Report on the European Union – Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs
EU-LAC

- EU-LAC is a wide-ranging bi-regional partnership between the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)
- Prior to 1999 the European Union’s relations with:
  - Latin American Countries were based on a series of bi-lateral and regional agreements
  - Caribbean countries were part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) which dated back to the Treaty of Rome

Origin - EU-LAC Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism on Drugs

- Proposed at the EU Summit, Madrid in December 1995, and formally established in 1998
- Serves to reinforce the dialogue on drugs between the Latin American and Caribbean region (LAC) and the European Union
- Cooperation at this level, evolved into the EU-LAC partnership, which included broader aims within the economic, political, social, cultural, scientific and educational spheres.
EU-LAC Membership

EU-LAC’s Membership includes:

1. **Latin America**: Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Belize, and Suriname.

2. **The Caribbean**: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago.

3. **Member states of the European Union**: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

EU and I illicit Drugs in Latin America

The EU aims to combat illicit drugs in Latin America (LA) through the following approaches:

- Participation in the promotion of a balanced approach to the illicit drugs problem in the international fora i.e. the promotion of political dialogue on drugs with other relevant international agencies
- Assisting LA to become more effective in combating the problem of illicit drugs
- Tackling the issue of drug trafficking through the support of regional and intra-regional co-operation along particular drug routes from Latin America to Europe
Origins of EU Aims

- EU aims are derived from priorities identified by various strategies, Action Plans, Declarations and Agreements, such as:
  - EU Drug Strategy (2007-2012)
  - EU Action Plan on drugs (2005-2008)
- The Panama Action Plan (1999) and the Lisbon Priorities (2000) apply more specifically to Latin America

Panama Action Plan

- The Panama Action Plan of 1999 (PAP) identified five fields of activity:
  1. Demand reduction
  2. Supply reduction (alternative development and eradication; precursor and licit drug control)
  3. Police, customs and judicial co-operation and drug-related arms-trafficking
  4. Money laundering
  5. Judicial organization and drug legislation and institutional capacity-building
Panama Action Plan

- Additionally, five areas in which inter-regional co-operation should be strengthened were suggested:
  1. Demand reduction
  2. Judicial, police and customs co-operation
  3. Maritime co-operation
  4. Precursors’ control
  5. Money laundering

Lisbon Priorities

- The PAP (1999) was followed by the Lisbon Priorities (2000) which defined four broad priority areas:
  1. Demand reduction;
  2. Alternative development;
  3. Money laundering;
  4. Maritime co-operation

- Both the PAP and the Lisbon Priorities guide cooperation efforts in the LAC.
EU-LAC
Projects and Programmes

DEMAND REDUCTION
The Caribbean

Demand Reduction

Implemented Projects

- Implementation of a 1.9 million € project funded by the EC and EU, for the prevention of drugs in Venezuela.

- Implementation of the Epidemiological Surveillance System by the Caribbean Regional Epidemiological Centre (CAREC) in Trinidad in June 2003.
  - Funded by 1.3 million € from the European Commission and the European Union
Demand Reduction

- Implementation of a treatment and rehabilitation project in seven (7) Caribbean countries, focusing on the development of street based interventions and income generating activities for drug users in treatment.

Projects Under Implementation

- Project launched in August 2002 and being implemented by DOHi geared towards:
  1. Reinforcing the support to the Caribbean NGOs in expanding their street-based interventions,
  2. Address health related issues such as the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst their clients,
  3. Network and exchange practices and expertise with Asian NGOs that have been working for several years with similar populations of drug users.
Demand Reduction

- A 1 million € Caribbean Programme, funded by the European Commission and EU, is being implemented to facilitate drug demand reduction
  - This programme is focused on:
    1. strengthening institutional capacity to address drug abuse at various levels,
    2. raising public awareness of matters related to abuse prevention and control,
    3. promoting greater community involvement in drug demand reduction efforts.

