Basic information

2004/2221(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Draft European Union drugs strategy for 2005 to 2012 **Subject** 7.30.30.04 Action to combat drugs and drug-trafficking	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	CATANIA Giusto (GUE/NGL)	13/09/2004

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2618	2004-11-19
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2613	2004-10-25
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2627	2004-12-06
Agriculture and Fisheries	2702	2005-12-20

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/09/2004	Non-legislative basic document published	B6-0070/2004	
25/10/2004	Debate in Council		
28/10/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/12/2004	Vote in committee		Summary
06/12/2004	Debate in Council		Summary
07/12/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0067/2004	
14/12/2004	Debate in Parliament		
15/12/2004	Decision by Parliament	T6-0101/2004	Summary
15/12/2004	Results of vote in Parliament		

15/12/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/12/2005	Debate in Council		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2004/2221(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/6/24515

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		B6-0070/2004	29/09/2004	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0067/2004	07/12/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0101/2004 OJ C 226 15.09.2005, p. 0073-0233 E	15/12/2004	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Follow-up document	SEC(2006)1803	21/12/2006	Summary

Draft European Union drugs strategy for 2005 to 2012

2004/2221(INI) - 06/12/2004

The European Council adopted the Drugs Strategy 2005-2012, which will be included in the Hague Programme. The Strategy will be a key instrument to effectively confront drugs use and trafficking with a view to ensuring a high level of health protection, wellbeing and social cohesion, as well as a high level of security for the general public.

The European Council invited the Commission to present to the Council a proposal for an Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy in 2005-2008 with a view to its adoption by the Council early in 2005 and to prepare an evaluation of its implementation in 2008.

Draft European Union drugs strategy for 2005 to 2012

2004/2221(INI) - 19/11/2004

The Council agreed on a new EU Drugs Strategy for the period 2005-2012 and will forward it to the European Council on 17 December 2004, for adoption. The framework and priorities established by the new Strategy are to serve as the basis for two consecutive four-year EU Action Plans on Drugs. While the Strategy stresses the importance of paying due regard to the principle of subsidiarity, it also acknowledges that consistent national prosecution policies in all Member States are the condition precedent to a common and credible drug enforcement policy of the EU. The Member

States will make efforts towards consistency of the standards of the prosecution practices in the Member States. Furthermore, the evaluation of the functioning of the Framework Decision laying down minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking, including its effects on international judicial cooperation in the field of illicit drug trafficking, will form an integral part of the Strategy.

The new Drugs Strategy is based first and foremost on the fundamental principles of EU law and, in every regard, upholds the founding values of the Union: respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law and human rights. It aims to protect and improve the well-being of society and of the individual, to protect public health, to offer a high level of security for the general public and to take a balanced, integrated approach to the drugs problem. The Strategy is also based on the relevant UN conventions (the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971) and the Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)), which are major legal instruments for addressing the drugs problem. Furthermore, the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs of 1998 confirmed the importance of the integrated and balanced approach, in which supply reduction and demand reduction are mutually reinforcing elements in drugs policy.

The drugs problem is experienced primarily at local and national level, but it is a global issue that needs to be addressed in a transnational context. In this regard, action carried out at EU level plays an important role. At an overall level, EU efforts are geared towards a coordination of all the actors involved. In the field of public health, the Community complements Member States' action in reducing drugs-related health damage, including information and prevention.

As for chemical precursors, which can be diverted into the manufacturing of illicit drugs, the EC legislation provides a framework for control of trade in precursors both within the Community and with third countries. With regard to money laundering, Community legislation sets out a number of measures to also prevent the laundering of drugs proceeds. Concerning justice and home affairs, cooperation between police, customs and judicial authorities is an essential element in preventing and combating drug trafficking. In this context, the adoption of the framework decision on drugs trafficking is a major step laying down minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of drug trafficking. Finally, in the area of external relations the EU takes international action with a combination of political initiatives, like the action plans and dialogue on drugs with various regions of the world, as well as assistance through development programmes.

To recall, the aim of this European Union Strategy is to add value to national strategies while respecting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality set out in the Treaties. This Strategy stresses that Member States should consider the impact of their national strategies on other Member States, the ways national strategies of different Member States can be mutually supportive, and the contributions such strategies can make towards achieving the objectives of this European Union Strategy. It is also intended to allow scope for local, regional, national and transnational dynamics and potentialities and to make optimal use of the resources available. Account is also taken of the organisational and financial constraints of Member States and EU institutions.

