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2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Final Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 15 May 2024

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18. Crime and Corruption: Synthetic Drugs

“We [also recognize the significant public health and security threat of illicit synthetic drugs and] will strengthen our cooperation to address it, engaging with other willing countries and the private sector.”

Hiroshima G7 Summit Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.50 (75%)	

Background

Illicit synthetic drugs, such as synthetic opioids and amphetamines, have gained attention for their role in exacerbating the opioid crisis, fuelling transnational crime networks, and endangering the health and well-being of individuals worldwide. The production, trafficking, and distribution of synthetic drugs involve criminal organizations operating across multiple jurisdictions, necessitating cooperation among nations to effectively combat this multifaceted threat.³⁷⁹⁸ Additionally, the public health impact is substantial, as synthetic drugs have led to a surge in overdose deaths and addiction rates in many G7 countries. While drug-related issues have been a recurring topic of discussion at G7 summits over the years, specific reference to synthetic drugs was first made at the 1990 Houston Summit.

At the 1990 Houston Summit, leaders agreed on the creation of a task force to report back on problems concerning synthetic drugs, highlighting the importance of addressing this emerging global challenge.³⁷⁹⁹ The task force was created to ensure effective procedures are adopted to prevent precursor and essential chemicals from being diverted to manufacture illicit drugs. It consisted of G8 members, other countries that trade in these chemicals and chemical industry representatives.

At the 1997 Denver Summit, leaders agreed to intensify efforts to combat the production, trafficking, and use of illicit drugs, recognizing the threat they pose to citizens, society and institutions.³⁸⁰⁰ They further agreed to enhance cooperation among G8 government agencies, aiming to share information about emerging synthetic drugs and strengthen law enforcement’s capabilities in countering the illicit drug trade.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders recognized the increasing danger posed by amphetamines and synthetic drugs, leading to their decision to schedule an ad hoc meeting of drug experts later that year.³⁸⁰¹

³⁷⁹⁸ Dr. Rahul Gupta Releases Statement on the Launch of the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats, The White House (Washington) 7 July 2023. Access Date: 2 October 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/briefing-room/2023/07/07/dr-rahul-gupta-releases-statement-on-the-launch-of-the-global-coalition-to-address-synthetic-drug-threats/>

³⁷⁹⁹ Houston Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 July 1990. Access Date: 2 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1990houston/declaration.html>

³⁸⁰⁰ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 2 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

³⁸⁰¹ G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 2 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

At the 2010 Muskoka Summit, leaders agreed to address illicit drug production and trafficking.³⁸⁰² They also agreed to support all countries engaged in the fight against drug trafficking, especially Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. Finally, they recognized the need to make contributions within the framework of actions against drug trafficking carries out by producer countries.

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, leaders pledged to enhance cooperation combat transnational organized crime, including individuals and groups engaged in illicit drug trafficking and production.³⁸⁰³ They also reaffirmed the need to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations conventions on drug control and transnational organized crime.

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, leaders agreed to offer political and practical support to regional and international organizations leading efforts to enhance the ability of countries to monitor and control their borders, and to tackle facilitating factors such as corruption, transnational organised crime, and illicit trafficking of drugs and people.³⁸⁰⁴

During the 2018 Canadian G7 presidency, while the G7 leaders did not discuss the issue of synthetic drugs, their Foreign Ministers affirmed their concern regarding security threats posed by the sale of synthetic drugs on the Internet.³⁸⁰⁵ They also agreed that the G7 should maintain cooperative efforts to address this threat and tackle challenges related to the control of synthetic drugs, emphasizing the importance of international collaboration.

During the 2021 United Kingdom G7 presidency, while the G7 leaders did not discuss the issue of synthetic drugs, their Interior Ministers pledged support for the Roma-Lyon Group’s work in addressing the emerging threat from synthetic opioids.³⁸⁰⁶

Commitment Features

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, leaders recognised the “significant public health and security threat of illicit synthetic drugs” and committed to “strengthen [their] cooperation to address it, engaging with other willing countries and the private sector.”

“Public health” is understood to mean “the art and science dealing with the protection and improvement of community health by organised community effort and including preventative medicine and sanitary and social science.”

“Security” is understood to mean “the quality or state of being secure.”

“Threat” is understood to mean “an expression of intention to inflict evil, injury, or damage.” In the context of this commitment, it can be understood as the significant danger posed by synthetic drugs to public health and security.

“Illicit” is understood to mean “not permitted” or “unlawful.”

“Synthetic drugs” is understood to mean “chemicals designed to imitate the effects of other narcotics and hallucinogens,” and are also referred to as “designer drugs.” These include “substances that are synthesised in

³⁸⁰² Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 15 October 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>

³⁸⁰³ Camp David Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 May 2012. Access Date: 15 October 2012. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>

³⁸⁰⁴ G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 15 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communique.html>

³⁸⁰⁵ G7 Foreign Ministers Joint Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2018. Access Date: 8 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/180423-communique.html>

³⁸⁰⁶ G7 London Interior Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 8 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2021-London-Interior-Commitments.html>

a laboratory and that act on the same targets in the brain as natural opioids, such as morphine and codeine, to produce analgesic (pain-relief) effects.” Examples of synthetic—or designer—drugs also include but are not limited to “amphetamines, methamphetamines, and ecstasy (MDMA), as well as synthetic forms of cannabis and opioids such as heroin.”

