

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
between
The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
and
The European Commission (EC)

On Implementation of EC-financed project under the Instrument For Stability on
“Fight Against Illicit Drug Trafficking from/to Afghanistan” with ECO Member States

The Economic Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as “ECO”) and the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as “EC”), with a view to promoting the attainment of the principal objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) enshrined in the Treaty of Izmir, Quetta Plan of Action and in other basic documents of the Organization as well as the objectives laid down by EC in the framework of the Regulation (EC) No 1717/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing the Instrument for Stability (IFS) consistent with the IFS Strategy for 2007-2011, have committed to sustain the fight against illicit trafficking and, to that end, agree to act in close cooperation with a view to harmonizing their efforts towards greater effectiveness, as far as possible and having due regard to their respective objectives and functions.

CONSIDERING that EC support will be targeting trans-regional drugs routes combining institution-building and support for operational capabilities with the facilitation of interagency cooperation and the improvement of response in countries situated along a drugs trafficking route;

CONSIDERING that within the Paris Pact, the EC and the EU Member States (MS) agreed to sustain the efforts of all countries affected by the trafficking from/to Afghanistan, and in particular the UNODC “Triangular Initiative” setting out trans-border cooperation between the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, who agreed to strengthen their counter narcotics cooperation;

CONSIDERING that the ECO Plan of Action on Drug Control which was finalized and adopted by the 6th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) in May 1996, in Ashgabat, tasked the ECO Secretariat for establishment of the Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU) with a coordinating role;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that under the IFS Indicative Programme for 2007 and 2008, the EC provides a total financial contribution up to 9,5ME for the financing of technical assistance, training activities, seminars and equipment for the benefit of ECO Member States including countries along the Western Heroin Trafficking Route;

The ECO and the EC agreed on the following:

1. The support to the reinforcement and capabilities of the ECO DCCU shall be the first priority of this project with the purpose to set up in the long term a Centre of excellence for cooperation and information/intelligence sharing against drugs trafficking along with the mandate of ECO Secretariat. The project shall also have the aim to develop interagency cooperation within the ECO region and with EU member states and institutions.
2. The EC contribution to this project shall be implemented through a Grant contract awarded to a Consortium of EU MS services and signed between the EC and GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) in consultation with the ECO.
3. Setting up a Project Management Team (PMT) in ECO Secretariat's premises in Tehran, up to 3 (three) long-term experts will be affected to the PMT and paid under the EC contribution. The purpose of the mission of PMT would be the implementation of the goals of the project and shall be in line with best interests of ECO member states. The EC contribution can also cover local staff (to be recruited by the ECO Secretariat), necessary equipment and consumables.
4. The EC funding of the PMT will be limited to the duration of the specific project (36 months in the first phase that could be extended provided both parties (ECO and EC) agree and subject to the necessary budgetary means). The EC contribution's precise coverage will be detailed in the grant agreement with GTZ and decided by the EC in consultation with ECO.
5. With the support of the EC, through the grant contract mentioned in point 2, the ECO Secretariat shall provide adequate furnished office space and facilitate the work of the experts in the DCCU.
6. The ECO commits itself to facilitate the Project Management Team. The PMT would work under direct supervision of Deputy Secretary General (ADMN/EME/HRSD) and with short-term experts that may be mobilized during the project implementation of its MS services, including the secondment of national experts where feasible.
7. The project activities shall be discussed in regular Quarterly Steering Committee meetings of the PMT, EC and ECO representatives.
8. The EC and the ECO shall have a regular dialogue and inform each other on issues related to trafficking along the heroin routes and other related issues. Other potential areas for cooperation may also be discussed between EC and ECO representatives and, where relevant, become the subject of additional Memoranda of Understanding.
9. Strengthening the technical capacities in order to enhance the effectiveness of the ECO-DCCU, enabling it to assume a role of consensus-seeking and advocating trans-regional cooperation, as well as the responsibility for holding coordination meetings and organizing trainings for the competent authorities of the ECO Member States;
10. Establishing 1-24/7 as the Central Communication System for information and intelligence exchange at the regional and trans-regional levels between all the consolidated and developed analytical databases and networks and creation of remote access stations

through provision of equipment and related training in those ECO countries where these activities are not yet funded under other programmes;

11. Following an assessment where necessary, strengthening of national intelligence analysis centers of those ECO countries not yet covered under the UNODC project RERIF23, with the objective of assessing and ensuring their connection with NCBs and CARICC using Interpol's 1-24/7 system;
12. Developing a network of border control cooperation at Land/Air/Sea Ports of Entry for container control to stem the flow of drugs, precursors and other illegal trafficking;
13. Establishing Port Control Units (PCUs) in selected sea and internal land (dry) ports of ECO countries, link them with NCBs as well as other National Focal Points for information and analysis exchange, notably through WCO CEN and 1-24/7, and organise regular meetings between them through DCCU in order to reach common standards for information exchange;
14. Providing required training through DCCU, on analysis, profiling and information exchange to all new or recently established units and procure the required computer equipment for trans-regional information exchange;
15. Establishing a functional network in the ECO region of forensic laboratories with quantitative and qualitative analytical capacity, notably with regard to drugs, precursors and forged documents, but possibly also other relevant elements of evidence;
16. Preparing the ground for substantial capacity-building measures to be-financed in a second phase of this project, the first phase will complement, to the extent necessary, the assessments on forensic labs started by UNODC under CADAP 3 on the one hand and launch assessments in Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan on the other hand. If resources are still available, substantive activities identified by the assessments could also be implemented in this first phase;
17. The EC will prepare a Project Document to be sent to ECO for comments and upon signing by both parties (ECO and EC), it will be used as a basis for initiating the Project.
18. This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the duly authorized representatives of the two Organizations. Upon its entry into force, both organizations will publicize it among their field and headquarters personnel.
19. This MoU may be amended by mutual consent of the parties. The proposed amendment should be made in writing to the other party and shall enter into force upon its acceptance in writing by the two parties.
20. Either of the parties may terminate this MoU by giving six months' written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the European Commission (EC).

Signed at Tehran on 3rd February, 2009.

For the
Economic Cooperation
Organization

Amb. Hassan Taherian
Deputy Secretary General

For the
European Commission

Aristotelis Bouratsis
Director