

# THIRD PART

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Even in 2007, the D.C.S.A. aim of strengthening international cooperation relations was achieved: in fact, only the global commitment of all the Parties involved in the fight against drug trafficking could significantly impact on the illicit drug trade and on the organised crime groups operating in this field.

In this context, numerous strategic agreements were made on the demand and supply reduction sector.

In particular:

at **United Nations** level, the D.C.S.A. took part in the most important international fora focused on drug trafficking. The most remarkable contribution was given to the U.N.O.D.C. (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) in the framework of the so-called "Paris Pact", composed of 56 participating Countries. The "Paris Pact", was launched in Paris on May 22nd, 2003 in the course of the Ministerial Conference in order to support - through dedicated programmes - the initiatives aimed at enhancing the fight against drug trafficking originating from Central Asia and fuelling European markets. In the framework of the "Paris Pact", the Consultative Group is the main "policy making" body: top representatives from international organizations and Governments took part in this group. These top officials belonged to international organizations or Governments whose territories, either as destination Countries or as transit areas, were crossed by the Afghan opium trafficking routes.

Specific meetings took place in the areas concerned and, on behalf of D.C.S.A., Drug



*CIMO Conference - Rome, November 21-23, 2007*

Experts stationed in those places participated in order to identify the best strategies. The round table of the "Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group" was held in Baku (Azerbaijan) on May 3-4 2007. The main issue was: the "Caucasian Route". The dialogue between Afghanistan and the neighbouring Countries was unanimously identified, by the Round Tables and the Consultative Group, as a priority. However, at present, no effective forms of cooperation have been achieved. The operational difficulties met by the C.A.R.I.C.C. (Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre) – a recent centre launched by the U.N.O.D.C. aimed at the establishment of a focal point in the Central Asian Countries for operational information exchanges in real time and a joint analysis of the threats existing in the whole area – were a clear sign of this complex situation.

Moreover, D.C.S.A. takes part in the annual Session of the U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and in the annual meetings of the H.O.N.L.E.A. (Heads of National drug Law Enforcement Agencies) of the Heads of drug Agencies from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. In this framework, the Heads of national Drug Agencies belonging to the same geographical area (Honlea Europe, Honlea Africa, Honlea Asia and Pacific Region, Honlea Latin America and the Caribbean) compare their prevention strategies and their interdiction approach to this specific crime, improving international cooperation processes between the different counter-narcotic agencies in the field of drug trafficking;

**Table of the activities of investigative coordination - 2007**

Activities	2006	2007	%
Investigative crossover	437	616	40.96
National controlled deliveries	53	36	-32.08
International controlled deliveries	11	14	27.27
Coordination meetings and/or operational exchanges at DCSA and in Italy	79	82	3.80
Coordination meetings and/or operational exchanges abroad	52	54	3.85
International rogatory commissions from foreign countries to Italy	9	23	155.56
International rogatory commissions from Italy to foreign countries	62	57	-8.06
Simulated drug buys	19	14	-26.32
Drug operations in progress	995	1,130	13.57

at **European Union** level, the D.C.S.A. took active part in the monthly meetings of the Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) established in February 1997, and having the task of coordinating the prevention initiatives and the fight against illegal drug trafficking.

The D.C.S.A. also participated in the "Dublin Group" sessions, a forum established in 1990 with consultative tasks in the field of coordination of regional cooperation policies in favour of drug producer and transit Countries. The EU Member States, the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Norway, Japan and the European Commission and the U.N.O.D.C. were members of this Group. The Central Dublin Group convenes in Brussels twice a year for the political decisions and for the identification of the most significant threats reported by the "Mini Dublin Groups". Italy chaired the Mini Dublin Group for Central Asia and D.C.S.A., through its Drug Experts stationed in Uzbekistan and Russia, provided for a relevant institutional, technical and organizational contribution to the Heads of Missions.

Our Central Directorate also participated in the "Pompidou Group", which was established in 1971, composed of 34 Countries, and aimed at a better knowledge of the drug addiction phenomenon in the broadest sense and at multidisciplinary level. D.C.S.A. also took part in the Seminar "Expert Conference on Fighting the Threat of Illicit Drugs" held in June 28-29 2007, organized by the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) a European forum for Security in the political-military, economic-environmental sectors and in the field of human rights. Once a year, the Heads of Governments (or the Foreign Ministers) of 56 European, Asian and North American Countries meet together.

The Direzione Centrale per I Servizi Antidroga also participated in the activities of the following working groups:

- Task Force of the Chiefs of Police. Italy, through D.C.S.A., is the "driver" of the European "Cospol (Comprehensive Operational Strategic Plan for the Police) Project on Heroin Trafficking" and the "forerunner" of a similar project regarding the fight against cocaine trafficking;
- Europol AWF (Analysis Work File);
  - Mustard (heroin),
  - COPPER (Albanian organised crime groups),
  - COLA (cocaine),
  - EEOC TOP 100 (Eastern European-based

Organized Crime),

- SYNERGY (ecstasy);

at **multilateral level**, D.C.S.A. participated in:

- the meetings of the International Drug Enforcement Conference (I.D.E.C.), promoted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), putting together the Heads of the main Drug Agencies in the world;
- the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (A.D.E.C.), where the Heads of the national Drug Agencies of South-East Asia and Pacific region outlining updated drug trafficking status, committed themselves in adopting shared counter-narcotic measures.