“Strengthen” is understood to mean “to make or become stronger.” In the context of this commitment, it can be understood to mean strengthening efforts to cooperate with both the private sector and willing countries to combat illicit synthetic drugs.

“Cooperation” is understood to mean “the action or process of working together to the same end.” In the context of this commitment, it can be understood to mean joint action – rather than individual policy enactment – between G7 members and actors within the private sector as well as willing countries to address the threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs.

“Address” is understood to mean “to give attention to or deal with a matter or problem.”

“Engaging with” is understood to mean “to become involved with.”

“Private sector” is understood to mean “the part of an economy which is not controlled or owned by the government.” In the context of this commitment, this can include companies, businesses (including the pharmaceutical industry) and other for-profit organisations.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that fully comply with their commitment to strengthen cooperation with both willing countries and the private sector to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs. Strong actions could include increased calls for cooperation to allocate personnel and funds to organisations and institutions that work to monitor and fight illicit synthetic drug production and dissemination, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation; the creation and enforcement of international laws related to illicit synthetic drugs; and the creation or expansion of programmes to combat illicit synthetic drug production and dissemination.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that take strong cooperative action to combat illicit synthetic drugs with either willing countries or the private sector; or to G7 members that take weak cooperative action with willing countries and the private sector to combat illicit synthetic drugs. Weak action against illicit synthetic drugs includes but are not limited to verbal reaffirmations of existing commitments made in cooperation with either actors within the private sector or willing countries and attending meetings of international institutions and organisations that work to combat illicit synthetic drugs.

Non-compliance, or a score of –1, will be assigned if the G7 member has NOT cooperated with the private sector or willing countries to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs.

Scoring Guidelines

–1	The G7 member has not complied with its commitment to strengthen cooperation with the private sector or with willing countries to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs
0	The G7 member has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation with either the private sector or willing countries to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs; or the G7 member has taken weak action to cooperate with both the private sector and willing countries to address the threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs.
+1	The G7 member has complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation with both the private sector and willing countries to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs.

*Compliance Director: Kiara Senanayake
Lead Analyst: Rameen Azmat*

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs, engaging with other willing countries.

On 5 June 2023, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction and Associate Minister of Health Carolyn Bennet announced regulatory changes to schedule novel fentanyl precursors under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. This will support law enforcement in acting against the importation, distribution and usage of precursor chemicals used to illicitly produce fentanyl.³⁸⁰⁷

On 8 June 2023, ministers and secretaries of health and senior officials from Canada, Mexico and the United States released a joint statement outlining the key discussions from the North American Drug Dialogue Public Health Summit. At the summit, a panel of ministers and experts from the three countries coordinated a trilateral approach to alleviate the impact of illicit synthetic drug use on public health across North America. The three countries have agreed to prioritize improving data collection on drug use and sharing the opportunities and challenges posed by accessibility as well as distribution of overdose reversal medications.³⁸⁰⁸

On 7 July 2023, the ministers and government representatives of Global Affairs Canada declared in conjunction with over 80 countries, including G7 members, affirming their commitment to address the public health and social harms associated with the illicit consumption of synthetic drugs. The declaration established a Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats to coordinate the global response to combating illicit synthetic drugs and its consequent public health and safety challenges. The declaration also reaffirmed Canada's commitment to contributing to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization.³⁸⁰⁹

On 27 July 2023, Canada, Mexico and the US issued a joint statement following the Second Trilateral Fentanyl Committee Meeting to reaffirm their commitments to combat the trafficking of illicit synthetic drugs. They committed to establishing a mechanism to share emerging trends in illegal drug trafficking as well as creating an expert group to identify legislative and regulatory challenges associated with precursor chemicals and related equipment.³⁸¹⁰

On 9 September 2023, Canada reiterated its commitment to international cooperation, through sharing information and building capacity, to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, as part of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India.³⁸¹¹ The commitment was part of a larger commitment to global health infrastructure, particularly as centred on the World Health Organization.

On 9 November 2023, the Governments of Canada and the US released a joint statement affirming their commitment to fighting the overdose crisis and its illegal drug supply through the Joint Action Plan on Opioids. The statement outlined key milestones in 2023 for combatting synthetic drugs with regards to public health,

³⁸⁰⁷ Government of Canada takes action to disrupt the illegal importation and distribution of precursor chemicals used to make illegal fentanyl, Health Canada (Ottawa) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 7 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-takes-action-to-disrupt-the-illegal-importation-and-distribution-of-precursor-chemicals-used-to-make-illegal-fentanyl.html>

³⁸⁰⁸ Joint Statement on the North American Drug Dialogue Public Health Summit, Health Canada (Ottawa) 8 June 2023. Access Date: 7 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/joint-statement-on-the-north-american-drug-dialogue-public-health-summit.html>

³⁸⁰⁹ Ministerial Declaration on Accelerating and Strengthening the Global Response to Synthetic Drugs, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 7 July 2023. Access Date: 7 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/07/ministerial-declaration-on-accelerating-and-strengthening-the-global-response-to-synthetic-drugs.html>

³⁸¹⁰ Joint Statement from Canada, Mexico and the United States following the Second Trilateral Fentanyl Committee Meeting, Privy Council Office (Mexico City) 27 July 2023. Access Date: 7 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/news/2023/07/joint-statement-from-canada-mexico-and-the-united-states-following-the-second-trilateral-fentanyl-committee-meeting.html>

