight forwarding agencies and port operators—to participate in and contribute to the development of effective risk indicators;

(d) Identification and control of container cargoes of interest to drug law enforcement agencies could be made more effective when authorities operated multi-agency law enforcement control teams at container ports and terminals. Examples of such joint approaches were seen in the Hit and Run Container (HARC) Teams operating in the port of Rotterdam and the adoption of a similar joint agency strategy by UNODC in its pilot container control programme project in Ecuador and Senegal.

#### **Issue 4 (c). The cocaine threat in Europe**

22. The working group held one meeting, on 9 February. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) After the United States of America, Europe had developed into the second largest cocaine market globally. Cocaine abuse, restricted in the past to the affluent, had become more widespread among all social strata, giving rise to an alarming trend of increasing abuse by young people;

(b) The recent trend in the three principal coca-producing countries was of decreased coca bush cultivation and therefore decreased cocaine manufacture. The number of recent seizures of cocaine reported and quantities intercepted had increased;

(c) Primary control over illicit cocaine manufacture and trafficking remained mainly in the hands of Colombian organizations. A diverse collection of organized criminal groups, often brought together through ethnic ties, had formed to smuggle cocaine from South America into Europe using a variety of routes, types of transport and *modi operandi*;

(d) Intelligence suggested that complex alliances had been established between different drug trafficking organizations and other criminal groups that offered their services as smugglers and retailers. Examples included the Caribbean networks, which engaged mainly in the supply of crack cocaine primarily to the United Kingdom, and the evolution of Albanian and West African syndicates as both organizers and distributors;

(e) A new and developing trafficking trend was the use of organizations operating in North Africa that traditionally smuggled cannabis resin to transport cocaine onward to the European market. That highlighted the increasing use of the countries of West Africa as transit points for the unloading and transfer of cocaine destined for the European market;

(f) A trend of note was the use by traffickers of smaller airports, for example in Luxembourg or Slovakia, to smuggle cocaine from South America;

(g) Criminal organizations used a variety of sophisticated infrastructure and couriers to move cocaine by land, sea and air into Europe via different transit countries. Smuggling by maritime routes had grown in size and sophistication. The vessels used ranged from small fishing boats, yachts and speedboats to large cargo ships.

23. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The problem of cocaine trafficking into Europe had become a major threat;

(b) The generally stable price of cocaine, despite estimates suggesting falling coca bush cultivation and cocaine manufacture, complemented by increased cocaine seizures by law enforcement authorities, suggested that there was a need for further information to complement existing data in respect of cultivation, production, consumption and seizures in order to make a more accurate assessment of the situation;

(c) The smuggling of substantial quantities of cocaine and other illicit drugs by sea highlighted the importance of ensuring that effective maritime law enforcement cooperation was in place;

(d) Europol could and should play a significant role in developing cooperation between its member States and the wider international community. A key role in this regard was the provision to its members of analytical support and facilitating the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies to enable them to react with greater speed and efficiency;

(e) With the emergence of increased cocaine trafficking, in particular through Balkan and West African States, the provision of technical assistance, training and equipment to law enforcement agencies in those States, combined with more effective intelligence-sharing and cooperation between source, transit and consumer countries, was necessary;

(f) While a number of different criminal groups were engaged in cocaine trafficking, the increased involvement of Albanian criminals in trafficking in cocaine, in particular through the Balkans into Europe, was a significant and growing challenge to law enforcement.

#### **Issue 4 (d). Witness protection**

24. The working group held one meeting, on 9 February. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) There was growing recognition of the special role witness protection could play in supporting successful criminal proceedings. In order to effectively investigate organized crime and to dismantle crime groups, it was essential to have systems in place to protect witnesses and to allow them to give evidence in criminal proceedings without fear of reprisal;

(b) There were many reports available in Europe on trends in and the adverse influences of organized crime, but little analysis of the extent of intimidation of witnesses and the important role they played in dismantling such organizations;

(c) Europol had established a network of heads of specialized units for witness protection, which met once a year in The Hague to exchange good practices and draft legislative proposals for member States. Interpol encouraged its members to work in the development of bilateral and trilateral agreements, while the South-East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) had established an advisory group of prosecutors from its member States to enhance cooperation in the field of witness protection;

(d) Some witness protection schemes, such as that introduced in Lithuania, protected not only witnesses and their relatives but also court officers, lawyers, judges, prosecutors and expert witnesses against physical or psychological threats, as well as damage to their property;

(e) Witness protection programmes would, in certain cases, benefit from international assistance in the relocation of witnesses.

25. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Regional agreements among neighbouring States in support of collective witness protection programmes offered a cost-effective alternative to a potentially expensive exercise;

(b) Legislation was considered useful in providing the necessary measures for the safety, security and protection of witnesses;

(c) Witness protection schemes should aim to encourage a person to become a witness, in particular in human trafficking cases, where the victim was also a witness and deserved special consideration;

(d) Members of Europol should be encouraged to make use of its operational guidelines for witness protection and directory of witness protection legislation.

