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Report of the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 19 to 22 June 2007*

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* The present report is being issued in English, French, Russian and Spanish, the working languages of the subsidiary body.



I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

1. The Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe, adopted a number of recommendations made by its respective working groups. Those recommendations are presented below.

Issue 1. Cocaine trafficking in Europe

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 1, “Cocaine trafficking in Europe”:

(a) Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) should provide advice and support to ensure that systems are in place for the storage, security, analysis and disposal of seized drugs, particularly cocaine;

(b) With a view to tackling corruption in law enforcement agencies in a number of African States, Member States and UNODC should consider providing technical assistance for the development of integrity and anti-corruption programmes;

(c) Member States should recognize the importance of the role to be played by the newly established Maritime Analysis Operational Centre – Narcotics¹ (MAOC-N) in Lisbon and use it as a focal point for the exchange of intelligence and operational coordination;

(d) Member States should accurately report all significant seizures to UNODC and avoid double counting, especially of seizures made under joint international operations.

Issue 2. Transnational law enforcement investigation techniques

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 2, “Transnational law enforcement investigation techniques”:

(a) Recognizing that law enforcement efforts to dismantle criminal networks involved in drug trafficking needed to be more effective and that comprehensive measures were required, Member States should consider the usefulness, in appropriate cases, of mounting international controlled delivery operations;

(b) Governments should re-examine their policies and procedures regarding controlled delivery to ensure that measures are in place in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;²

¹ MAOC-N is an informal intergovernmental task force set up to tackle maritime smuggling of drugs into Europe. It comprises seven European Union member States: France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

(c) Member States that did not have legislation to facilitate controlled delivery operations were encouraged to introduce appropriate legislation and provide the necessary equipment, resources and trained staff to ensure that those operations could be carried out effectively;

(d) Member States should recognize the importance of confidential informants and undercover agents to the success of operations, especially operations involving controlled deliveries.

Issue 3. Criminal groups operating illicit drug trafficking networks within Europe

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 3, “Criminal groups operating illicit drug trafficking networks within Europe”:

(a) To enable more effective international cooperation and coordination of operations, Member States were encouraged to establish a main law enforcement body for the fight against drug trafficking;

(b) In view of the links that existed between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime and emphasizing that drug trafficking should not be dealt with in isolation, consideration should be given to expanding the scope of future HONLEA meetings to include broader organized crime issues, maintaining the focus however on trafficking in drugs and precursors;

(c) Member States were encouraged to promote a multi-agency, intelligence-led approach in law enforcement, working with key partners in the private sector to counter organized crime more effectively;

(d) For the gathering of information, Member States might wish to consider programmes similar to the Crime Stoppers initiative.

Issue 4. Money-laundering

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to issue 4, “Money-laundering”:

(a) Law enforcement agencies should implement a policy of intercepting cash couriers and seizing their assets on the basis of risk profiles and other available information;

(b) Member States were urged to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism³ as part of an integrated approach to combating organized crime;

(c) Member States were urged to put in place systems to ensure timely and effective responses to requests for assistance in financial investigation cases, and in organized crime cases generally, and to make better use of existing international law enforcement organizations to the fullest extent of their potential;

(d) Consideration should be given to taking simultaneous action on all fronts, from the outset of major organized crime investigations, in order to uncover

³ Council of Europe, *Council of Europe Treaty Series*, No. 198.

evidence and intelligence relating to drug trafficking and other serious crimes and to identify acquired assets held by organizations and individual criminals;

(e) Member States should explore the possibility of implementing prohibition measures to deter the involvement of professionals from the legal, commercial, financial and other sectors in the facilitation of illicit drug trafficking, the laundering of proceeds of illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;

(f) Financial intelligence contained in suspicious action reports, suspicious transaction reports and currency transaction reports should be exploited through proper analysis to support and better direct law enforcement operations.

II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, held on 19 June, the Meeting considered item 3 of the agenda, entitled "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat, entitled "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe" (UNODC/HONEURO/2007/2) and a conference room paper entitled "Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide" (UNODC/HONEURO/2007/CRP.1).