³⁸¹¹ G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 September 2023. Access Date: 29 October 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html>

law enforcement, border security and postal security. Officials from the US and Canada agreed to strengthen cooperation by increased information sharing and joint operational activities.³⁸¹²

On 14 November 2023, the Governments of Canada, Mexico, and the US released a joint statement outlining the Seventh North American Drug Dialogue. At the meeting, the countries' representatives discussed progress over the past year, focusing on synthetic drug trafficking and the associated public health risks. The countries agreed to expand collaboration to improve the shared understanding of drug trafficking data and trends.³⁸¹³

On 9 February 2024, Canada, Mexico and the US issued a joint statement to reaffirm their commitments to combat the trafficking of illicit synthetic drugs and firearms. They committed to increasing collaboration on the control of precursor chemicals and equipment related to illicit drug production, reviewing their legal frameworks, and accordingly engaging with the private sector. The countries also committed to strengthening diplomatic efforts, building on the foundation laid by the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats. The statement also outlined the role of firearms trafficking in illicit drug production and distribution, highlighting the need to understand criminal organizations' methodologies for drug trafficking.³⁸¹⁴

On 14-22 March 2024, Canada participated in the 67th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in, focusing on Item 6 of the provisional agenda, which pertains to the follow-up of the implementation of commitments made in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to address and counter the world drug problem.³⁸¹⁵ Participants discussed how to enhance and strengthen international and regional cooperation, as well as domestic efforts, to address the global synthetic drug problem. The meeting emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts at all levels to effectively tackle the challenges posed by synthetic drugs.

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs, engaging with other willing countries. Weak actions against illicit synthetic drugs have been taken, such as meeting with other countries to discuss and reaffirm commitments to combating associated public health and safety issues. Mild regulatory action has also been undertaken.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Rubi Chopra

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation to address the public health and security threat of illicit synthetic drugs, engaging with other willing countries and the private sector.

³⁸¹² Steering Committee Meeting of the Canada-United States Joint Action Plan on Opioids, Public Safety Canada (Washington D.C.) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 7 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2023/11/steering-committee-meeting-of-the-canada-united-states-joint-action-plan-on-opioids.html>

³⁸¹³ Seventh Meeting of the North American Drug Dialogue, Public Safety Canada (Washington D.C.) 14 November 2023. Access Date: 7 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2023/11/seventh-meeting-of-the-north-american-drug-dialogue.html>

³⁸¹⁴ Joint Statement from Mexico, Canada, and the United States Reaffirming Our Shared Commitment to Address the Regional Challenge of Synthetic Drugs and Firearms Trafficking, Privy Council Office (Mexico City) 9 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/news/2024/02/joint-statement-from-mexico-canada-and-the-united-states-reaffirming-our-shared-commitment-to-address-the-regional-challenge-of-synthetic-drugs-and.html>

³⁸¹⁵ Summary of the open-ended expert group meeting on enhancing and strengthening international and regional cooperation and domestic efforts to address the global synthetic drug problem, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 22 March 2024. Access Date 13 May 2024. https://syntheticdrugs.unodc.org/uploads/syntheticdrugs/res/expert-group-meeting-jan-2024_html/2402942E.pdf

On 26 May 2023, the French La Fayette-type frigate Surcouf seized two tonnes of hashish off the Omani Coast.³⁸¹⁶ The French vessel was deployed in the region under the European Union counter-narcotics and piracy operation Atalante.

Between 5 and 15 June 2023, the French Elements in Gabon and forces from Congo, Gabon, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo met at a training meeting organized by the Central African Regional Maritime Security Centre.³⁸¹⁷ The annual training exercise, Megalops, is intended to improve tactics and skills among various states to fight against all forms of illicit drug trafficking and piracy. The European Union and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime participated in this meeting for the first time.

On 9 September 2023, France reiterated its commitment to international cooperation, through sharing information and building capacity, to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, as part of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India.³⁸¹⁸ The commitment was part of a larger commitment to global health infrastructure, particularly as centred on the World Health Organization.

On 21 September 2023, the French surveillance ship Ventôse seized 2.4 tons of cocaine from a fishing vessel off the coast of West Africa.³⁸¹⁹ The operation used intelligence from, and collaborated with, the British National Crime Agency, the Brazilian federal police, and the American Drug Enforcement Administration.

Between 5 and 6 October 2023, Dr. Nicolas Prisse, president of the Interministerial Mission to Combat Drugs and Addictive Behaviour, visited Toulouse before the Rugby World Cup to coordinate with stakeholders and aid Toulouse in implementing a risk reduction action plan.³⁸²⁰ Other stakeholders include the Occitanie Regional Health Agency, the Regional Prefecture, and the Federal University of Toulouse, and other non-governmental activist associations. This risk reduction action plan is meant to engage a variety of actors to prevent consumption of risky substances and maintain public health and safety.

On 17 October 2023, French Armed Forces of the Southern Indian Ocean Zone (FAZSOI) seized 283kg of heroin from a dhow.³⁸²¹ FAZSOI's goal is to intercept illicit narcotics flowing from West Africa to East Africa. Moreover, FAZSOI aims to support France's security partnerships in the southern Indian Ocean and in southern Africa.

