

AGENDA

Chemical Precursors Workshop: Achievements and Strategic Action EU-LAC

Consolidating Experiences, Promoting Good Practices, and Defining Future Steps for EU-LAC Cooperation in Sustainable Precursor Management

*October 27 and 28, 2025
Hotel Meliá Madrid Serrano*

Introduction

The importance of precursors and controlled chemicals in the fight against drug trafficking is based on the fact that, in the production of most drugs, whether of plant origin or synthetic, these chemicals are required in the transformation process that leads to the final product. Precursors are therefore one of the necessary elements for the clandestine manufacturing of plant-based drugs and are the essential components in the illicit production of synthetic drugs.

Both nationally and internationally, regulations and strategies have been developed to prevent the diversion of these substances to the illicit market. Better and more effective control of precursors has resulted in an increase in the seizure of all these chemical substances, and consequently, it has raised the difficulties in handling, transporting, storing, managing, and disposing of the seized chemical substances.

Furthermore, drug production has a devastating impact on both human health and the environment. From the contamination of soils and water sources with toxic chemicals to the generation of hazardous waste and the unsustainable use of natural resources, the practices associated with this activity destroy vital ecosystems and compromise biodiversity. It is imperative to address the root of this problem by dismantling production networks and developing sustainable alternatives to safeguard the integrity of our ecosystems and protect the health of communities globally.

After three years in which COPOLAD III has been working hand in hand with countries to improve national drug programs in the Latin America and Caribbean region, we have reached a crucial point in our journey, a moment to reflect on the results we have achieved and, more importantly, to outline the paths that will guide us toward future action.

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In recent years, there has been growing concern over the management and final disposal of chemical waste and byproducts generated by the production of illicit drugs. Within the action line of Control of chemical precursors for the illicit manufacture of drugs, attention has been focused on the environmental impact of drug production, seeking solutions for the management and final disposal of precursors and seized chemicals. Through a multi-country action, COPOLAD has facilitated the exchange of best practices and training to address the complex challenges we face in the management and final disposal of precursors.

This implies not only the implementation of cleaner and safer technologies for the treatment of these hazardous wastes, but also the urgent need to resolve the legislative and coordination issues that hinder effective action. The lack of clear legal frameworks, institutional weakness, and the fragmentation of responsibilities among different institutions and countries complicate cross-border cooperation and the implementation of comprehensive solutions. It is crucial to harmonize regulations, strengthen governmental capacities, and promote strategic partnerships to develop and implement strategies that prevent the diversion of precursors and protect the health of ecosystems and communities.

Throughout this project, each of the participating countries has been a fundamental pillar, contributing with their vision, experience, and dedication. New ideas have been explored, challenges have been overcome, and the foundations for a promising future have been laid. This workshop is the culmination of that collective effort. It is not only an opportunity to present the work done, but also to engage in a constructive dialogue, sharing perspectives and consolidating strategies.

The central purpose of this workshop is to consolidate the learnings and conclusions from the precursor phase, transforming them into a concrete and collaborative action plan that drives long-term goals. To achieve this, the workshop will focus on two essential pillars:

- Thoroughly analyse the results obtained in this line of work from the precursors, identifying successes, key learnings, and areas of opportunity.
- Collectively define the steps that can be taken in the future, establishing a clear and actionable roadmap that allows for progress with confidence and determination. This involves formulating strategies, assigning responsibilities, and identifying the necessary resources for the implementation of future phases.

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PROGRAM

Monday, 27th october

8:15h – 9:00h. Participant Accreditation

9:00h – 9:45h. Welcome and objectives of the workshop

Speakers:

Mr. Francisco Tierraseca Director of FIAP.

Mr. Francisco Javier Marín Lizarraga .Director of CITCO.

9:45h – 10:15h. Review of COPOLAD's actions and results in line of work on chemical precursors.

Speakers:

Mr. Borja Díaz Rivillas, Director of COPOLAD III.

Mrs. Milagros Diego Risco, Task Force for Drug Precursors in COPOLAD III.

Aim:

Identify the technical assistance initiatives that have been implemented and present their overall results. Challenges and problems found.

10:15h. – 11:15h. Status and current challenges in precursor control.

Moderator: **Mr. Gustavo A. Castro Valverde**, Section head of the precursor area, CITCO, Spain

Speakers:

Mrs. Deborah Maestre CICAD/OAS Project Officer.

Mr. Hans Hendriks, Senior Advisor and Liaison Officer at Financial and Tax Crime Police (FIOD), Netherlands.

Mr. Trotsky Gustavo Santamaría Chief Specialist Technical, Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador.

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Aim: To understand the problems encountered in the control of precursors today.

11:15h – 11:30h. Coffee Break

11:30h – 12:15h. New trends. Designer precursors.

Speaker: **Mrs. Milagros Diego Risco**, Task Force for Drug Precursors in COPOLAD III.

Aim: Overview of what designer precursors are, and the challenges encountered in controlling them.
Learn about current problems in precursor control, particularly the control of designer precursors.

12:15h – 13:15h. Harmonization of precursor control regulations in the LAC region

Moderator: **Kimberlene Franklin**, Scientific Officer I (Forensic Chemist), Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre

Speakers:
Mr. Hans Hendriks, Senior Advisor and Liaison Officer at FIOD, Netherlands.
Mrs. Deborah Maestre, CICAD/OAS Project Officer.
Mr. Jonatan Jiménez Padilla, Precursor Control and Inspection Unit, ICD-Ministry of the Presidency, Costa Rica.
Mrs. Astrid Mondesir, Chief Pharmacist, Ministry of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs, Saint Lucia.

