

High-Level Seminar of EU and CELAC National Drug Agencies on Common Challenges in the Drug Sector

Brussels, 9, 10, 11 December 2025

AGENDA (V.08/12/25)

Participants: EU/CELAC Mechanism Representatives + CELAC National Drug Agencies + GHD Representatives + EU Institutions + COPOLAD.

Venue: Square Brussels Meeting Centre.

Coudenberg Entrance. Rue du Coudenberg 3, Third floor. 1000 Brussels.

DAY 1 – DECEMBER 9TH 2025

08:00 – 09:00 PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

09:00 – 10:00 WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION

- Félix FERNÁNDEZ SHAW, Director for Latin America, the Caribbean and relations with all Overseas Countries and Territories at the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships.
- Pelayo CASTRO, European External Action Service, Deputy Managing Director for the Americas.
- Joan Margarita CEDANO Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Mission to the EU. CELAC Copresidency from the EU – CELAC Mechanism on drugs.
- Casper GRUE JENSEN, Deputy Head of Division, Danish Ministry of Justice. UE Copresidency from the EU-CELAC Mechanism on drugs, Denmark.
- Jo DE COCK, Head of Unit - Organised crime and Drugs, DG HOME.

10:00 – 10:15 FAMILY PHOTO

10:15 – 11:45 SESSION 1 – TOWARDS COPOLAD III EXTENSION: ALIGNING PRIORITIES AND DEMANDS

With a view to the extension of the Programme, this session will present a forward-looking thematic proposal that builds on the lessons learned from COPOLAD III, safeguards key achievements and opens up new priority areas. Fully in line with the EU-CELAC Summit, La Paz Declaration, the objectives of the 2025 Warsaw High-Level Meeting, the new EU Drugs Strategy and regional and national priorities, the proposal is designed to serve as a living framework. Countries are encouraged to participate, share their perspectives and comments, and help shape a joint agenda that responds not only to regional commitments but also to their own national needs and lessons learned so far.

Moderation: **Borja DÍAZ**, COPOLAD III Director (5')

Introduction: **Olivier LUYCKX**, Head of Unit, Country Programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean, INTPA B2 (7')

Panellists: (7'/representative)

- **Peggy MARTINELLO** Director of Public Administration and Social Affairs, FIAP.
- **Giovanni RUSSO**, Scientific Coordinator COPOLAD on drug trafficking and money laundering, IILA.
- **Sarah DAVID**, Head of Project, Global Agendas for Food and Nutritional Security. Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPPD), GIZ.
- **Cécile MARTEL**, Head of sector, International cooperation, Partnerships and innovation unit, EUDA.

Exchange with representatives of participating countries (30').

CELAC

- **Roberto Esteban MORO**, Secretary of the Secretariat for Comprehensive Drug Policies of the Argentine Nation, Ministry of Health. SEDRONAR.
- **Esner VELLOSO**, Director of the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC), Belize.

COPOLAD III is a consortium formed by:



Collaborating partners:



- **Jissel MAITIN**, Executive Secretary of the National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-Related Crimes (CONAPRED), Panama

European Union

- **Josefina MAVROU**, NAAC Officer - National Authority for Addictions, Cyprus
- **Elena ÁLVAREZ**, Deputy Director General for Institutional Relations - Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs, Spain.

Civil society

- **Oriol ESCULIES**, International Delegate, Proyecto Hombre.

Other participants

11:45 – 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 13:30 SESSION 2 - VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED TO DRUGS

Changes in the drug markets in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe have intensified violence, weakened institutions and affected vulnerable communities, especially young people. The growth of cocaine trafficking—a major shared concern—along with criminal fragmentation and the emergence of new routes and synthetic substances, is increasing pressure on public safety, justice and health.

The panel will analyse strategies to prevent and address the structural causes of violence linked to drug trafficking and problematic consumption, promoting comprehensive responses in health, security, justice and social cohesion. Experiences from both regions will be shared to strengthen EU-CELAC cooperation within the framework of COPOLAD III and the commitments of the La Paz Declaration.