³⁸¹⁶ Point de situation des opérations du jeudi 25 au mercredi 31 mai 2023, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 1 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2020. <https://defense.gouv.fr/operations/point-situation-operations/point-situation-operations-du-jeudi-25-au-mercredi-31-mai-2023>

³⁸¹⁷ EFG – Le CRESMAC organise la 6e édition de l'exercice MEGALOPS, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 15 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/actualites/efg-cremac-organise-6e-edition-lexercice-megalops>

³⁸¹⁸ G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 September 2023. Access Date: 29 October 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html>

³⁸¹⁹ Point de situation des opérations du jeudi 21 au mercredi 27 septembre 2023, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 28 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/point-situation-operations/point-situation-operations-du-jeudi-21-au-mercredi-27-septembre-2023>

³⁸²⁰ La MILDECA sur le terrain : retour sur deux jours d'échanges à Toulouse, MILDECA : Mission interministérielle de lutte contre les drogues et les conduites addictives, Le Gouvernement de France (Paris) 12 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.drogues.gouv.fr/la-mildeca-sur-le-terrain-retour-sur-deux-jours-dechanges-toulouse>

³⁸²¹ Importante saisie d'héroïne par les FAZSOI dans l'océan Indien, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 25 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 February 2024. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/marine/actualites/importante-saisie-dheroine-fazsoi-locean-indien>

On 4 December 2023, the French Overseas Support and Assistance Building ship the Dumont d'Urville met with vessels in the United States to conduct mutual training.³⁸²² This training strengthened the navies' cooperation in multiple areas including the fight against drug trafficking.

On 6 December 2023, France finished hosting the South Pacific Defense Ministers Meeting.³⁸²³ Along with its partners, this gave France the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to fighting against illicit trafficking in the Indo-Pacific, including the trafficking of illicit narcotics. France thus maintained its commitment to cooperate to address the issue of synthetic drugs.

On 17 January 2024, French Captain Yannick Bossu handed over the multinational Combined Task Force to Captain Colin Matthews of the Royal Canadian Navy.³⁸²⁴ The event in Bahrain to hand over leadership was an opportunity for France to deepen its cooperation with security partners in the fights against illicit narcotics by participating in the Eastern and Southern African commission on drugs and by making official visits.

On 11 February 2024, the French Armed Forces began a series of operations to increase the strength of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Eastern Europe.³⁸²⁵ During this series of operations, the French Patroller, Commandant Bouan, conducted a joint training exercise with the Liberian Coast Guard in Monrovia, Liberia. The exercise was aimed at combating narcotic trafficking and strengthened cooperation between the two forces. Furthermore, as part of the operations to address illicit drug trafficking in the Indian Ocean, the Overseas Support and Assistance Building Champlain conducted a check on a dhow in the north of the Mozambique Channel, which led to the seizure of over 1.6 tons of methamphetamines.

On 13 February 2024, French naval ship the Champlain inspected a dhow and seized 1.6 tonnes of drugs.³⁸²⁶ This operation fell under the mission of the multilateral Armed Forces of the Southern Indian Ocean Zone to combat illicit trafficking. To date, this has been the largest seizure of methamphetamines in the region.

On 14-22 March 2024, France participated in the 67th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in, focusing on Item 6 of the provisional agenda, which pertains to the follow-up of the implementation of commitments made in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to address and counter the world drug problem.³⁸²⁷ Participants discussed how to enhance and strengthen international and regional cooperation, as well as domestic efforts, to address the global synthetic drug problem. The meeting emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts at all levels to effectively tackle the challenges posed by synthetic drugs.

France has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation to address the public health and security threat of illicit synthetic drugs, engaging with other willing countries and the private sector. France

³⁸²² Point de situation des opérations du jeudi 7 au mercredi 13 décembre 2023, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 13 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/point-situation-operations/point-situation-operations-du-jeudi-7-au-mercredi-13-decembre-2023>

³⁸²³ Indopacifique: défendre notre souveraineté, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 12 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/actualites/indopacifique-defendre-notre-souverainete>

³⁸²⁴ CTF 150 – La France passe le commandement au Canada après 6 mois d'opération et près de 16 tonnes de drogue saisies, Le Gouvernement de France (Paris) 22 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/marine/actualites/ctf-150-france-passe-commandement-au-canada-6-mois-doperation-16-tonnes-droque-saisies>

³⁸²⁵ Point de situation des opérations du jeudi 15 au mercredi 21 février 2024, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 21 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2024. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/point-situation-operations/point-situation-operations-du-jeudi-15-au-mercredi-21-fevrier-2024>

³⁸²⁶ Saisie record pour le Champlain, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 23 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/marine/actualites/saisie-record-champlain>

³⁸²⁷ Summary of the open-ended expert group meeting on enhancing and strengthening international and regional cooperation and domestic efforts to address the global synthetic drug problem, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 22 March 2024. Access Date 13 May 2024. https://syntheticdrugs.unodc.org/uploads/syntheticdrugs/res/expert-group-meeting-jan-2024_html/2402942E.pdf

coordinated with private and municipal actors to implement a risk reduction program to prevent risky substance use and to maintain public health and safety. Moreover, France has conducted military operations and exercises to prevent the distribution of illicit narcotics, in collaboration with other countries.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Elliot Mohammed

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to cooperate with both willing countries and the private sector to combat illicit synthetic drugs.

On 5 June 2023, the German ministers responsible for security and justice released a statement alongside their ministerial counterparts in Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands expressing support for increased cooperation with Latin American, Caribbean, and Western Balkan regions on illicit drugs trafficking.³⁸²⁸ The statement prioritizes strengthening logistical hubs, information exchange, and disruption of criminal money flows.