Moreover, in December 2005, the C.A.R.M. project (Centre d'Analyse du Renseignement Maritime) was launched by the French Minister of the Interior, along with the corresponding Ministers of Great Britain and Spain, to strengthen the cooperation of these three Countries in the fight against international trafficking in cocaine coming from South America, bound for West Africa onto Europe through the Atlantic Ocean. This project aimed at the creation of an Analysis Centre and of a common database for information gathering and monitoring on illicit trafficking in the specific common field. Later on, also Italy, Portugal, Ireland and Holland joined in this project. This Centre, also thanks to a new impulse aimed at improving the project, has taken the new name of M.A.O.C.-N. (Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics). D.C.S.A. has given a remarkable contribution to this evolution, taking part in the ad hoc group for the "feasibility study" and playing a particularly effective and incisive role



*Drug Experts plenary session - Rome, December 3-7, 2007*



in the elaboration of the text of the Agreement, then signed in Lisbon on September 30th, 2007 by the Interior and Justice Ministers of the participating Countries.

Furthermore, in the multilateral framework, the CIMO Seminar should be mentioned (Conference of the Interior Ministers from the Western Mediterranean): it was held in Rome from November 21st to 23rd, 2007.

In 1996, following a French-Moroccan initiative, the "Conference of Interior Ministers from the Western Mediterranean Countries" (CIMO) was launched. Afterwards, along with France and Morocco, also Italy, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Algeria, Malta, Libya, and Mauritania have joined this initiative. The Ministers meet once a year, in the Country chairing the Conference. During the plenary session, technical working groups composed of experts and top officials particularly skilled in a sector, took part in the meeting. In the course of the G6 Country Summit, held in Venice on May 11-12 2007, the Interior Ministers, confirming their commitment in enhancing their fight against trafficking in heroin coming from Central Asia, agreed with the need to promote initiatives aimed at preventing the cocaine introduction into Europe along the route that, originating from South America, passed through Western and Central Africa. On that occasion, the Ministers considered as a priority the full implementation of the MAOC-N Project, started in April 2007. They also stressed the importance of an extension of the intervention area even to the Western Mediterranean Basin and of the establishment of an "African Platform" of the European Drug Experts and Liaison Officers stationed in West Africa. In addition, Meetings of Antidrug Top Officials from the G6 Countries and African States facing the Mediterranean Sea, were also envisaged. In this framework, considering the general increase in drug production and in cocaine consumption, as well as the significant presence of members of South American organized crime groups in the African Countries, D.C.S.A. decided to take specific measures to look for more effective forms of international cooperation between the Parties concerned in this problem. In this view, D.C.S.A. organized in Rome, from November 22-23, 2007, the "Seminar of the Heads of Drug Agencies of Countries adhering to CIMO" (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Mauritania, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia). This Seminar wanted to give concrete follow-ups to



*Visit of the UNICRI Director*

the ministerial indications and to the observations made by the African Countries concerned (dialogue EU with the Countries of the Mediterranean Basin and with the ECOWAS ones), and to implement the outcomes of the Declaration of Rabat of 2005 and of Nice dated May 2006 of the CIMO Countries. The need of organizing this symposium was mainly due to the alarming upsurge of the drug trafficking operated between Africa – where the Mafia-like international crime groups set up drug stockpiling locations, in particular cocaine – and Europe, through the Western Mediterranean Sea. The main goal of this Seminar was that of jointly assessing the threat and the weak points of the enforcement capacity, planning a shared strategy to curb this phenomenon and dismantle the drug networks. The delegates participating in this Seminar agreed on the dramatic rise in cocaine and heroin production and trafficking as well as on the increase in the consumption of these drugs by young people. They also stressed their worry about this serious threat and the concrete difficulties to face it, unanimously hoping that the dialogue between the Countries located along the Southern and Northern coasts of the Mediterranean Sea shall be strengthened by the active participation of all international partners. To this purpose, D.C.S.A. promoted two important proposals regarding: the development of the so-called "African Platform" and the creation of a "Drug Coordination Centre for the Fight against Maritime Drug Trafficking" in the Western Mediterranean Basin.

Senegal and Ghana were identified as two important stockpiling and sorting centres: to this

regard, the creation of a European Drug Experts and Liaison Officers network was proposed. One of these Officers will be entrusted with the responsibility of being the "contact point". Then, France proposed Senegal as candidate while Great Britain and Germany suggested Ghana. These "points" had the task of organizing regular meetings for an exchange of information aimed at identifying and achieving common strategic goals in cooperation with the local corresponding Agencies. In addition, a development of "professional training and updating" activities was also envisaged, thanks to the international know how of D.C.S.A.

A final document was approved at the closing session: the contents of this document were shared with the representatives of the 27 EU Member States and with the competent European Organizations during the Meeting of the Horizontal Drug Group (HDG), held in Brussels on December 11th, 2007.

At bilateral level, in 2007, numerous meetings were organized by D.C.S.A. with corresponding foreign law enforcement Agencies in order to improve the cooperation effectiveness in this specific

sector. In particular, meetings with the Antidrug Heads from Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Iran, Macedonia, Poland, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and with representatives from UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) were hosted at D.C.S.A. . In the same year, the D.C.S.A. Director went to the United States, to Colombia, Uzbekistan and Lebanon, to meet the Directors of the corresponding Drug Agencies and started concrete programmes of bilateral cooperation in specific areas of common interest.

Table of the activities - 2007

Activities	No.
U.N. meetings	9
E.U. meetings	25
Delegations	15
International meetings	83



Foreign liaison officers in Italy - June 2007

# DCSA



**annual report 2007**



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