



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Remarks of Secretary General Lamberto Zannier

60th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Vienna, 14 March 2017

Mme Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to address this 60th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). I thank UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov, an excellent partner of our organization, for the invitation and I thank his able team for organizing this important meeting.

The world drug problem remains a major challenge for the international community, threatening security and undermining human, economic and social development in many regions of the world. It is linked with violence – including terrorism – and organized crime. It causes serious health risks and affects the most vulnerable – including young people who are often attracted to the illusory opportunities that drug use and drug trafficking seem to offer.

As the largest regional security arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has been joining efforts with many partner organizations – first and foremost the UN – to address the world drug problem. The OSCE-UNODC Joint Action Plan is a key tool for co-operation in this respect and I see this as an excellent opportunity to highlight its operational value.

In fact, the OSCE actively supports national governments in implementing the *2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action* and the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) outcome document. In providing tailored support to our participating States and Partners for Co-operation, we draw upon a number of comparative advantages – such as our comprehensive and inclusive approach to security, the availability of specialized units offering specific expertise, and a network of 17 Field Operations across the OSCE area. And our annual OSCE-wide counter-narcotics conferences provide an effective regional platform for dialogue and sharing our recommendations for policy-makers, experts and practitioners, which are firmly grounded in OSCE commitments

and highlight the importance of internationally co-ordinated drug control strategies based on scientific evidence.

Allow me to mention a few upcoming OSCE activities that illustrate our efforts in more concrete terms:

- **New Psychoactive Substances** – NPS – pose a growing threat, so we will soon conduct a pilot training in Eastern Europe on countering NPS and other drug-related cybercrimes facilitated by the use of the Darknet. This builds on two previous capacity-building initiatives in the region which received positive feedback. We will also hold an awareness-raising event on NPS in Central Asia.
- Since the flow of **illicit opiates from Afghanistan** continues to impact OSCE participating States, we will provide assistance to strengthen Afghanistan's law enforcement and border management capacities. We also plan to host another Paris Pact Expert Working Group Meeting in South East Europe that will build on the success of last October's meeting hosted by the OSCE Mission to Serbia. This year's meeting will focus on financial flows linked to the illicit traffic in Afghan opiates along the so-called "Balkan route" for smuggling of drugs into Europe.
- Evidence suggests that **migratory flows are being exploited** for trafficking drugs into Europe, so we need to be conscious of that risk. This is one of many reasons why the OSCE remains committed to more closely involving our Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in counter-narcotics capacity-building activities.
- In July, the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship will convene our flagship OSCE-wide regional anti-drug conference. The conference will discuss **the nexus between illicit drugs, organized crime and terrorism**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world drug problem is tightly intertwined with a host of other transnational security challenges, and tackling them effectively calls for a comprehensive approach. So we need to step up our collective responses, build strategic partnerships and strengthen our operational impact. I am convinced that this meeting will strongly contribute to these goals. Thank you.