On 16 August 2023, the German Cabinet approved a draft law that will have Germany join the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre for Narcotic Drugs, which aims to combat illicit drug trafficking.³⁸²⁹ Germany is expected to formally accede to the group at the beginning of 2024 where it will join France, Ireland, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.

On 9 September 2023, Germany reiterated its commitment to international cooperation, through sharing information and building capacity, to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, as part of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India.³⁸³⁰ The commitment was part of a larger commitment to global health infrastructure, particularly as centred on the World Health Organization.

On 29 September 2023, Interior Minister Nancy Faeser attended a conference in Italy, which aimed to increase cooperation among countries on issues relating to organized crime, including drug trafficking.³⁸³¹ The conference was also affiliated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

On 24 January 2024, Germany, alongside other European Union member states, announced the launch of the European Ports Alliance Public Private Partnership.³⁸³² The partnership aims to combat drug trafficking and organised crime by bringing together public and private actors.

On 4 March 2024, the German Federal Ministry of the Interior announced agreements with Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia to promote closer police cooperation to combat the trafficking of illegal drugs,

³⁸²⁸ Statement: Coalition against serious and organized crime, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 27 November 2023.

https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/veroeffentlichungen/2023/statement-coalition-against-serious-and-organised-crime-5June23.html;jsessionid=1C30098455D10CD3EB027C63D241C36A.1_cid369

³⁸²⁹ Entschlossen gegen illegalen Drogenhandel zu See und Luft, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 16 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 October 2023.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/DE/2023/08/maoc-n-meldung.html>

³⁸³⁰ G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 September 2023. Access Date: 29 October 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html>

³⁸³¹ Menschenhandel und Schleusungskriminalität gemeinsam bekämpfen, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 29 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 October 2023.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/DE/2023/09/internationale-mk-palermo.html>

³⁸³² EU launches alliance to jointly protect ports from international drug trafficking, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 24 January 2024. Access Date: 25 February 2024.

https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2024/01/port_alliance.html

alongside other forms of organized crime.³⁸³³ The agreement with Ecuador includes stationing a Federal Criminal Police liaison officer in the country to facilitate direct sharing of information.

On 2 April 2024, Germany announced that it had joined France, Ireland, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands to become a partner country of the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre for Narcotic Drugs, aimed at combating illicit drug trafficking by sea and air.³⁸³⁴ The accession fulfills a commitment made in 2023, and allows liaison officers from Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office to exchange information on narcotic trafficking with partners.

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to cooperate with both willing countries and the private sector to combat illicit synthetic drugs. While Germany has collaborated with willing states, its collaborations have not included the private sector nor substantive actions such as allocations of personnel or funding.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Catriona Hayes Morris

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen their cooperation with the private sector and willing countries to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs.

On 19 June 2023, Italy provided training and shared resources for anti-drug trafficking efforts as part of the Southern Route Project. Italy collaborated with Kenya, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda in the Southern Route Project to combat drug trafficking from Afghanistan. Italy provided investigation techniques, policing strategies, and drug trafficking identification methods.³⁸³⁵

On 21 June 2023, Italy hosted an international seminar focused on youth drug prevention. The seminar included presentations from Italy, Cyprus, France, Georgia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Croatia, Lithuania, and Poland outlining their national anti-drug policies. There was a particular emphasis on youth intervention and discussing how to drop the global demand for drugs.³⁸³⁶

On 26 June 2023, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni gave a speech at an event for the international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. There she reaffirmed Italy's commitment against illegal drugs and drug trafficking.³⁸³⁷

On 7 July 2023, Italy participated in the launching of the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats. In collaboration with the United States, Italy announced their commitment to the coalition and addressing synthetic drug trafficking. Additionally, the coalition sought to address drug use through improvement of

³⁸³³ Working with Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia to fight drug cartels, Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 4 March 2024. Access Date: 16 April 2024.

https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/03/suedamerika_fazit.html

³⁸³⁴ Fighting drug cartels: Germany Joins the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics), Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat (Berlin) 2 April 2024. Access Date: 24 April 2024.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2024/04/beitritt-deutschland-MAOC-en.html>

³⁸³⁵ Southern Route Project: Mentoring Activities and Operational Days in Nairobi and Mombasa, Ministero dell' Interno (Nairobi). 6 September 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://antidroga.interno.gov.it/en/southern-route-project-mentoring-activities-and-operational-days-in-nairobi-and-mombasa-kenya-19-22-june-2023/>

³⁸³⁶ Venezia 21 Giugno 2023: Seminario Sulla Prevenzione Delle Droghe nei Giovani, Dipartimento per le Politiche Antidroga (Venice). 21 June 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. <https://www.politicheantidroga.gov.it/it/notizie/notizie/venezia-21-giugno-2023-seminario-sulla-prevenzione-delle-droghe-nei-giovani/>

³⁸³⁷ President Meloni Attends Event to Mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome). 26 June 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-attends-event-mark-international-day-against-drug-abuse-and-illicit>

education, accessibility of healthy lifestyles and the promotion of values. There is also a pledge to fight criminal organizations in drug trafficking, with special consideration for cyberspace.³⁸³⁸

On 27 July 2023, Prime Minister Meloni issued a joint statement with US President Joe Biden, in which Italy reaffirmed their support for the global coalition to address synthetic drug threats.³⁸³⁹

On 9 September 2023, Italy reiterated its commitment to international cooperation, through sharing information and building capacity, to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, as part of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India.³⁸⁴⁰ The commitment was part of a larger commitment to global health infrastructure, particularly as centred on the World Health Organization.

