

THIRD PART

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION 89





INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As in the previous years, one of the main targets pursued by DCSA in 2008 was the development and enhancement of international cooperation relations.

To this end, a particular attention was paid to:

- Drawing up proposals to foster "Cooperation agreements", in close cooperation with the International Relations Service of the Office for the Coordination and Planning of the Police Forces, having competence in this specific field;
- Participating in the main international fora on illegal drug trafficking;
- Organizing meetings in Italy and abroad with foreign counterparts and Drug Liaison Officers accredited in Italy;
- Arranging training courses in favour of countries applying for;
- Participating in EUROPOL and CEPOL initiatives and programmes and partnership with foreign counterparts in AGIS programmes.

In this context, an extremely important role was played by the **Drug Experts and Liaison Officers** posted in the most important drug producing and trafficking areas. Their targeted and continuous monitoring activity and study of the specific criminal activities affecting the geographic area within their jurisdiction and the constant information exchange with the foreign counterparts, provided DCSA with a constantly updated picture on the threats affecting the international scenario, allowing it to plan and develop, together with the other partners, the most proper and effective prevention and counteracting measures.

Within the **United Nations**, D.C.S.A. participated in the main international fora on drug trafficking.

Mention must be made in particular of the contribution given to U.N.O.D.C.¹ (United Nations Office on Drugs and



DCSA Director - Stefano Berrettoni

Crime) within the annual Session of UN **Commission on Narcotic Drugs** (CND) and of the meetings - including annual meetings - of the **Heads of the National Drug Enforcement Agencies** (H.O.N.L.E.A.) in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and Europe. These meetings are an opportunity for the Heads of the National Drug Enforcement Agencies belonging to the same geographical area (HONLEA Europe – HONLEA Africa – HONLEA Asia and Pacific – HONLEA Latin America and Caribbean) to compare their drug prevention and counteracting strategies and improve the international cooperation on drug trafficking carried out by drug agencies.

Last Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) which was held in Vienna from March 10th to March 14th 2008, tackled extremely important issues, such as:

- the results achieved by the ten-year drug strategy (U.N.G.A.S.S. – United Nations General Assembly Special Session)²;
- the world drug situation, with particular reference to drug abuse.

Among the main contributions, mention must be made of the presentation by **Mr. Antonio COSTA -U.N.O.D.C. Executive Director** - who said that the world drug problem is "contained" but not "solved". He also talked about the critics raised against the United Nations and Member States by media, which expressed apprehension about:

¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), set up in 1997 as a world leader in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. Its headquarters is in Vienna and has 21 local offices and liaison offices in New York. 90% of its budget mainly consist in governmental contributions. It took on the tasks which were previously carried out by UNDCP (United Nations International Drug Control Programme). UNODC assist by mandate the Member states in the fight against drug trafficking, crime and terrorism. UNODC working programme relies on three pillars: analytical research and work to enhance knowledge and understanding of drug and crime issues, legislative assistance to Member states in ratifying and implementing international treaties, development of drug national legislation, crime and terrorism and field cooperation projects to enhance the potentialities of the member states in the fight against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

² The twentieth UNGASS attached great importance to the world issue of the drug fight, giving CND a ten-year mandate to solve the issues connected to drug demand and supply.



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- too much crimes and too much drug money laundered in the world;
- too many people in prison and too few in health services;
- too few resources for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;
- too much eradication of drug crops and not enough eradication of poverty;

Mr. Costa however also added that:

- drug legalization is no solution: it may reduce the profits to criminals but it will certainly increase the damage to the health of individuals and society;
- the pervasive perception according to which drug policies are not working as they should cannot be shared.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs meeting to be held in 2009 will be particularly important since a new drug strategy will be worked out which, based on 1998 Convention, will tackle next ten years with particularly innovative experiences. During G.O.D last meetings, the French Presidency (2nd semester of 2008) illustrated the EU approach within UNGASS revising process, based on three pillars:

- a policy based on data;
- a balanced approach between the measures aiming at reducing demand and those aiming at reducing supply;
- international cooperation.