Demand Reduction

- Caritas Germany in August 2002 implemented a similar project in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the Commission’s contribution of 774,000 €
  - Project duration – three (3) years
  - Aims to support local NGOs working with drugs users on prevention, treatment and harm reduction, in building networks of care and in exchanging best practices locally and internationally
Demand Reduction

- UNESCO (parallel) project with EC contribution of 1,200,000 € to develop best practices in the field of drug demand reduction, by supporting innovative interventions of local NGOs working with drug user populations in the Caribbean and Asia.
Andean Region

Alternative Development

- PRAEDAC - supports alternative development efforts in Bolivia’s Chapare region and is endowed with 19 million €.
  - Four components:
    1. Municipal strengthening (by improving social and productive infrastructures and providing staff training)
    2. Facilitation of rural credit
    3. Establishment of a Cadastral Survey and Land Titling program to facilitate small farmers’ ownership of their land
    4. Rational management of natural resources
Alternative Development

- PRODEVAT - supports alternative development in Bolivia’s Valleys of Arque and Tapacari with a 6 million € grant
  - Aims to prevent the migration to the Chapare region by workers tempted by their extreme poverty to move and cultivate coca in that area
  - Four components:
    1. Improvement of agricultural and livestock production
    2. Improvement of access to markets
    3. Social infrastructures (particularly as regards health and education)
    4. Municipal strengthening

APEMIN I and II, funded by European grants amounting to 5 million € and 7 million €, respectively supports small mining companies, and promotes alternative employment opportunities, in the depressed mining areas of the Departments of La Paz, Oruro and Potosi in Bolivia
Alternative Development

APEMIN I AND II

- Also seeks to prevent migration to the coca producing area of Chapare through:
  1. Reviving small mining operations
  2. Diversifying economic activity away from mining and towards other sustainable economic initiatives in the tourist, services and manufacturing sectors
  3. Providing training for both miners and municipal employees
  4. Supporting credit/leasing schemes
  5. Strengthening basic infrastructures

POZUZO-PALCAZU, a project funded by the EC and EU with 22.6 million €, for the areas of Pozuzo and Palcazu of Peru, finances:

1. Infrastructure efforts to improve productive capacity and facilitate access to markets
2. The development of productive initiatives (particularly in farming, cattle-raising and forestry) that exploit the comparative advantages of these regions while respecting their ecological balance
3. The creation and strengthening of representative mechanisms of the beneficiary populations
Alternative Development

- Peace Laboratory Initiative, launched in 2002, is an alternative development project with the additional aim of reducing the armed conflict in Colombia. The project is undertaken in two Colombian regions:
  1. Magdalena Medio - implemented in two phases over a span of 8-years. Total European Commission funding is 34.8 million €.
  2. The areas of Santander Norte, Oriente Antioqueño and Macizo Colombiano/Alto Patia which benefits from a 33 million € contribution from the Commission (due to continue until 2008)

Alternative Development

Peace Laboratory Initiative

- These programs both seek to contribute to the peace process in Colombia by supporting, through the civil participation of the entire society, municipalities and other local institutions.
**Alternative Development**

- CARTOGRAPHY, a project funded by the EC with 8 million € which provides equipment, training and technical assistance for the installation of a satellite information system.

**PRECURSOR CONTROL**
Precursor Control

- Precursors’ Control Mechanism Project, funded by the EC and EU with 215,000 €, was completed in the Caribbean as part of the Barbados Action Plan.
  - Executed by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD),
  - Intended to provide a system to monitor and control the movements of precursors throughout the region.

Precursors’ Control

- Prompted by the Panama Action Plan was a 1.6 million € project for the Andean region to strengthen its capabilities to avoid the diversion of precursor chemicals by:
  - Providing training and technical assistance to administration officials in these countries
  - Encouraging closer co-operation with the private sector (industrial users as well as importers).
In the Andean Region, a 210,000 € anti-money laundering project, funded by the EC and EU, provided:
1. A thorough overview of the situation in their countries
2. Compared their respective legislations
3. Assessed their conformity to international provisions in this regard
Money Laundering

- A Money Laundering Initiative for the Caribbean, in the context of the Barbados Plan of Action, financed by the Commission with a 4 million € contribution to the Caribbean Anti-Money Laundering Programme

  ➢ Intended to provide technical assistance and training to the beneficiary countries, all of which are members of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force

MARITIME CO-OPERATION
Maritime Co-operation

- A Project Management Office for Maritime Co-operation was financed in part by the Commission with a 300,000 € grant. It facilitated:
  - A network of intelligence agencies,
  - A training programme and
  - Equipment to ensure more effective counter-drug maritime interdiction efforts.