On 19 September 2023, Italy hosted delegations from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia to present on the Italian recovery model. The Italian recovery model is an addiction treatment strategy in Italy that involves close collaboration between public and private sectors. The meeting also involved the sharing of skills and strategies to combat addiction in Mediterranean communities.³⁸⁴¹

On 11 October 2023, Italy held meetings with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction to discuss strengthening of anti-drug mandates and networks of information across Europe.³⁸⁴²

On 18 October 2023, Italy announced a call for project proposals to combat pathological addiction among students. Italy made EUR40 million available for selected projects, including projects that increase research, information or public awareness on addiction.³⁸⁴³

On 7 November 2023, Italy met with the executive director of Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre-Narcotics of Lisbon. The meeting entailed sharing intel on how to manage illicit drug trafficking in international waters, as well as discussion on international cooperation to manage drug trafficking networks.³⁸⁴⁴

On 13 November 2023, the Ministry of the Interior hosted a course on preventing synthetic drug trafficking. The course had anti-drug sector representatives from 13 different countries, and instructed on strategies to

³⁸³⁸ Participation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Antonio Tajani, in the video conference launching the Global Coalition to address Synthetic Drug Threats, Ministero degli Affari e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome). 7 July 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023.

https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2023/07/partecipazione-del-vicepresidente-del-consiglio-e-ministro-degli-affari-esteri-e-della-cooperazione-internazionale-on-antonio-tajani-alla-videoconferenza-di-lancio-della-coalizione-globale-contro-l/

³⁸³⁹ Joint Statement from President Biden and Prime Minister Meloni, The White House (Washington D.C.). 27 July 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/07/27/joint-statement-from-president-biden-and-prime-minister-meloni/>

³⁸⁴⁰ G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 September 2023. Access Date: 29 October 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html>

³⁸⁴¹ Study Visit on Model of Recovery in Italy, Council of Europe (Rome). 22 September 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023 (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/pompidou/-/study-visit-on-model-of-recovery-in-italy>)

³⁸⁴² EMCDDA's Visit to the Department for Anti-Drug Policies, Italian Focal Point, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Rome). 12 October 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/event/2023/10/emcddas-visit-department-anti-drug-policies-italian-focal-point_en

³⁸⁴³ Fino al 27 Ottobre è Possibile Partecipare al Bando MUR per Progetti di Prevenzione delle Dipendenze Patologiche Degli Studenti, Dipartimento per le Politiche Antidroga (Rome). 18 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2023 <https://www.politicheantidroga.gov.it/it/notizie/notizie/bando-mur-per-progetti-di-prevenzione-delle-dipendenze-patologiche-degli-studenti/>

³⁸⁴⁴ Visita del Direttore Esecutivo del MAOC-N di Lisbona, Ministry of the Interior (Rome). 7 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://antidroga.interno.gov.it/visita-del-direttore-esecutivo-del-maoc-n-di-lisbona-presso-la-dcsa-roma-7-novembre-2023/>

police international drug trafficking, synthetic drugs, and new psychoactive substances. Presenters from the Italian anti-drug service also shared strategies for identifying and interfering in clandestine laboratories.³⁸⁴⁵

On 14 November 2023, Italy in collaboration with the United States, undermined a large synthetic drug trafficking route, taking possession of 100,000 individual doses of synthetic drugs (including fentanyl). This effort was a result of exchanged information between the Ministry of the Interior and US Drug Enforcement Agency.³⁸⁴⁶

On 23 November 2023, Italy began the advertising campaign: “Butta Via la Droga, no la Vita.” The campaign targets youth, family, and educators to provide further information about the health and safety risks of narcotics.³⁸⁴⁷

On 27 February 2024, Italy issued a joint declaration with Croatia that established their commitment to a joint and collaborative effort against illegal drug trafficking and smuggling by sea. Italy and Croatia also emphasized their commitment to participating in the European Ports Alliance, to prevent drug trafficking³⁸⁴⁸

On 12 March 2024, Italy announced a national plan to prevent the misuse of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. The plan includes mostly preventative measures, with actions aimed at stopping the internal and external trafficking of illicit drugs around and into Italy. The plan also includes information on how to handle drug emergencies and crises.³⁸⁴⁹

On 12 March 2024, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni issued a statement affirming Italy’s commitment specifically to prevention of the misuse of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. Additionally, Prime Minister Meloni placed particular emphasis on concrete action and informing the youth.³⁸⁵⁰

On 14 March 2024, Italy participated in the 67th annual session of the United Nations’ Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Undersecretary to the Prime Minister Alfredo Montavona provided the commission with a presentation emphasizing Italy’s strategy against fentanyl and synthetic opioids and pledged EUR120,000 in funds to the United Nations’ Office on Drugs and Crime. In addition to the presentation, Italy held a bilateral meeting with Ghana and a meeting with a representative from the White House of the United States.³⁸⁵¹

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen their cooperation with the private sector and willing countries to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs. Italy has increased collaboration on drug policy, with great emphasis on international partnership, and increased public

³⁸⁴⁵ 1° Corso “Stupefacenti Sintetici, Precursori e Laboratori Clandestini”, Ministero del Interio (Rome). 17 November 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://antidroga.interno.gov.it/1-corso-stupefacenti-sintetici-precursori-e-laboratori-clandestini-roma-dcsa-13-17-novembre-2023/>