Moderator: **Massimo MECCHERI**, COPOLAD III – IILA Programme Manager (5')

Introduction: **Jo DE COCK**, Head of Unit - Organised crime and Drugs, DG HOME (7')

Panellists: (10'/panellist)

- **Pablo CARVACHO**, Director of Research and Development at the Centre for Justice and Society Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.
- **Marta MACHADO**, Director, National Secretariat for Drug Policy and Asset Management, Brazil.
- **Cheryl ST. LOUIS**, Manager, National Drug Council, Ministry of National Security, Trinidad & Tobago.
- **Thomas MARTINELLI**, Researcher & Policy Advisor at the Trimbos Institute, The Netherlands.

Exchange with representatives of participating countries (30').

13:30 – 14:30 LUNCH

14:30 – 16:00: SESSION 3 – RISK AND HARM REDUCTION POLICIES, PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND INCLUSION

The purpose of the session is to analyse the development of risk and harm reduction in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, considering both the regulatory, institutional and social obstacles that hinder its consolidation and the successful strategies that have proven effective in different contexts. It also seeks to highlight approaches that integrate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, early warning systems for new substances and changes in consumption patterns, and cooperation practices with civil society, in a flexible and adaptive approach. The importance of co-producing knowledge and of an approach prepared for changing scenarios characterised by poly-use and the emergence of new risks is emphasised. In line with the EU-CELAC Declaration on Drugs, which recognises harm reduction as part of public health and human rights policies, this session aims to identify specific lessons that contribute to institutionalising harm reduction programmes and services that are adapted to local and regional realities and sustainable over time.

Moderator: **Paola TASSARA**, Head of Research and Public Policy Department, SENDA, Chile (5').

Introduction: **Marica FERRI**, Head of Health and Social Responses, EUDA (7').

Panellists: (10' / panellist)

COPOLAD III is a consortium formed by:



Collaborating partners:



- **Marta TORRENS**, Specialist in Psychiatry, Professor of Psychiatry at Pompeu Fabra University and the University of Vic – Catalonia, Spain.
- **Marcela TOVAR**, Director of Drug Policy, Ministry of Justice and Law, Colombia.
- **Gabriel ROSSI**, Secretary General, National Drug Secretariat. Presidency of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay.
- **Dirk SCHÄFFER**, Advisor on Drugs & the penal system, Deutsche Aidshilfe E.V., Germany.

Exchange with representatives of participating countries (30').

16:00 – 17:00 Meeting of Caribbean countries with COPOLAD

The purpose of the session is to build on the discussions held during the morning session on the expansion of COPOLAD, reflect on the lessons learned from the collaboration between Caribbean countries and COPOLAD over the past four years, and identify priorities and next steps.

DAY 2 – DECEMBER 10TH 2025¹

09:00 – 10:30 SESSION 4 – CHEMICAL PRECURSORS

Chemical precursors are at the heart of current drug challenges, both because of the risk of diversion to the illicit production of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, and because of the need to ensure their responsible management and safe disposal once seized. The La Paz Declaration (2024) explicitly recognises the importance of strengthening bi-regional cooperation in this area, promoting the exchange of good regulatory and technical practices, and promoting security measures for the disposal of drugs and precursors.

The session seeks to reinforce the political commitment to comprehensive precursor control, ranging from the prevention of diversion to the management, storage and final disposal of seized substances. To this end, it will discuss how to translate technical advances into policy guidelines, improve inter-institutional coordination within countries, with a focus on the issue of ports, promote public-private collaboration and strengthen bi-regional EU-CELAC cooperation in a common roadmap.

Moderator: **José Luis MARTÍN BALTANÁS** (5'), Head of Service, Precursors Area, CITCO, Spain.

Introduction: **Paulo Alexandre ESSE** (7'), Policy Officer, DG TAXUD (European Commission).