7. A representative of UNODC introduced the item and made an audio-visual presentation providing an overview of trends in the cultivation of illicit drug crops and the illicit production and trafficking of drugs in the region and worldwide. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. Statements, including an audio-visual presentation, were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Italy, Poland, the Russian Federation and Turkey and by the observer for the European Police Office (Europol).

8. Several speakers made reference to operations of their national law enforcement authorities to counter the activities of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and drug-related crimes. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that drug-related crimes in that country had increased by 21 per cent in 2006 and that large quantities of narcotic drugs and psychotropic and other substances had been seized in 2005 and 2006 as a result of operations by Russian law enforcement agencies.

9. Good coordination and multidisciplinary collaboration at the national level were considered pivotal to successful investigations and essential to effective international cooperation. Many representatives emphasized the need for intelligence-led law enforcement, in order to select the most appropriate targets on the basis of the threat posed by criminal groups and their impact on society, moving away from ad hoc interventions to targeted ones. As serious drug-related crime had seen an increase, the need for international cooperation was also underlined. The representative of Belgium suggested that, at the level of the European Union, integrated border management with regard to the control of drugs had not always

been efficiently implemented and that had created challenges in coordinating responses by police and customs authorities.

10. In the view of several representatives, cocaine smuggling by sea had intensified in recent years. Many speakers referred to the participation of their countries in controlled delivery operations that had been carried out in coordination with law enforcement agencies of other European countries and had consistently led to seizures of cocaine at ports. The increase in the smuggling of cocaine into Europe pointed, in the opinion of several speakers, to the need to strengthen intelligence-led operations and cooperation between law enforcement agencies. The representative of Poland mentioned that the prevention of cocaine smuggling had been incorporated recently into the agenda of the G6 Group, led by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration of Poland and composed of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

11. Some representatives referred to the participation of their countries in international operations targeting drug trafficking. The representatives of Poland and the Russian Federation reported that their countries had participated in Operation Channel, coordinated by the Russian Federation in 2006 and aimed at the detection and disruption of heroin trafficking along the northern and Balkan routes into Europe and of trafficking channels for acetic anhydride into Afghanistan.

12. Some representatives mentioned the increased threat posed by the manufacture and abuse of synthetic drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants and "ecstasy". The representative of Poland indicated that amphetamines were manufactured illicitly in the country, both in powder and tablet form, but no manufacture of methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) had been observed. In addition, an amphetamine profiling programme had made it possible to profile samples originating from the same clandestine laboratory. The representative of the Russian Federation mentioned the growing presence of synthetic drugs on the Russian illicit drug market, including new and potentially more dangerous substances such as trimethyl fentanyl. With a view to preventing the illicit manufacture and abuse of such drugs, cooperation with the law enforcement agencies of the Baltic States had increased and controlled deliveries had been conducted in cooperation with law enforcement agencies of Belarus, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania and the United Kingdom. A suggestion was made to establish a global network that would monitor the equipment used in the manufacture of synthetic drugs and identify new ways to detect and track precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of such drugs.

13. Some representatives also mentioned the emergence of a new trend whereby poppy products (straw, seeds and juices) were bought and sold as legitimate foodstuffs but then used to manufacture illicit drugs. The representative of Belarus reported that criminal groups were trying new ways of importing poppy seeds into the country legally in order to manufacture illicit drugs. In the Russian Federation, the reduction in heroin availability caused by the significant rise in the volume of seized heroin in recent years had resulted in drug users turning increasingly to the cheaper and more accessible acetylated opium extracted from imported opium poppy seeds. Draft legislation was currently under preparation to ban the import and sale of such poppy seeds in the Russian Federation.

14. Most representatives emphasized the critical importance of multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the region to the effort to counter illicit drug trafficking. Several representatives recommended that harmonized standard criteria should be developed in order to establish what constituted an illicit laboratory so that States could harmonize data on drug-manufacturing laboratories and their dismantling by law enforcement authorities. The observer for Europol mentioned that criminal organizations were decentralizing the illicit manufacture of drugs over several locations in an attempt to minimize the risk of disruption. Several representatives emphasized the need for a database of forensic drug profiles and, in that connection, the observer for Europol mentioned that the Collaborative Harmonised Amphetamine Initiative (CHAIN) on amphetamine profiling had been launched in the European Union. That initiative would help to identify links between seizures and criminal groups through forensic profiling of amphetamine-type stimulants in different laboratories in various European Union member States. The European Union was looking into similar initiatives for cocaine, cannabis and heroin. The observer for Europol also mentioned that law enforcement efforts to coordinate and combine action in the European Union against criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking and heroin distribution could be improved, in line with the 2006 Organized Crime Threat Assessment of the European Union.