³⁸⁴⁶ Contrasto al Narcotraffico Internazionale in Italia e Negli Stati Uniti, Ministry of the Interior (Piacenza). 15 November 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 December 2023. <https://antidroga.interno.gov.it/contrasto-al-narcotraffico-internazionale-in-italia-e-negli-stati-uniti-coordinamento-e-supporto-della-direzione-centrale-per-i-servizi-antidroga-esecuzione-delloperazione-painkill/>

³⁸⁴⁷ Campagna di Comunicazione "Butta via la Droga, non la Vita", Government of Italy (Rome). 23 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.governo.it/en/node/24367>

³⁸⁴⁸ Italy-Croatia Joint Declaration, Government of Italy (Rome) 27 February 2024. Access Date: 14 May 2024.

https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2024/02/italy-croatia-joint-declaration/

³⁸⁴⁹ National Plan to Prevent Misuse of Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids, Government of Italy (Rome) 12 March 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/national-plan-prevent-misuse-fentanyl-and-other-synthetic-opioids/25216>

³⁸⁵⁰ President Meloni’s Statement on National Plan to Prevent Misuse of Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids, Government of Italy (Rome) 12 March 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-statement-national-plan-prevent-misuse-fentanyl-and-other-synthetic>

³⁸⁵¹ Undersecretary Mantovano at the 67th Annual Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Government of Italy (Rome) 14 March 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/node/25235>

collaboration, with national events and projects. While Italy has taken substantive anti-drug action, Italy has not brought narrow enough focus unto the threat of synthetic drugs.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Emerson Hachinski

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation to address the public health and security threat of illicit synthetic drugs, engaging with other willing countries and the private sector.

On 31 May 2023, Parliamentary Vice Minister Kei Takagi and a delegation from the Ukrainian government's customs held a meeting and training session.³⁸⁵² The purpose of the training, under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, was to help Ukrainian customs facilitate the import of needed equipment and humanitarian resources while also preventing forms of illicit trafficking.

On 7 July 2023, Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoshimasa Hayashi participated in an online ministerial meeting hosted by the United States to establish the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats.³⁸⁵³ At the virtual meeting, Minister Hayashi recognized the public health and global security threat of synthetic drugs and affirmed his support for a multifaceted strategy that would include cooperation between police, customs, research, and narcotics and control agencies to control drug supply and demand. Minister Hayashi also proposed a strategy that would share resources between participants.³⁸⁵⁴ Japan's participation in this coalition would increase its efforts to address the threat of synthetic drugs while engaging with other countries.

On 9 September 2023, Japan reiterated its commitment to international cooperation, through sharing information and building capacity, to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, as part of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India.³⁸⁵⁵ The commitment was part of a larger commitment to global health infrastructure, particularly as centred on the World Health Organization.

On 19 September 2023, Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa met with Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.³⁸⁵⁶ At their meeting, the two reaffirmed their support for one another and welcomed collaboration between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and one of its critical donors, Japan.

On 7 November 2023, Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa gave a speech for the "Side event on the substantive preparations for the 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice" which was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.³⁸⁵⁷ This event was in preparation for the 2026 UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the United Arab Emirates. In this message, the Minister highlighted the importance of advancing justice systems, crime prevention and the rule of law.

³⁸⁵² ウクライナ政府税関関係者一行による高木外務大臣政務官表敬, 外務省 (東京) 31 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2023. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press5e_000007.html

³⁸⁵³ 「合成薬物対策のためのグローバル連合」設立に際しての林外務大臣ビデオ・メッセージの発出, 外務省 (東京) 7 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100526089.pdf>

³⁸⁵⁴ 「合成薬物対策のためのグローバル連合」設立に際しての林外務大臣ビデオ・メッセージの発出, 外務省 (東京) 7 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100526089.pdf>

³⁸⁵⁵ G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 September 2023. Access Date: 29 October 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html>

³⁸⁵⁶ 上川外務大臣とワーリー国連薬物・犯罪事務所 (UNODC) 事務局長との会談, 外務省 (東京) 19 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2023. https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/fp/is_sc/page6_000914.html

³⁸⁵⁷ 第15回犯罪防止刑事司法会議(コンGRESS)ニューヨークでのサイドイベントにおける上川外務大臣ビデオ・メッセージの発出, 外務省 (Tokyo) 8 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 February 2024. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press5e_000066.html

On 21 December 2023, the Ministry of Health prohibited the advertisement and sale of thirty-eight items such as cookies and gummies that may contain any five narcotic substances.³⁸⁵⁸ These substances include, but are not limited to hexahydrocannabihexol (HHCH), hexahydrocannabiphorol (HHCP) and tetrahydrocannabiphorol acetate (THCPO). This comes after six cases in which consumers felt unwell. The action is part of a larger ongoing attempt to restrict harmful synthetic substances.

On 13 March 2024, Japan's ambassador for International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime met with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Ghada Fathi Waly at the 67th High-Level Segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria.³⁸⁵⁹ Both sides reiterated their commitments to combat transnational criminal activities including the trafficking of illicit narcotics.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation to address the public health and security threat of illicit synthetic drugs, engaging with other willing countries and the private sector. Japan has ensured close training and cooperation with stakeholders such as Ukraine and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Moreover, Japan has increased its cooperation within the Global Coalition to advocate for a new approach to engage private and governmental actors that would address the threat of synthetic drugs.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Elliot Mohammed

United Kingdom: 0

United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to cooperate with willing countries and the private sector to combat illicit synthetic drugs.

