

Brussels, 28 February 2025
(OR. en)

6339/25

LIMITE

COSI 29
ENFOPOL 53
CRIMORG 32
CORDROGUE 23
COLAC 22
JAIEX 15
JAI 207

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	6239/1/25 REV 1
Subject:	Draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior and/or Security of the Member States of the European Union and the Ministers with responsibility for security matters of the Member States of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (EU-CLASI Joint Declaration)

Delegations are provided in the Annex with the draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior and/or Security of the Member States of the European Union and the Ministers with responsibility for security matters of the Member States of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (EU-CLASI Joint Declaration), in preparation of the EU-CLASI ministerial meeting in the margins of the Justice and Home Affairs Council in Brussels on 5 March 2025.

**Draft Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Interior and/or Security of the
Member States
of the European Union and the Ministers with responsibility for security matters
of the Member States of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security
(EU-CLASI Joint Declaration)**

1. We, the Ministers of Interior and/or Security of the Member States of the European Union and of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI), meeting for the third time with the aim of consolidating cooperation on security matters in both regions;
2. Aware of the increasingly violent acts and the adaptable and transnational nature of criminal networks that undermine the rule of law, infiltrate the legal economy, State institutions and public administrations, and launder money to conceal their profits, hence threatening the basic right of citizens to live in a safe environment;
3. Recognising that the rule of law and the respect for human rights are of key importance for our cooperation, and that the protection of personal data is a prerequisite for the exchange of information for law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters;
4. Noting the importance of mainstreaming the gender equality perspective in the fight against organised crime, including into institutional strategies that promote the leadership of women in this area, and in the assessment of criminal phenomena and their impacts, and the promotion of best practice and approaches for action;
5. Highlighting the importance of the strategic relationship built over the years between the EU and CLASI, exploiting the synergies between respective security cycles, and reiterating our determination to continue working together in the interest of strengthening regional and bilateral cooperation within and between the two regions, including in the European outermost regions and overseas countries and territories;

6. Having regard to the declaration of the Heads of State or Government of the European Union and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) made on 18 July 2023 in Brussels, Belgium, where the leaders of the two regions agreed to strengthen cooperation initiatives in the field of citizen security among the two regions, and to the declaration agreed at the high-level meeting of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs on 22 February 2024 in La Paz, Bolivia;
7. Taking note of the progress achieved in analysing the criminal threats affecting our regions, as highlighted in the Latin American Documentation and Threat Assessment Instrument (IDEAL) and the European Union Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (EU SOCTA), along with the report ‘Decoding the EU’s most threatening criminal networks’ published by Europol on 5 April 2024;
8. Reaffirming the importance of strengthening operational law enforcement cooperation between the EU and Latin America, highlighting the essential role of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the European Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), the Police Community of the Americas (Ameripol) and frameworks such as the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) and APLICAMOS, in coordinating joint efforts, sharing information, and conducting cross-border operations to effectively combat organised crime and dismantle criminal networks;
9. Recognising the critical need to bolster the resilience of logistical hubs of both regions, such as ports, airports, warehouses and other key transport and distribution nodes, against exploitation by organised crime, also underscoring the imperative need of securing them against infiltration and misuse for trafficking and other illegal activities;
10. Understanding that competencies related to security and prison management vary between States, and emphasising the importance of national institutions working to prevent leaders and members of criminal networks who are convicted from continuing their criminal activities while incarcerated;

11. Underscoring the role of effective crime prevention policies and tools in disrupting criminal activity and the exploitation by criminal networks of vulnerable people, including minors, to carry out criminal activities;
12. Underlining that drug production, transportation, trafficking and distribution pose a serious threat to security, public health and the environment – a threat that breeds violence, corruption and money laundering while it distorts our legal economy;
13. Emphasising the importance of combating corruption at all levels as both a fundamental pillar in the fight against organised crime and an essential pre-condition for the respect of the rule of law and for economic growth, committing to the implementation of strong anticorruption measures to protect institutions and ensure transparency and integrity within public and private sectors, and to strengthening international cooperation with a view to making the recovery of assets, proceeds of corruption, more effective;
14. Recognising that environmental crime notably deforestation, has devastating effects on the environment, human health and climate, is often of cross-border nature and involving organised criminal groups; stressing therefore the need for strengthening cooperation to combat this phenomenon globally and to address security considerations in projects for alternative development or environmental protection;
15. Deeply concerned about the devastating impact of trafficking in human beings in both regions;
16. Reiterating the need to adopt a robust follow-the-money approach, focusing on targeting financial flows linked to organised crime, enhancing the tracing, freezing, and confiscation of illegally acquired assets, including those of crypto nature, to weaken the financial foundations of criminal organisations;
17. Stressing that access to data and digital evidence is a key element to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute crime and that the online dimension of organised crime becomes increasingly important and requires innovative tools and methods by law enforcement and judicial authorities;