From June 23rd to June 25th and from September 15th to 19th, 2008, D.C.S.A. officers participated in Vienna

in the meeting of the working groups envisaged by XX UNGASS on "Supply Reduction", "Demand Reduction" and "Precursors and A.T.S. Control" in the fight against illicit drug trafficking ". The contribution given to U.N.O.D.C. (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) within the so-called "Paris Pact", involving 56 countries, was particularly significant. The "Paris Pact" which was created following the Paris Ministerial Conference held on May 22nd, 2003, assists, with dedicated programmes, the initiatives aimed at strengthening the fight against drug trafficking from Central Asia to Europe. Within this framework, representatives of DCSA took part in the meeting - September

22nd to September 24th -, organized by UNODC General Secretariat in Nairobi (Kenya) to analyze Asian heroin consumption and illicit trafficking in Eastern Africa. The meeting also examined the status of regional cooperation as far as demand reduction and fight against drug trafficking are concerned.

Within the European Union DCSA actively participates in the monthly meeting of the **Horizontal Drug Group** (HDG).

The Horizontal Drug Group was set up in February 1997 under the auspices of the Council of the European Union with the precise duty to coordinate the initiatives of prevention and fight against illegal drug trafficking. It is an "interpillar" (it coordinates all drug activities at the European level and works out drug policies) and a "multidisciplinary" body (it covers numerous subjects linked with narcotic drugs: health, foreign policy, interior and education) whose main function consists in examining the proposals and the projects concerning drug initiatives, submitted by the Member states or EU bodies as well as the measures and rules based on the European Strategy and the European Action Plan in the field of drugs.

During the semester of the French Presidency (July-December 2008), the delegations of the 27 Member states and the involved European bodies (European Commission, EMCDDA in Lisbon, Europol and Eurojust) worked out a draft of the four-year European Union Drug



Action Plan (2009-2012).

In December 2004, the Council unanimously adopted the **European Union drug strategy 2005-2012** conveying the indisputable message that the drug issue is a priority of the EU policy and goes beyond the different approaches of Member states. Said strategy defines the framework, the objectives and priorities for **two consecutive four-year action plans** and is an integral part of the multiyear "Programme of the Hague" aimed at strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union. It is focused on the two main aspects of the drug fighting policy; that is demand and supply reduction, though not neglecting a series of cross-cutting themes, such as international cooperation, research, information and evaluation.

The Action Plan referring to last three years (2005-2008) consisted of 46 objectives and 88 actions. Its final objective was "to significantly reduce the prevalence of drug use among the population and to reduce the social harm and health damage caused by the use of and trade in illicit drugs".

The new **Action Plan (2009-2012)**, approved in December by JHA Council, based on the lessons learned over the past four year, basically aims at working out an ambitious though extremely concrete plan which can be evaluated through specific indicators. In this framework both the objectives and connected actions have significantly been reduced. Moreover, in compliance with the "pillars" on which the "general strategy" is based, the new Action Plan pursues the following priorities:

- to reduce drug demand and make public opinion aware about the problem;
- to mobilize European citizens to play an active role;
- to reduce drug supply
- to improve international cooperation
- to improve problem understanding.

The Direzione Centrale also participates in the activity of the "Dublin Group". This forum was set up in 1990 and provides assistance to drug producing and transit countries as far as the coordination of regional cooperation policies is concerned. Members of the Dublin Group are EU Member States, United States of America, Canada, Australia, Norway, Japan as well the European Commission and UNODC.

The Dublin Central Group convenes in Bruxelles twice a year to take political decisions and analyze the most

important threats which have been identified by the "Mini Dublin Groups". Italy has the Presidency of the Mini Dublin Group for Central Asia, supporting the Heads of Missions at the institutional, technical and organizational level through its Drug Experts posted in Uzbekistan and Russia.

The Direzione Centrale participates in the works of the "Pompidou Group" which was set up in 1971 and is made up of 35 countries. The Pompidou Group follows a multidisciplinary approach in order to improve the knowledge of drug addiction.

The Direzione Centrale per i Servizi Antidroga also takes part in the activities of the following working groups:

- Chiefs of Police Task Force. Italy, through the Direzione Centrale per i Servizi Antidroga is "the Driver" of the European Cospol³ Project on Heroin Trafficking" and forerunner of a similar project connected to the fight against cocaine;
- Europol AWF (Analysis Work File):
 - Mustard (heroin);
 - COPPER (Albanian crime)
 - COLA (cocaine)
 - EEOC TOP 100 (East European Organized Crime)
 - SYNERGY (ecstasy).

