

## **7th Summit of the European Political Community in Copenhagen**

### **A European Coalition against Drugs (ECAD): a European Political Community platform**

***Joint statement by the leaders of France, Italy, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Kosovo\*, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.***

1. We, European leaders<sup>1</sup>, reiterate our unwavering commitment to the fight against drug trafficking and drug-related threats in Europe.
2. Drug trafficking is among the main systemic threats to the security, safety and health of the citizens in Europe. It is our duty as European leaders to raise awareness on the risks and harms of drugs, including synthetic drugs, and to be committed in finding common solutions in order to safeguard the integrity of our societies and fight drug trafficking with the strongest determination.
3. We stand for a balanced and evidence-based approach on drugs. Given the health and security implications of this influx of drugs, we stress the importance of a comprehensive approach, integrating both prevention and the decrease in demand factors, as well as robust action against criminal networks.
4. We are convinced that we need to bolster our efforts against this threat, by:
  - a. Implementing a defensive and offensive strategy against illicit drug trafficking, in order to increase our resilience against transnational organized crime. This begins with a better shared understanding of criminal threats hanging over Europe, notably on illicit substances, and drug routes. This strategy also implies a coordinated action on combating port and maritime trafficking by increasing the sharing of operational data. Increased cooperation against organized crime should also be encouraged within the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT).
  - b. Reinforcing our financial monitoring systems to tackle the criminal ecosystem around drug trafficking, targeting illicit financial flows, money laundering and corruption. Therefore a “follow the money” approach should be promoted to enhance judicial cooperation in identifying, seizing and confiscating criminal assets, to implement recommendations made by the Financial Action Task Force and to increase access to transparent registries of beneficial owners of companies.
  - c. Adopting a comprehensive approach that includes health measures for prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery. Drug policies can only achieve lasting results through targeted action towards vulnerable populations, who are all the more at risk in crisis/conflict situations. This action should include establishing and strengthening national drug observatories as well as early warning mechanisms on new drugs and consumption patterns, reinforcing prevention policies towards vulnerable populations and disseminating common quality standards for treatment and care centers.

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\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

<sup>1</sup> France, Italy, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Kosovo\*, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

5. We are committed to collectively impede the drug epidemic in Europe, strengthening our coordinated responses to reduce the offer, demand and harm of drugs.
6. We, European leaders standing at the forefront of the fight against drugs, decide to launch the European Coalition Against Drugs (ECAD). Together with the relevant international and European bodies, we will promote key initiatives to operationally and pragmatically address major drug-related challenges.