Maritime Co-operation

- A Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council Regional Clearance System was created through EC financing
  - Sought to organize within the Caribbean the collective analysis and dissemination of information related to the movement of small vessels (as well as light aircraft) to improve efforts by customs and coast guards
EU-LAC AND CICAD:
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Aims and Objectives

General Observations
- CICAD and EU-LAC both foster multilateralism
- CICAD and EU-LAC both execute action plans aimed at
  strengthening capacity such as:
  - CICAD and EU-LAC both have identified similar priority areas for
    co-operation, namely demand and supply reduction, alternative
development, money laundering and maritime co-operation
  - Both mechanisms emphasize alternative development projects in the
    Andean Region
- Both mechanisms engage in projects with International Organizations and NGOs
- Both mechanisms promote drug related research, information exchange, specialized training and technical assistance
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

General Observations:

- The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, in the case of CICAD, provides a forum for assessing progress through a system of peer evaluation and shared responsibility (with a strong statistical base). EU-LAC's approach to issues, on the other hand, appears to be less diagnostic.

- There is no standard reporting requirement among members of the EU-LAC while CICAD enjoys the benefit of regular and special sessions at political levels and expert group convocations at technical levels.

- Funding for CICAD initiatives are derived from all member states voluntarily, as a matter of policy, as distinct from EU-LAC where budgetary allocations emanating from donors are approved by the European Parliament. These constitute the main financial pool for projects and programmes.

Projects and Programmes

Demand Reduction

General Observations:

- EU-LAC and CICAD projects reflect the same sub-themes – substance abuse prevention, drug treatment and training – and subsequently they engage in similar projects, e.g. the German NGO, DOHi, the CICAD sponsored Prison Inmate Treatment in Peru.

- CICAD’s demand reduction projects appear to be evenly distributed among its members while in the case of EU-LAC there appears to be a greater representation of these programmes in the Caribbean region.
Projects and Programmes

Supply Reduction
General Observations:
- The supply reduction initiatives of both mechanisms involve substantial co-operation with local law enforcement and judicial agencies.
- EU-LAC demonstrates heavy emphasis on alternative development within the Andean Region (according to the Panama Action Plan), which is further substantiated by Budgetary Contribution of more than 90 per cent of total EU funding to this region.

Projects and Programmes

Alternative Development
General Observations:
- Both promote programmes encouraging agricultural production of traditional and non-traditional crops for export such as the EU-LAC’s POZUZO-PALCAZU project in Peru and CICAD’s rehabilitation and modernization of banana production in Alto Beni, Bolivia.
- Both involved in land use programmes, i.e. EU-LAC’s CARTOGRAPHY project and CICAD’s GLEAM System.
- Both CICAD and EU-LAC engage in programmes focused on land ownership such as EU-LAC’s PRAEDAC programme and CICAD’s initiative in Bolivia.
Projects and Programmes

Money Laundering

General Observations:
- Both CICAD and EU-LAC offer training and technical assistance to member countries
- Both assess existing legislation for conformity with international standards and best practices
- CICAD is more concerned with the formal recognition of the roles and responsibilities of FATF-styled regional bodies such as the CFATF/GAFISUD whereas dialogue with EU-LAC and FATF-type bodies is less advanced
  - Specific assistance has been given by CICAD for training for Judges, prosecutors and law enforcement agents under some of their projects e.g. the Money Laundering Control through the Judicial System Project (IDB/CICAD)

Projects and Programmes

Maritime Co-Operation

General Observations:
- Both rely heavily on information sharing as a mechanism for cooperation
- CICAD’s maritime co-operation is a function of their supply reduction initiative, rather than a separate priority area as exists in EU-LAC
- CICAD initiatives include regional training seminars, while EU-LAC has been pursuing a more institutionalized approach with the financing of a Project Management Office for Maritime Co-operation and a Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council Regional Clearance System
Conclusion

- EU-LAC’s strategies and programmes are heavily influenced by E.U. priorities and capabilities. However, in the case of CICAD the Multilateral Evaluation process is now the main driving force in assessing the scale of the drug problem and by extension Member States’ needs, which in turn define priorities.
- CICAD’s initiatives cover policy, training, technical assistance and institutional building whereas the EU-LAC mechanism is influenced strongly by trading relationships and related infrastructural development and strengthening.
- The parallel nature of the mechanisms validates the need for stronger political dialogue.

Conclusions

To date CICAD has been accorded observer status at EU-LAC meetings. This status does not provide CICAD with the leverage that is needed as the official hemispheric forum on drug matters (50% of EU-LAC membership are Member States of CICAD).
Way Forward

- Initiation of political dialogue - A CICAD/EU-LAC high-level Meeting between the European Commission and the (OAS) Assistant Secretary General and CICAD

- The ultimate goal of this forum would be an agreement on the nature and extent of their future relations beyond the current observer status now accorded to CICAD by the European Commission