#### **IV. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe**

26. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 February, the Meeting considered item 5 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe”. The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONEUR/2005/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting of HONLEA, Europe. The document reflected the answers received from Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Malta, Portugal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Switzerland and Turkey as at 24 January 2005. After that date or during the Meeting, questionnaires were submitted by Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Romania, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

27. The Meeting was informed of action taken to implement specific recommendations at the national level, the results achieved and the difficulties

encountered. During the discussion of the item, a statement was made by the representative of Germany.

## **V. Organization of the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe**

28. At its 7th meeting, on 10 February, the Meeting considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled "Organization of the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONEUR/2005/4). During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, Israel, Germany, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Spain, the Russian Federation and Turkey.

29. With regard to the topics for discussion in working groups (item 4 of the provisional agenda) at the Seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, representatives proposed the following as possible themes: (a) criminal groups and networks involved in illicit drug manufacture and trafficking; (b) controlled deliveries; (c) illicit manufacture and transport of heroin in Europe; (d) international cooperation, including joint investigation teams and regional initiatives; (e) laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking; (f) narco-terrorism; (g) precursor control; (h) synthetic drugs; and (i) the relationship between demand for and supply of illicit drugs. Some representatives stated that the Seventh Meeting should not only discuss the current situation, but also identify solutions for the problems encountered. The Meeting decided that an informal meeting of the members of HONLEA, Europe, should take place during the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2006, in order to select the topics to be considered by the working groups during the Seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, and to facilitate preparations for that Meeting.

30. It was recommended that in future the Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, should take place every two years instead of every three years and requested the preparation of a proposal, to be submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-eighth session.

31. The Meeting approved the following draft provisional agenda for the Seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Consideration of topics by working groups.
5. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
6. Organization of the Eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
7. Other business.

8. Adoption of the report of the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.

## **VI. Other business**

32. At its 7th meeting, on 10 February, the Meeting considered item 7 of its agenda, entitled "Other business". Statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey and by the observers for Europol, Interpol and the SECI Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime.

33. The observer for the SECI Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime presented the work of its task force on drug trafficking. The observer for Interpol briefed the Meeting on the establishment of a new analysis unit, which would provide relevant national authorities with information on drugs and crime through electronic communication channels. The representative of Lithuania underlined the importance of enhanced and timely information exchange among authorities on the movements of suspected persons.

34. The representative of Turkey stressed, based on experience gained in connection with the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, the importance of countries having specialized centres to train law enforcement personnel on drug- and organized crime-related matters. He also emphasized the importance of enhanced cooperation among such training centres. The observer for Europol stated that training centres for law enforcement personnel were cooperating within the European Union framework. One representative invited the member States of the Union to consider whether certain initiatives, such as those related to the training of law enforcement agencies, could be opened to other States participating in the Meeting of HONLEA, Europe.

## **VII. Adoption of the report**

35. At its 7th meeting, on 10 February, the Meeting adopted the report of its Sixth Meeting (UNODC/HONEURO/2005/L.1 and Add.1-6), including the reports of the working groups and their recommendations.

## **VIII. Organization of the Meeting**

### **A. Opening and duration of the Meeting**

36. The Sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, was held in Vienna from 7 to 11 February 2005. The Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Chairman of the Sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, addressed the opening meeting.

## **B. Attendance**

37. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Europe were represented: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan.

38. Europol, the European Commission, Interpol and the SECI Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime were represented by observers.

39. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

40. Representatives expressed deep regret that a number of States that were known to have significant national criminal groups active internationally in drug trafficking and organized crime had failed to send representatives to the Meeting of HONLEA, Europe.

## **C. Election of officers**

41. At its 1st meeting, on 7 February 2005, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Peter Poptchev (Bulgaria)
<i>First Vice-Chairman:</i>	Miklós Oláh (Hungary)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman:</i>	Pascal Garlement (Belgium)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Paul Schank (Luxembourg)

## **D. Adoption of the agenda**

42. At its 1st meeting, on 7 February 2005, the Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Illicit heroin in Europe: current trafficking trends, modus operandi and criminal organizations;
  - (b) Reviewing controls over sea container traffic;
  - (c) The cocaine threat in Europe;
  - (d) Witness protection.



5. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
6. Organization of the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.

## **E. Documentation**

43. The documents before the Sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, are listed in the annex to the present report.

## **IX. Closure of the Meeting**

44. Closing statements were made by the Chairman of the meeting and a representative of the Secretariat.

### *Note*

<sup>1</sup> The Paris Pact initiative emerged from the Paris Statement (S/2003/641, annex), which was issued at the end of the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003.

**Annex****List of documents before the Sixth 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/2005/1	2	Provisional agenda, including annotations and provisional timetable
UNODC/HONEURO/2005/2	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation: South-Eastern and Eastern Europe
UNODC/HONEURO/2005/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
UNODC/HONEURO/2005/4	6	Organization of the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
UNODC/HONEURO/2005/L.1 and Add.1-6	8	Draft report
UNODC/HONEURO/2005/CRP.1	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide
UNODC/HONEURO/2005/CRP.2-27	3	Country reports