Panellists: (10' / panellist)

- **Jorge RIVADENEIRA**, Deputy Minister of Public Security, Ministry of the Interior, Ecuador.
- **Tonya T. AYOW**, Deputy Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS.
- **Deborah MAESTRE**, Project Officer, CICAD/OAS.
- **Rafael VALENZUELA**, Subdirector of the Information and joint coordination Centre of the National Directorate for Drug control, Dominican Republic.

Exchange with representatives of participating countries (30').

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30 SESSION 5 – DIALOGUE WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION DRUGS AGENCY (EUDA): TENDENCIES, RESPONSES AND COLLABORATION WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Moderator: **Peggy MARTINELLO** Director of Public Administration and Social Affairs, FIAP.

- **Marica FERRI**, Head of Health and Social Responses, EUDA.
- **Cécile MARTEL**, Head of sector, International cooperation, Partnerships and innovation unit, EUDA.

Exchange with representatives of participating countries.

12:30 – 13:45 LUNCH

¹ In parallel to this agenda, the EU country representatives will hold their Horizontal Drugs Group meeting throughout the day.

14:00 – 16:15 MEETING WITH EU INSTITUTIONS

European Union policy and cooperation on drugs

The session will focus on the EU policy framework and cooperation instruments addressing the world drug situation, with a comprehensive perspective that covers both demand- and supply-reduction aspects. It will provide an excellent opportunity for dialogue and exchange between EU and CELAC counterparts, particularly in the follow-up to the EU–CELAC Summit, on such a crucial and timely issue as drug trafficking and its related challenges.

Moderator: **Olivier LUYCKX**, Head of Unit, Country Programmes for L.A. and the Caribbean, INTPA B2. (7')

Panellists: (12' / speaker)

- **EEAS. Christian BURGSMUELLER**, Head of Division – Regional Affairs Americas. European External Action Service.
- **EU COUNCIL SECRETARIAT. Maily RAMONATXO**, Head of Unit – Evaluations in Justice and Home Affairs and Drugs Policy.
- **FPI 1. Maria Rosa SABATELLI**, Head of Unit, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments. Global & Transregional Threats & Challenges.
- **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. Javier GOMEZ DE AGÜERO**, External Policies Desk Officer, Latin America Unit – Secretariat of the European Parliament.
- **DG HOME. Monika MAGLIONE**, Coordinator against drugs trafficking. Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. European Commission.

Exchange with representatives of participating countries (45').

16:30 CLOSING

Moderator: **María ADIEGO GONZÁLEZ**, Programme Manager DG INTPA, Unit B2, Country Programmes for Latin America & the Caribbean.

Institutional representatives

- **Joan Margarita CEDANO** Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Mission to the European Union.
- **Lorenzo TORDELLI**, Responsible for the European Cooperation Service, IILA.
- **Francisco TIERRASECA** Director, FIAP.
- **Olivier LUYCKX**, Head of Unit, Country Programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean, INTPA B2.

17:00 – 18:00 Bilateral meetings

DAY 3 – DECEMBER 11TH 2025

08:15 – 13:00 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING - EU-CELAC COORDINATION AND COOPERATION MECHANISM ON DRUGS.

Venue: EU Council, Justus Lipsius building. Rue de la Loi 175, Room 35.4.

Participants: UE/CELAC Representatives at the Mechanism + CELAC National Drug Agencies Representatives.

13:00 – 14:00 TRANSPORT BY PRIVATE BUS FROM THE EU COUNCIL BUILDING TO THE SQUARE

14:00 – 15:00 LUNCH

Square Brussels Meeting Centre. Coudenberg Entrance. Rue du Coudenberg 3, **Second floor**.

15:00 – 17:00 INTRA CELAC MEETING

Square Brussels Meeting Centre. Coudenberg Entrance. Rue du Coudenberg 3, **Second floor**.

Conversation with the National Drug Commissioner of the Kingdom of Belgium, Ms. Ine Van Wymersch, on how actions to combat drugs are being coordinated in the Brussels-Capital Region. In particular, aspects relating to the approach to so-called 'hotspots' and new measures on the confiscation and management of assets derived from organized crime will be addressed.