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19. Recalling that EMPACT as an instrument to tackle priority crime areas incorporates mechanisms to facilitate bilateral and multilateral dialogue, including with Latin American partners, as well as operational cooperation; highlighting the adoption of operational action plans (OAPs) under the coordination of CLASI, following the EMPACT model with the aim of aligning strategic, tactical and operational measures in Latin America and the Caribbean;
20. Recalling that the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre - Narcotics (MAOC-N) and several EU agencies, such as Europol, Eurojust, the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), actively cooperate with third countries including CLASI members to fight against serious and organised crime;
21. Acknowledging the role of bilateral and regional dialogues and cooperation programmes, aligned to the priorities of Latin American, Caribbean and EU countries, such as the Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD), the EU Programme with Latin America and the Caribbean against Transnational Organised Crime (EL PACCTO), the programme on integrated border management and fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants– EUROFRONT, the Global Action against Cybercrime (GLACY-e), the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP), and the other component projects of the Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP), as well as the role of the networks for international cooperation on asset recovery and confiscation such as the Camden Inter-Agency Asset Recovery Network (CARIN), which facilitates exchanges with third country asset recovery offices and regional interagency networks, such as the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) and the Anti-Money Laundering Operational Network (AMON);

22. Celebrating the launch of the second phase of the EL PACCTO Programme in March 2023 in Panama, an essential instrument to enhance the Partnership on Justice and Security between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, and recognising its vital support for the establishment and functioning of the EU-CLASI dialogue, as well as for the development of IDEAL and the strengthening of Ameripol;
- 22 bis* Underlining the importance of coordination between the competent entities of each country, local communities, the private sector, international organisations, and civil society organisations, with the aim of developing sustainable solutions that address the structural causes of organised crime, and of actions that focus on crime prevention programmes, strengthening social cohesion, improving socioeconomic conditions, and creating opportunities for vulnerable populations;
- 22 ter* Emphasising the role in both regions of educational campaigns in fostering a culture of legality that strengthens respect for the rule of law, transparency, and human rights and raising awareness among citizens, particularly young people, about the risks associated with organised crime and the importance of civic ethics in building fairer and safer societies; Noting that collaboration between competent entities in each country, academic institutions, media outlets, and civil society organisations is important to maximise their reach and effectiveness;
- 22 quater* Considering the rapid evolution of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and predictive analytics and their potential to anticipate and combat transnational criminal threats, optimising operational coordination and improving the effectiveness of investigations;
23. Celebrating the signature of the Treaty of Constitution of Ameripol on 9 November 2023 in Brasilia, Brazil by 13 CLASI Member States, giving Ameripol an institutional status which will help strengthen its role in the fight against serious and organised crime in the Latin American region;

24. Celebrating the accession of additional Latin American members to CLASI, welcoming Brazil and Guatemala and their intention to contribute to the common aims of this committee;
25. Welcoming the agreement reached on the EU-CLASI working procedures, notably establishing an 18-month cycle of meetings at Ministerial, Institutional and Senior Officials' level;

We, the Ministers of Interior and/or Security of the Member States of the European Union and of CLASI:

26. Agree to consolidate and strengthen efforts to tackle transnational organised crime and its negative impact on societies, through a whole-of-society and whole of government approach based on evidence of what works, including through innovation and by building effective capacities and enhancing cooperation;
27. Express our full support for the continuity and further development of CLASI;
28. Commit to focusing and increasing joint efforts to combat drug trafficking and disrupt high-risk criminal networks, in particular by following the money while also pursuing the work in other key priority crime areas such as the trafficking in human beings, the smuggling of migrants, the design, manufacture and illicit trafficking of firearms, child sexual abuse, cyber, environmental and financial crimes, corruption, organised property crime, trafficking in cultural goods and the criminal use of cryptocurrencies;
29. Jointly commit to implementing the operational cooperation priorities outlined in the Annex to this Joint Declaration to strengthen an effective response against the criminal threats impacting both regions;