At the multilateral level, DCSA takes part in the periodical meetings of the International Drug Enforcement Conference (I.D.E.C), organized under the auspices of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), attended by the heads of the main world drug units (Istanbul, 8/9 July, 2008).

G8 constantly tackled political matters linked to terrorism.

As far as experts are concerned, there are two ad-hoc bodies, the Lyon-Roma Group and C.T.A.G.

- The Lyon-Roma Group is the result of a fusion, as decided by the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, between the Lyon Group – which dealt with organized crime – and the Roma Group - set up under the Italian Presidency and bearing this name as a token of appreciation for the commitment of the Italian Presidency - established after September 11th, with a specific mandate in the fight against terrorism. This forum allows to exchange information, examine and promote cooperation and joint initiatives in the fight against terrorism and organized crime. It is made up of three

³ Cospol: Comprehensive Operational Strategic Plan for the Police.



sessions per year and works out proposals to be approved at the political level (Heads of Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Justice/Home Affairs) as well as “best practices” and “guidelines” to assist multilateral specialized agencies (such as ICAO, the International Civil Aviation Organization) and IMO (International Maritime Organization) in the adoption of operational measures.

- C.T.A.G. (Counter Terrorism Action Group) deals with the coordination of technical assistance to third countries, the weakest at the institutional level and the most exposed to terror threat. Within CTAG, Italy took on the leadership of a specific initiative in the field of security as far as the fight against terror threat at airports in Western Balkans is concerned.

In 2008, within G8, representatives of the Direzione Centrale participated in plenary meetings which took place in Tokyo in February, April and December. Within the Law Enforcement Subgroup the following specific subjects were discussed:

- distribution of drugs via the Internet
- monitoring of laboratory equipment (MOLE);

Moreover, mention must be made of the contribution given by the ad-hoc Group of Experts for Afghanistan, which worked out interesting situation reports and provided extremely useful information exchanges.

The “**Mediterranean as epicentre**” of illicit trafficking, particularly drug trafficking, has long been studied by the international community.

In order to fulfil the initiatives and proposals of the Ministers of Home Affairs of G6 European Countries, Italy organized in Rome - November 21st - 23rd - a seminar of the Heads of Drug Units, in order to jointly evaluate the threat status and the weak points of counteracting measures so as to work out a strategy to curb the phenomenon and dismantle the relevant criminal networks.

In order to face the problems connected to drug trafficking from Western Africa, an informal meeting was held in Brussels on April 14th 2008 upon initiative of the European Commission. The participating countries in MAOC-N discussed the development of an African Platform.

Purpose of the meeting was:

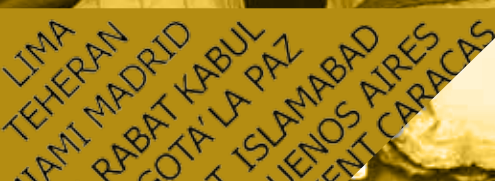
- to analyze the development of operational centres for the fight against drug trafficking in Europe, with particular reference to MAOC-N in Lisbon and CeCLAD-M in Tolone;
- to identify shared parameters to develop platforms for criminal intelligence exchange in already existing centres or in other centres to be set up.

Also on the basis of the outcome of the CIMO meeting held in November 2007 Italy, United Kingdom, France and later Spain expressed their willingness to participate.

At the bilateral level in 2008 DCSA organized many meetings with foreign counterparts in order improve cooperation in the drug field. Mention must be made in particular of the visits to DCSA by high-ranking members of the drug agencies of: France, United States of America, Iraq, Latvia, Spain, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Colombia, Hungary and Russia. On September 11th and 12th, 2008 DCSA negotiated, with a delegation of senior officers of the Federal Service of Customs Control (F.S.K.N) of the Russian Federation, the **Memorandum of Cooperation in the Fight against Drug Trafficking**, which was later undersigned by the Italian Minister of the Interior during the Italian-Russian Governmental Summit, held in Moscow on November 6th, 2008.

Activities in 2008

	No.
Meetings within the United Nations	13
Meetings within the European Union	31
Visits of delegations	11
International meetings	32



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