15. Because of its geographical location, Turkey continued to be a main corridor for heroin trafficking towards Europe, serving as a starting point for the Balkan route. The representative of Turkey stated that the country was both a transit country (for opiates originating in Afghanistan) and a target country (for synthetic drugs originating in Europe). Recent heroin seizures in the country had reached unprecedented levels, totalling 10.3 tons in 2006. The representative commented that trafficking patterns – based on seizure size, form of transit and site of the seizure (i.e. target or transit country) – appeared to be very different for heroin and cocaine but that heroin, like cocaine, might also be trafficked by sea.

16. Heroin continued to be trafficked through Central Asia into the Russian Federation along the so-called Silk Route, both for domestic consumption and for onward trafficking into the European Union. Heroin was also trafficked via a southern route leading from Afghanistan to Pakistan and from there, by air or sea, to the Gulf States and Europe. The representative of Azerbaijan mentioned that the geographical location of his country between Europe and Asia made it very attractive as a transit country. He emphasized the need for stronger border controls with regard to heroin trafficking from Afghanistan, especially at the border between Azerbaijan and Iran (Islamic Republic of). The representative of Azerbaijan called upon UNODC to implement the proposed witness protection programme for the southern Caucasus and suggested that it be enlarged to cover other countries in Central Asia and the southern Caucasus, including Turkey.

17. The representative of Italy made an audio-visual presentation on the Comprehensive Operational Strategic Planning for the Police (COSPOL) Project, which focused on large-scale heroin trafficking by organized criminal groups. The Project involved the Member States most affected by that activity and was situated under the umbrella of the Europol Project Mustard. The COSPOL Project was aimed at improving information on the modus operandi of criminal groups smuggling heroin from Afghanistan into the European Union and at dismantling such organizations through strategic investigations, training activities and cooperation

with other international organizations, including UNODC, the Central Asian Regional Information Coordination Centre, the Customs Cooperation Council (also called the World Customs Organization), the Gulf Centre for Criminal Intelligence and Interpol.

III. Consideration of topics by working groups

18. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, held on 20 and 21 June, the Meeting established working groups to examine four issues under item 5 of the agenda, entitled "Consideration of topics by working groups". The observations made by the working groups and the conclusions reached are presented below. (For the recommendations made by the working groups and adopted by the Meeting, see chapter I above.)

Issue 5 (a). Cocaine trafficking in Europe

19. The working group held one meeting, on 20 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The growing problem of cocaine trafficking through Africa, particularly through a number of West African States, was noted as a matter of concern, together with the inability of many African law enforcement agencies to respond effectively to that threat;

(b) Although substantial amounts of cocaine were transported by sea (in all types of vessels), the use of light aircraft and individual couriers operating through African airports was identified as an emerging threat;

(c) In some African States, drug seizures posed a problem in terms of ensuring safe storage, security and disposal. Concern was expressed regarding cases where seized drugs had disappeared;

(d) The high level of corruption in some law enforcement agencies in a number of African States was cause for concern, as this made it difficult to identify reliable partners for conducting sensitive investigations and exchanging information;

(e) The importance of accurate reporting of all drug seizures to UNODC by Member States was emphasized. Care needed to be taken in reporting significant seizures made under joint international operations in order to ensure accurate reporting and avoid double counting.

20. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Measures were required to tackle corruption in the law enforcement agencies of a number of West African countries;

(b) There was recognition of the need to improve information about and the coordination of maritime operations. MAOC-N would play an important role in that coordination function;

(c) Security controls needed to be strengthened to counter the problem of drug couriers using African airports.

