

## Spanish Presidency of the European Union

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### EU statement on Drugs Trafficking

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The European Security Strategy identifies organized crime as one of the key threats in our security environment, and links drug trafficking to the weakening of states, the undermining of the rule of law and social structures, the fueling of conflicts and terrorism.

This is a challenge we need to face together. The EU has already stated that the OSCE, with its comprehensive approach to security, broad participation and developed *acquis*, is well placed to address effectively transnational threats and challenges, including those stemming from the territory of Afghanistan.

To do this, we must start by taking stock of what has been done, and analyse where the OSCE can bring added value, in order to define future priorities in the field of transnational threats. To do this, the OSCE needs a better picture of these threats and challenges. Threat assessments are however already made by other international or national organisations — the OSCE should draw on them.

It is highly important to take fully into account in this context the role and activities of other international actors, including the United Nations, notably the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. We need to avoid duplications and take advantage of synergies to play a significant role.

The different topics in the field of transnational threats cannot be seen in isolation. Drug trafficking is a key area of concern. It is central in the field of organized crime, has obvious links to border security and its funds are sometimes used to finance terrorism; in the case of Afghanistan, heroin is a source of financing for private armies.

We would like to bring to the attention of all Delegations that in the context of the Corfu Process the EU has proposed to examine the need for an OSCE Plan of Action against Organised Crime. As regards Afghanistan, there may be a need to adopt a clear strategy to tackle common challenges faced by the participating States to the security of the OSCE area.

Mr. Chairman,

The recent publication by the Secretary General of his Report on Police Related activities and the conclusions of the Annual Police Expert Meeting are important inputs for our discussion. We also consider as highly relevant the publication of the Secretary General's first overview on the implementation of the Ministerial Decision on Transnational Threats, and are looking forward to his proposals on this area.

The Annual Security Review Conference, as well as the OSCE Conference on “Combating the threat of illicit drugs and strengthening control of precursor chemicals” on 8-9 July will offer us excellent opportunities to further discuss this topic with a forward looking, ambitious and pragmatic approach.

The EU is open to start consultations with all interested delegations in order to formulate concrete and practical proposals. Drug trafficking is a key threat for all of us, and we need to respond jointly to address it.

Los países candidatos CROACIA\* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA\*; los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA; los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA, LIECHTENSTEIN y NORUEGA; al igual que la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA, ARMENIA y GEORGIA se suman a esta declaración.

\*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación