



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on on the Implementation of the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012 regarding Supply Reduction Indicators

*2946th JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 4 June 2009*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Taking note of the Final Evaluation Report of the EU Drugs Action Plan (2005-2008), which concluded that "The (EU) Drug Strategy's objective of making it easier to measure supply reduction and law enforcement output more effectively and therefore make it more accountable, is complicated by a lack of availability of standardised key indicators in this area";

Recalling that the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012 , which has been endorsed by the Council on 8 December 2008, calls on the parties concerned "to develop key-indicators for the collection of policy-relevant data on drug-related crime, illegal cultivation, drug markets and supply reduction interventions and to develop a strategy to collect them" in its Action 67;

Recognising that the development of comparable key indicators in the field of drug markets, drug-related crime and supply reduction is an important tool to implement the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 and the drugs Action Plans;

P R E S S

Stressing that the implementation of the relevant Action 67 of the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012 focusing on the improvement of data collection and monitoring, and policy evaluation (Action 68 of the Action Plan), requires timely action if the evaluation of the Drug Strategy and Drugs Action Plan by 2012 is to provide better insight in drug markets, drug-related crimes and the outcomes of law enforcement;

ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

1. The Council stresses that the development of comparable key indicators that will give the best attainable view on developments with regard to drug supply and drug-related crime requires a strategic, realistic and developmental approach that makes best use of existing information and monitoring mechanisms and structures at national, European and international level – including Member States’ statistical and reporting mechanisms, as well as those of the Commission, the EMCDDA and Europol.
2. The Council considers that there is a need to explore potentially important additional information sources arising from or directly related to drug supply reduction activities which are widely available and appear feasible for development but which have not been sufficiently exploited at European level. Areas of interest with potentially relevant data sources could be, *inter alia*:
 - a. The amount of drugs that is reported by law enforcement agencies as criminal evidence when the agency finalizes the investigation phase for prosecution, as appropriate for the specific country;
 - b. Assets frozen/sealed by law enforcement authorities, during investigations of drug-related crime, and/or the value of assets confiscated at the conclusion of the criminal proceedings of drug-related crime;
 - c. Data on perceived availability of drugs in general population and specific population groups, and
 - d. Surveys of web sites offering illicit psychoactive substances and/or licit new psychotropic substances that have no medical purpose.
3. The development of comparable key indicators in drug supply and drug-related crime should be followed in three distinct and interrelated areas:

- a. Enhancement and improvements in quality and comparability of indicators already used for routine monitoring at EU level. In this context the Council invites the EMCDDA and Europol to continue to work together with the Commission on the rationalisation and improvement of existing data collections, paying particular attention to improving information on (i) drug seizure statistics, (ii) purity, prices and purity adjusted prices of illicit drugs, (iii) drug-related arrests, and (iv) drug-related convictions.
 - b. Indicators utilised in some or all countries, but not used at EU level systematically so far. In this context, the Council invites the Commission, EMCDDA and Europol to analyse the potential of the indicators listed in point 2 above, and to assess the relevance and feasibility of their possible use for standardisation and implementation at EU level, taking into account the additional burden a systematic collection and reporting may create for Member States.
 - c. Development of comparable key indicators and analytical approaches in the field of drug markets, drug-related crime and supply reduction. In this context; the Council invites the Commission to present, with the assistance of EMCDDA and Europol, European Commission services Staff Working Paper on drug-related data, as foreseen in Action 67 of the EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012, taking into account the findings of the study "Policy relevant information and data in the field of drug supply and drug-related crime", as well as related ongoing discussions.
4. The Council commits itself to follow closely the development of key indicators in the field of drug markets, drug-related crime and supply reduction throughout the implementation period of the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012. The progress made at EU level in this area should be reviewed by the relevant Council preparatory bodies at least once a year on the basis of the annual progress review of the Commission.
 5. So that indicators gathered at the EU level can be improved and enhanced, the Council encourages Member States to cooperate closely with relevant EU bodies and relevant experts, as appropriate, in ensuring and improving the quality of their national data.
 6. Furthermore, the Council emphasises that a developmental approach as supported in these conclusions should take into account the work that is being carried out in other areas of the drug field, but also in relation to similar processes in the field of law enforcement cooperation in dealing with organised crime and, inter alia, the experience gained in the implementation of the EU Action Plan 2006-2010 on developing a comprehensive and coherent EU strategy to measure crime and criminal justice."
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