Aim: Importance of Model Regulation as a basis for developing national regulations.
To explain how precursor control is carried out in the Netherlands and Costa Rica.

13:15h – 14:30h. Lunch

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14:30h – 15:30h.

Customs control of drug precursors.

Moderator: **Mr. Luis Donat Villalbao**, Official responsible for the Registry of Customs Surveillance Precursors, Spain.

Speakers:

Mr. António José Fernandes, Asesor Senior de Aduanas, Autoridade tributária aduaneira (AT), Portugal.

Mr. Luis Donat Villalbao, Official responsible for the Registry of Customs Surveillance Precursors, Spain.

Mr. Francisco Javier Cruz Castellanos, Deputy Director of Control and Oversight of Chemical Substances and Narcotics of the Ministry of Justice and Law, Colombia.

Aim: Control of precursors during export, import, and transit in Spain and the European Union.
Highlight the importance of using the online Pre-Export Notification System (PEN-Online) and the Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS).

15:30h – 16:30h.

Subregional cooperation strategy to improve the interdiction of drug and chemical precursor trafficking.

Speakers:

Mr. José Luis Reyes Zelaya, Head of the Narcotics and Controlled Products Unit (S.R.S.) El Salvador.

Mr. Jonatan Jiménez Padilla, Precursor Control and Inspection Unit, ICD-Ministry of the Presidency, Costa Rica

Aim: To publicize the Subregional Cooperation Strategy to improve the Interdiction of Drug and Chemical Precursor Trafficking.

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16:30h – 17:30h. Training on Chemical Precursor Control

Moderator:

Mr. José Luis Martín Baltanás, Head of Precursor Service, CITCO, Spain

Speakers:

Mr. Francisco Perosanz Martín, Security Course Coordinator, UNED, Spain.

Ms. Joycelyn Hughes, Border Security Affairs Specialist and Training Coordinator, CARICOM IMPACS.

Mrs. Carmen Ballesteros Ricart, Special Anti-Drug Prosecutor's Office of the National Court of Spain.

Mrs. Antonia Guijarro, Special Anti-Drug Prosecutor's Office of the National Court of Spain.

Aim:

Highlight the importance of training for both authorities and the private sector. Review of the two editions of the Advanced Specialization Course in Drug Precursors Control and Research.
Training needs.

17:30h Closing First Day

Mrs. María Adiego González. DG INTPA B2, COPOLAD III Program

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Tuesday, 28th october

09:00h – 10:00h.

Collaboration with the Private Sector

Moderator:

Mr. Gustavo A. Castro Valverde, Section head of the precursor area, CITCO, Spain

Speakers:

Mr. Yannick Scharf, Manager Trade & Customs Policy, European Chemical Industry Council – CEFIC

M^a Eugenia Anta Espada, Director of International, Investment, and Innovation. Spanish Chemical Industry Business Federation (FEIQUE)

Mr. Trotsky Gustavo Santamaría, Chief Specialist Technical, Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador.

Mrs. Juanita Tamayo Peña, Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Criminal Policy and Restorative Justice of Colombia

Aim:

To understand the relationship between the competent authorities in precursor control and the private sector, identify potential avenues for reaching out to them, and how to educate them on the benefits of collaboration.

10:00h – 10:45h.

Treatment manuals for the management and final disposal of precursors and chemical substances.

Speaker:

Mr. Ariel Alfaro Vargas, Chemical Regent of the University of Costa Rica.

Aim:

Present the Treatment Manuals for the management and final disposal of precursors and chemical substances.

10:45h – 11:00h. Coffee Break

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11:00h – 12:15h. Management and final disposal of precursors and chemical substances.

Moderator:

Mr. Ariel Alfaro Vargas, Chemical Regent of the University of Costa Rica.

Speakers:

Ms. Heidy Gómez Guante, Director of the Directorate of Chemicals and Precursors, Dominican Republic

Mrs. Nydian Espinal Medina, Head of the Department of Chemical Precursors, DNII, Honduras

Mr. Boris Marcelo Argote, Regional Chief of the G.I.SU.Q.-West of the Special Force for the Fight Against Narcotics (FELCN), Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Mr. Mario Ricardo Galeano Chena, SENAD Laboratory Director Paraguay.

Aim:

Appropriation of these by countries and measures adopted to improve the management and final disposal of precursors and chemical substances.

12:15h – 13:15h. Working groups:

- Precursor Control (regulatory harmonization, institutional coordination).
- Management and final disposal of precursors and controlled chemical substances.
- Training needs.

Moderators:

Mrs. Milagros Diego Risco, Task Force for Drug Precursors in COPOLAD III.

Mr. Trotsky Gustavo Santamaría, Chief Specialist Technical, Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador.

Aim:

Reflect on the areas addressed at COPOLAD III in the work on precursors and chemical substances.
Define possible lines of action to be taken in the future.

13:15h – 14:45h. Lunch

14:45h – 15:15h. Working groups: Continued.

Moderators:

Mrs. Milagros Diego Risco, Task Force for Drug Precursors in COPOLAD III.

Mr. Trotsky Gustavo Santamaría, Chief Specialist Technical, Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador.

Aim: Present the conclusions reached by each of the working groups.

15:15h – 16:15h. Conclusions and closing remarks

Speakers:

Mrs. Milagros Diego Risco, Task Force for Drug Precursors in COPOLAD III.

Mr. Trotsky Gustavo Santamaría, Chief Specialist Technical, Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador.
Borja Díaz Rivillas, Director of COPOLAD III.

Aim: Present the conclusions of the workshop and outline the lines of action identified for the future.

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