30. Urge cooperation to address and disrupt new drug trafficking routes collaboratively from the source, through transit to destination countries, including those via the Gulf of Guinea and Central America and the Caribbean, while intensifying efforts against traditional trafficking routes, ensuring a broad geographical approach to combating the multifaceted challenges of organised crime;
31. Call for complementarity and synergies between the activities aimed at combatting drug trafficking within EU-CLASI cooperation, focusing on operational law enforcement cooperation, and the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, focusing on a comprehensive and balanced approach to address the world drug situation by increasing overall bi-regional coordination and cooperation in taking evidence-based measures to reduce both drug supply and drug demand, including by providing and strengthening prevention, treatment and harm reduction;
32. Call for enhancing synergies between law enforcement and judicial authorities' efforts to combat organised crime, to deliver a comprehensive response against the criminal threats affecting both our regions;
33. Invite the Leaders of the European Union and CELAC, at their next Summit, to recognise, and endorse and further strengthen the collaborative efforts outlined in this declaration, aligning political will at the highest level with these security initiatives that reinforce the regional stability and cooperation between both regions;
34. Call for the next senior officials' meeting to review the progress made in implementing this Joint Declaration, including its Annex, in order to identify relevant actions to be undertaken in order to disrupt criminal organisations operating in our region, as well as to continue developing a shared culture of cooperation by exchanging on the situation in both regions, our responses and good practices;
35. We, the Ministers of Interior and/or Security the Member States of the European Union and of CLASI, look forward to meeting again in the same configuration to review the progress made in our cooperation in approximately 18 months, in the second half of 2026.

ANNEX TO THE JOINT DECLARATION: EU-CLASI 2025-2026 ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENT OPERATIONAL COOPERATION PRIORITIES

1- Operational law enforcement cooperation

i) Promote the use of existing fusion centres to steer inter-agency cooperation and support special investigative units.

i bis) Strengthen the use of channels and systems for the exchange of information between law enforcement in both regions, guaranteeing the protection of personal data and confidentiality.

ii) Strengthen the sharing of information regarding drug trafficking, in particular with the support of the European Union Drugs Agency and Europol.

iii) Reinforce the presence of resources in the Atlantic to combat drug trafficking via maritime routes, also in cooperation with MAOC-N and the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP).

iv) Exploit the synergies between the EU SOCTA and the IDEAL threat assessment cycles and foster a comprehensive intelligence picture across both regions.

v) Develop actions against the most threatening criminal networks in line with the analytical reports of Europol (mapping and EU SOCTA) and the IDEAL, notably selecting and focusing on priority investigations against these networks and key individuals involved in:

- the trafficking of drugs,
- the trafficking in human beings,
- migrant smuggling,
- child sexual exploitation,
- trafficking of firearms,

- cyber-crime,
- environmental crime,
- organised property crime including trafficking in cultural goods,
- corruption,
- financial crime and money laundering.

vi) Enable the Counter-Narcotics Task Force to launch and coordinate such priority investigations and more broadly increase regional and bi-regional operational cooperation against drug trafficking, with evidence-based actions and the support of Europol and Ameripol.

vii) Promote, through the next EMPACT cycle (2026-2029), the active and specific participation from the competent authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly police and judicial authorities, contributing to the development and implementation of the operational action plans (OAPs).

viii) Step up law enforcement operational actions and, where appropriate, judicial cooperation in criminal matters against the high-risk criminal networks in the context of EMPACT also using the operational task force (OTF) concept developed by Europol and joint investigation teams (JITs) supported by Eurojust.

ix) Support the entry into force of the Treaty of Constitution of Ameripol for the signatory countries of the Treaty, including as regards the adoption of the necessary data protection provisions, and anticipate as much as possible the negotiations of a Working Arrangement between Ameripol and Europol.

x) Enhance cooperation of CLASI countries with Europol and where applicable Eurojust including by concluding international agreements enabling the exchange of personal data.

2- Resilience of the logistic hubs

- i) Support cooperation efforts to strengthen the resilience of logistic hubs and the security of supply chains in both regions, involving relevant actors of the public and private sectors and establish a strong partnership with the European Ports Alliance to ensure that ports in both regions are resilient to organised crime both in the source, transit and destination countries.
- ii) Assess continuously the security vulnerabilities of ports of both regions and the measures put in place to counter the infiltration of organised crime, including through violence and corruption.

3- Resilience of detention facilities

- i) Explore ways to strengthen legal and operational frameworks for the detention and incarceration of high value targets, in accordance with the competencies and institutional structures of each country, with the aim of reducing the likelihood of their continued influence on their criminal organisations while in custody.

4- Fight against financial crime and recovery of illegally acquired assets

- i) Promote full implementation of the 'follow the money' approach, emphasising the need for both regions to intensify financial investigations that target the economic infrastructure of organised crime, from money laundering networks to hidden assets and corruption.
- ii) Promote the exchange of information and cooperation between the EU and CLASI in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism, fostering a multisectoral and inter-institutional approach that includes exchange of financial intelligence, relevant data and best practices, and the joint development of capacity-building programmes.
- iii) Promote the establishment of robust, adaptable, and compatible legal frameworks for asset freezing and confiscation, tailored to the needs and competencies of each country enabling the detection, tracing, freezing, management and confiscation of illegally acquired assets. Additionally, encourage, bi-regional cooperation between asset recovery agencies in CLASI and EU countries.