Issue 5 (b). Transnational law enforcement investigation techniques

21. The working group held one meeting, on 20 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Transnational organized criminal groups were increasingly using a variety of transport routes and technical devices, which presented major challenges to national drug law enforcement agencies;

(b) The importance of effective controlled delivery as an operational tool of an intelligence-led law enforcement approach was highlighted;

(c) Law enforcement agencies should be made aware of the increasing use of the non-controlled drug phenacetine as a cocaine adulterant;

(d) In all transnational organized crime cases, early planning and information exchanges with key partners were essential;

(e) Many countries lacked the equipment and expertise to undertake controlled delivery operations.

22. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) In a number of Member States, controlled delivery operations were hampered by constraints that on occasion prevented such operations from taking place;

(b) The Europol handbook on controlled delivery constituted a useful and practical point of reference regarding legislation and national focal points that could assist in the facilitation of those operations.

Issue 5 (c). Criminal groups operating illicit drug trafficking networks within Europe

23. The working group held one meeting, on 21 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) There was a need for greater knowledge on and a better understanding of serious organized crime in all its forms;

(b) In responding to the challenges of organized crime, effective and joint multi-agency work with key partners was essential in law enforcement. The United Kingdom model of various law enforcement agencies working together under a single body, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, was highlighted as a national body that had been effective in countering transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. Appropriate measures were also in place at the street and community level to tackle the drug problem under an integrated law enforcement approach;

(c) The importance of identifying and cooperating with key partners in the private sector, such as shipping companies, the freight industry (e.g. container handlers), chemical companies (precursor control), Internet service providers and the financial sector, should be reflected in the strategic approach adopted to tackle transnational organized crime;

(d) Innovative ways of reducing the harm caused by organized crime and of heightening the risk to criminals needed to be found. Suggestions included lifetime

management of offenders, intervention at each point of the supply chain and the seizure of assets obtained through criminal activities;

(e) Concern was expressed that some countries treated the investigation of crimes related to cannabis as a low priority and that there was no consistent approach to tackling the more harmful drugs, such as heroin and cocaine. Organized criminal groups were taking advantage of that situation because of the low risk of detection and prosecution;

(f) It was emphasized that a holistic, multidisciplinary approach was necessary when tackling the drug problem in a national context;

(g) The Crime Stoppers initiative, which brought together the community, the media and the police, had proved to be effective in a number of countries as a means of eliciting information from the public;

(h) Having a main focal point or coordinating body to be responsible in each State for the fight against drug trafficking would significantly enhance operational and international cooperation.

24. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The Crime Stoppers initiative was a proved method of gathering information to assist in the development of intelligence and as an aid to law enforcement investigation processes;

(b) States were encouraged to review policies on the investigation of drug offences, particularly in relation to the involvement of organized criminal groups trafficking in large amounts of cannabis;

(c) Cooperative agreements, protocols and memorandums of understanding were useful tools to improve the exchange of information and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the private sector.

Issue 5 (d). Money-laundering

25. The working group held one meeting, on 21 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Illicit drug trafficking generated vast profits. Depriving criminals of their illicit gains should be a core objective of law enforcement activities against organized criminal groups;

(b) Anti-money-laundering reporting was a key source of high-quality, cost-effective intelligence that helped to target the leadership of organized criminal networks;

(c) Proactive financial investigation and effective financial analysis were crucial elements of an objective decision-making tool;

(d) The Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism reflected the clear trend of Member States adjusting or organizing their legislation on money-laundering and the seizure and forfeiture of criminal assets to enable a more effective response to combating, disrupting and dismantling organized criminal networks;

(e) The same smuggling and concealment methods and consignment routes used for illicit drugs were being used for the smuggling of large amounts of cash that were the criminal proceeds of crime;

(f) The exploitation and interlinking of financial crime intelligence on a supranational platform enhanced operational investigation procedures;

(g) Member States should adopt a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to tackling the financial base of organized criminal groups;

(h) Problems were highlighted regarding delays in the provision of information in response to requests for international assistance in financial investigation cases;

(i) One of the main elements of effective law enforcement action in dismantling organized criminal groups was to tackle the financial underpinning of drug-related crime;

(j) The need to regulate the Internet and prevent its use for money-laundering and other crimes was of concern and should be explored further.

26. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The use of cash couriers to physically transport the proceeds of trafficking crimes was part of an emerging trend, as were alternative remittance systems such as hawala and electronic payment systems;

(b) Attacking the vast illicit profits generated by drug trafficking and depriving criminals of the proceeds of their activities was a key element in disrupting and dismantling organized criminal groups;

(c) The complexity of international money-laundering required law enforcement authorities to have adequate specialized financial investigation capacity. Including a financial investigator on multidisciplinary investigation teams clearly enhanced effectiveness. That should be complemented by ensuring that front-line control staff, particularly at border points, were well trained and equipped. Member States were encouraged to ensure that appropriate measures were in place;

(d) Large-scale drug trafficking and the concealment of the illicit profits derived therefrom were only possible thanks to facilitation by professionals in the legal, commercial, financial and other sectors.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

27. At its 2nd meeting, held on 19 June, the Meeting considered item 4 of the agenda, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe". The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONEURO/2007/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the

Meeting of HONLEA, Europe. The document reflected the replies received from Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey as at 11 June 2007. After that date or during the Meeting, questionnaires were submitted by Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Poland and Slovakia.

28. The Meeting was informed of actions taken to implement specific recommendations at the national level, the results achieved and any difficulties encountered. The representative of Austria made an audio-visual presentation and a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. The observer for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo also made a statement.

29. Several speakers highlighted the importance of joint operations to prevent drug trafficking into Europe. Examples of such operations included Operation Airbridge, an initiative to stem the flow of cocaine couriers into the United Kingdom from the Caribbean; Conquest 1 and 2, to counter heroin smuggling in sea containers; and Containment V, which targeted trafficking by overland vehicles along the Balkan route. Following the success of Operation Airbridge, a new operation (Operation Westbridge) was to start that would tackle cocaine trafficking from West Africa into the United Kingdom. The representative of Austria made a presentation on follow-up to the AGIS⁴ conference held in Vienna in May 2006, mentioning inter alia the updating of a roster of experts on heroin-related crime, joint participation in drug-related seminars, cooperation on multinational workshops and training courses, and specific operational measures. The representative of the Russian Federation provided information about Operation Channel, a comprehensive operation aimed at identifying and blocking routes used to traffic Afghan narcotics from the Central Asian region and synthetic drugs from European States, and at combating transnational criminal groups involved in drug trafficking.

30. A number of speakers commented on the effective cooperation between drug law enforcement authorities under such regional coordination mechanisms as meetings of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe and Interpol, Europol and World Customs Organization initiatives. The meetings of HONLEA, Europe, provided an important opportunity to meet with counterparts from the region, develop professional contacts and discuss initiatives of mutual interest in order to counter drug trafficking more effectively. The representative of the United Kingdom emphasized the important role played by law enforcement liaison officers posted abroad in combating illicit drug trafficking and in supporting partner Governments in their efforts to tackle corruption and illicit drug crop cultivation and foster alternative livelihoods. Several participants observed that an effort should be made to ensure that invitations to attend important regional meetings reached the appropriate bodies in time to allow for their participation.

31. The representative of Ireland informed the Meeting that virtually all of the major criminal organizations in his country were involved in drug trafficking. Research had shown that the illicit drug market was expanding and providing

⁴ AGIS was a programme that ran from 2003 to 2006 and sought to assist the police and judiciaries of European Union member States and candidate countries in cooperating in criminal matters.

hundreds of millions of euros in proceeds to criminal groups annually. In the area of precursor chemical control, speakers reported that many national authorities were participating actively in Project Cohesion, an initiative coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board that monitored trade in acetic anhydride and identified sources of trafficking in precursors, including through the exchange of pre-export notifications. Some Governments had entered into agreements with private-sector companies for the monitoring of chemicals not subject to international control that could be used in the manufacture of illicit drugs.

32. Several speakers emphasized the importance both of witness protection and of the protection of all participants in judicial proceedings. One speaker stated that issues could arise in connection with witness protection programmes in the context of biometric passports that included information such as fingerprints and facial recognition.

33. It was noted that UNODC had undertaken activities in several of the areas referred to in the recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, for instance in the development of witness protection guidelines, computer-based training for law enforcement personnel and container control initiatives.