Finally, this Strategy builds on the EU Drugs Strategy 2000-2004 and Action Plan on Drugs 2000-2004 and has taken into consideration these texts as well as the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Action Plan, the Council's response to this Mid-Term Evaluation and the results of the Final Evaluation.

Draft European Union drugs strategy for 2005 to 2012

2004/2221(INI) - 21/12/2006 - Follow-up document

According to the EU Action Plan on Drugs, the Commission is obliged to present annual progress reviews to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation thereof. The objective of the review is to report not only on progress thus far but to identify possible gaps in the programme and future challenges. This is the first such Review presented by the Commission.

Methodology:

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), with its REITOX network, played a key role in helping to prepare this report. Data, collected by Europol from the Member States was also used. The direct participation of Member States was needed for actions not yet fully covered by either the EMCDDA or Europol.

The 2006 overview report is a comprehensive and far-reaching Progress Review, which has been divided into five parts:

Section 1: covers the main developments in the EU since the endorsement of the EU Action Plan.

Section 2: deals with Actions under the current Plan for which the deadline is 2006 or ongoing. Where necessary a "recommendation" is proposed.

Section 3: concerns Actions under the current Plan for which the deadline is 2007 or 2008 but for which special attention is required. Where necessary a "recommendation" is proposed.

Section 4: deals with the financing of Actions vis-à-vis the new programmes that are currently being prepared in the context of the financial framework 2007-2013.

Section 5: Conclusions.

The main findings of the report are that the current continuous monitoring exercise, with its objective annual Progress Reviews leading to a final evaluation in 2008, appears to be effective at keeping track f the current state of play. Some matters of general interest, nevertheless,require a more detailed analysis. They are:

Coordination. To be effective, overall strategies need to be linked to specific practical programmes. The successful implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan requires effective coordination at all levels: national, EU and institutional. Coordination between the public health and law enforcement communities, for example, is not always optimal and coordination between relevant Council working groups on drugs could be improved.

Monitoring. Here too, internal coordination is an issue, both within EU institutions and within national administrations. For some actions relating mainly to supply reduction, it is proving difficult to measure progress at national level. The readiness, or ability, of the Member States to provide data for the monitoring of the actions concerned requires further discussion in the HDG. The Commission is ready to examine ways of simplifying and rationalising the indicators concerned, in coordination with Europol and the EMCDDA.

Assessment tools/indicators of the Action Plan. In the case of Actions 10.2, 10.3, 11.2, 34.2 and 40.1, the assessment tools of the Plan did not enable a clear view to be formed of their implementation. The Commission, in cooperation with the EMCDDA, is therefore proposing several alternatives, marked as "recommendations" in the text. These new assessment tools/indicators – if approved - will be used for the 2007 Progress Review.

Consultation of civil society. Wider consultation with civil societycould add value to the evaluation exercise and make it more transparent. Following the publication of the Commission's Green paper on the consultation of civil society in the drugs field, a more targeted consultative process is planned for 2007 or 2008, depending on the timetable for implementation of the financial framework.

Draft European Union drugs strategy for 2005 to 2012

2004/2221(INI) - 15/12/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 285 votes in favour, 273 against with 23 abstentions and own-initiative report by Giusto CATANIA (GUE/NGL, IT) making recommendations to the Council and to the European Council, on the European strategy on fighting drugs (2005-2012). (Please see the summary of 02/12/04.) They need to take account of the fact that the assessments made to date of the six main objectives set by the EU Drugs Strategy (2000-2004) show that none of them achieved favourable results and draw political and legislative lessons from this when devising the EU Drugs Strategy (2005-2012) and the related action plans.

Parliament wanted them to establish assessment measures which will allow shortcomings in - and more appropriate measures and resources to achieve - the goals set out in the EU Drugs

Strategy to be correctly detected and rectified. Parliament also wanted the Council and European Council to define and exponentially step up the involvement and participation of drug addicts and users of illicit substances, civil society, NGOs, the voluntary sector and the general public in resolving drug-related problems.