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Answer given by Ms Urpilainen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission shares the view that the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime is an important priority in the EU relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, as confirmed in the Joint Communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of June 2023 on a new agenda for relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean[1], as well as in the Council conclusions on relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean of November 2023[2].

In addition, as stated in the EU Roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime[3], cooperation with key partners that can help provide solutions for the prevention and the fight against organised crime is crucial. In this context, the three phases of the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU on drug policy (COPOLAD) have contributed to joint efforts to reduce the supply and demand of drugs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

On the basis of all above mentioned, and in consideration of the persisting needs in the region, COPOLAD III[4] has been recently extended with no additional cost. The new end date of activities is 31 December 2025, thus covering the whole year of 2025. The Commission is currently exploring additional measures to sustain beyond 2025 key dimensions of current cooperation and coordination with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States countries on drugs-related policies.

As regards the current multiannual financial framework 2021-2027, the budget available to address the growing threat of drug trafficking in a regional approach is allocated to the Europe Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime (EL PACCTO 2.0)[5].

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023JC0017&qid=1686302597845
[2] https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15737-2023-INIT/en/pdf
[3] https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/new-eu-roadmap-steps-fight-against-drug-trafficking-and-organised-crime-2023-10-18_en
[4] https://copolad.eu/en/
[5] https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/eu-and-latin-american-and-caribbean-partners-team-fight-against-transnational-organised-crime-launch-2023-11-21_en