V. Organization of the Eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

34. At its 7th meeting, held on 22 June, the Meeting considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled "Provisional agenda for the Eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONEUR/2007/4). During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Cyprus, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

35. With regard to the topics for discussion in working groups (item 5 of the provisional agenda) at the Eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, representatives proposed the following as possible themes: (a) the influence of the Internet and electronic crime on drug trafficking; (b) trafficking in precursor chemicals; (c) intelligence-led law enforcement against criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking; (d) links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime; (e) the impact of substitution therapy on the drug and crime situation in the region; (f) law enforcement strategies concerning mixing agents and diluents; (g) approaches to detecting concealed drugs; (h) new and emerging trafficking routes in the North and Black seas; and (i) maritime drug trafficking and coordination. It was suggested that MAOC-N could be invited to a subsequent meeting to report on its work. Informal consultations would be undertaken during the intersessional period to make a final selection of the working group topics. It was felt that the work of the meetings of HONLEA, Europe, should maintain their focus on drug trafficking, while taking into account the broader context in which such crimes were occurring, including linkages with other forms of organized crime and law enforcement responses thereto.

36. Several representatives said that consideration should be given to increasing the frequency of the meetings of HONLEA, Europe, from biennially to annually, to

parallel the other subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. That would enable Member States to exchange more up-to-date information about new trends and developments in drug trafficking and production in the region and it would enhance cooperation between law enforcement agencies. On the recommendation of the Sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2005/28 of 22 July 2005, had changed the frequency of HONLEA, Europe, meetings from once every three years to once every two years, within existing resources, starting in 2007. Any further change in the frequency of meetings would be likely to have financial implications. It was noted that interested delegations could raise the matter at the next session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

37. One speaker suggested that a meeting of HONLEA, Europe, should be held shortly before each session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in order to provide more timely input on relevant developments in the region. The recommendations adopted by the Seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, would be brought to the attention of the Commission at its fifty-first session, in March 2008. It was noted that the year 2008 bore special significance as it marked 20 years after the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and 10 years after the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together.

38. The Meeting approved the following draft provisional agenda for the Eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups.
6. Organization of the Ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the Eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.

VI. Adoption of the report

39. At its 7th meeting, held on 22 June, the Meeting adopted the report of its Seventh Meeting (UNODC/HONEURO/2007/L.1 and Add.1-6), including the reports of the working groups and their recommendations.

VII. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

40. The Seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, was held in Vienna from 19 to 22 June 2007. The Acting Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime addressed the opening meeting. The Chairperson of the Seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, also addressed the opening meeting.

B. Attendance

41. The following States members of HONLEA, Europe, were represented: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

42. El Salvador was represented by an observer.

43. Europol and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo were also represented by observers.

44. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

45. At its 1st meeting, held on 19 June, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Egle Latauskiene (Lithuania)
<i>First Vice-Chairman:</i>	Ignacio Baylina Ruiz (Spain)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman:</i>	Ion Grigore (Romania)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Graham Apsey (United Kingdom)

D. Adoption of the agenda

46. At its 1st meeting, held on 19 June, the Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Cocaine trafficking in Europe;

- (b) Transnational law enforcement investigation techniques;
 - (c) Criminal groups operating illicit drug trafficking networks within Europe;
 - (d) Money-laundering.
- 6. Provisional agenda for the Eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
 - 7. Other business.
 - 8. Adoption of the report of the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.

E. Documentation

- 47. The documents placed before the Seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, are listed in the annex to the present report.

VIII. Closure of the Meeting

- 48. Closing statements were made by the Chairperson of the Seventh Meeting and a representative of the Secretariat.

Annex**List of documents before the Seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe**

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONEURO/2007/1	2	Provisional agenda, including annotations and proposed organization of work
UNODC/HONEURO/2007/2	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe
UNODC/HONEURO/2007/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
UNODC/HONEURO/2007/4	6	Organization of the Eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
UNODC/HONEURO/2007/L.1 and Add.1-6	8	Draft report
UNODC/HONEURO/2007/CRP.1	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide
UNODC/HONEURO/2007/CRP.2-20	3	Country reports