



European Union

**EU Statement on
Agenda item 11**

**Reconvened 64th session
Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

Vienna, 9 - 10 December 2021

Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [Turkey[§], the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Iceland+, Liechtenstein+, Norway+, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino].

We would like to express our concern about the fact that the Chair-Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has been prevented from delivering a video-statement under agenda item 11 "Other business". This statement was planned pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution 42/22, which requested the Working Group to prepare a study on arbitrary detention relating to drug policies and to bring that report to the attention of the CND. This Human Rights Council Resolution was adopted by consensus and is welcomed in the Omnibus resolution on drugs.

It is a common and long-standing practice of the CND to allow statements from non-Member States to be made during the CND sessions under "Other business". Indeed, in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, we committed to supporting the CND to "fostering broad, transparent and inclusive discussions within the Commission, involving, as appropriate, all relevant stakeholders, such as (...) relevant United Nations entities (...)". Moreover, in that Declaration, we encouraged "further contributions of relevant United Nations entities, ..., to the work of the Commission".

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

The study that the Human Rights Council working group would like to present is very relevant to the CND mandate, as it highlights good practices and developments in the matter of arbitrary detention relating to drug policies, while also addressing shortcomings. I would also like to recall in this regard that in the Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem, we reaffirmed the need to promote protection of and respect for human rights and the dignity of all individuals in the context of drug programmes, strategies and policies.

In light of our past practice and policy commitments, not allowing the statement of another UN entity is not understandable and inappropriate. Clearly, this unfortunate incident should remain an isolated one, and I have no doubt that we will swiftly get back to our practice of joining forces in addressing the situation.

Since its beginning, this Commission has been committed to further the understanding of all aspects of the world drug situation. We therefore join other speakers in their regret that such a request to prevent the delivery of this statement creates unnecessary divisions among us, instead of helping us move forward, together.

Thank you, Madam Chair.