On 21 June 2023, Minister for the Armed Forces James Heapey met with regional leaders of the Caribbean to discuss work on the resilience of the Cayman Islands.³⁸⁶⁰ As part of this effort, the British destroyer HMS Dauntless was deployed to the area to work alongside the United States Coast Guard and other agencies to combat drug trafficking in the region.

On 25 July 2023, the United Kingdom Home Office, alongside the Attorney General's Department of Australia, formalized a joint commitment to combat illicit financing, which contributes significantly to the trade of illicit drugs. Representatives discussed the importance of "effective asset confiscation" in stopping the flow of funds and the best practices for doing so.³⁸⁶¹ The two states agreed to host an annual dialogue to ensure alignment on key policy areas.

On 23 August 2023, Security Minister Tom Tugendhat met with officials of the Iraqi government as part of negotiations on a new agreement with the government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to

³⁸⁵⁸ Japan bans sale of 38 goods with synthetic cannabis compounds, Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 December 2023. Access Date: 26 February 2024. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/12/22/japan/crime-legal/cannabis-like-substances-sales-banned/>

³⁸⁵⁹ Meeting between H.E. Mr. MINAMI Hiroyuki, Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime and Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/is_sc/pagewe_000001_00040.html

³⁸⁶⁰ Royal navy ship deploys for hurricane season as Defence Minister reaffirms commitment to British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean, Ministry of Defence (London) 21 June 2023. Access Date: 20 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/royal-navy-ship-deploys-for-hurricane-season-as-defence-minister-reaffirms-commitment-to-british-overseas-territories-in-the-caribbean>

³⁸⁶¹ UK-Australia joint statement from the Illicit Financing Co-ordination Dialog, Home Office (London) 25 July 2023. Access Date: 20 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illicit-financing-co-ordination-uk-australia-joint-statement/uk-australia-joint-statement-from-the-illicit-financing-co-ordination-dialogue>

tackle organized crime, including the trade of narcotics.³⁸⁶² The minister also denounced the role of the Syrian regime in the Captagon drug trade, which includes amphetamines, and offered support for Iraq and regional allies against the impacts of the trade.

On 9 September 2023, the United Kingdom reiterated its commitment to international cooperation, through sharing information and building capacity, to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, as part of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India.³⁸⁶³ The commitment was part of a larger commitment to global health infrastructure, particularly as centred on the World Health Organization.

On 3 November 2023, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office released a statement following a meeting on joint policy with special representatives and envoys for Afghanistan from the European Union, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, Japan, Norway, Canada and the United States, as well as special observers from the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and Türkiye.³⁸⁶⁴ The statement called for additional steps to be taken in Afghanistan against the production and trafficking of synthetic drugs, and welcomed the establishment of a technical working group to engage with the Taliban on these issues by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

On 12 December 2023, United Kingdom announced the signing of a new Defence Cooperation treaty with Senegal, committing to work together to address organised crime and drug trafficking in the Gulf of Guinea.³⁸⁶⁵

On 14-22 March 2024, the United Kingdom participated in the 67th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in, focusing on Item 6 of the provisional agenda, which pertains to the follow-up of the implementation of commitments made in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to address and counter the world drug problem.³⁸⁶⁶ Participants discussed how to enhance and strengthen international and regional cooperation, as well as domestic efforts, to address the global synthetic drug problem. The meeting emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts at all levels to effectively tackle the challenges posed by synthetic drugs.

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to cooperate with willing countries and the public sector to combat illicit synthetic drugs. The United Kingdom has engaged with willing countries to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit and synthetic drugs but has not engaged with the private sector. As part of its cooperation with other countries, The United Kingdom has deployed personnel and resources, thereby strengthening its commitment on that account.

Thus, United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Catriona Hayes Morris

³⁸⁶² Security Minister visits Iraq to strengthen security partnership, Home Office (London) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 20 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/security-minister-visits-iraq-to-strengthen-security-partnership>

³⁸⁶³ G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 September 2023. Access Date: 29 October 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html>

³⁸⁶⁴ Special representatives and envoys for Afghanistan: joint statement, Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (London) 3 November 2023. Access Date: 27 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/special-representatives-and-envoys-for-afghanistan-joint-statement>

³⁸⁶⁵ UK commits to enhanced training offer for UN peacekeepers, Ministry of Defence (London) 12 December 2023. Access Date: 25 February 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-to-enhanced-training-offer-for-un-peacekeepers>

³⁸⁶⁶ Summary of the open-ended expert group meeting on enhancing and strengthening international and regional cooperation and domestic efforts to address the global synthetic drug problem, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 22 March 2024. Access Date 13 May 2024. https://syntheticdrugs.unodc.org/uploads/syntheticdrugs/res/expert-group-meeting-jan-2024_html/2402942E.pdf

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs, engaging with other willing countries and the private sector.

On 7 July 2023, the Department of State affirmed the ministers and government representatives' commitment to strengthening their response to illicit synthetic drugs on a regional, national, and international level. This declaration was undersigned by over 80 countries, including all G7 members. The countries committed to sharing scientific evidence and technical expertise with each other while also taking into account input from relevant stakeholders and the private sector. In addition, they committed to ensuring the supply and demand reduction of synthetic drugs. The ministerial declaration also established a Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats to further drive international cooperation on the matter.³⁸⁶⁷

On 9 September 2023, the United States reiterated its commitment to international cooperation, through sharing information and building capacity, to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, as part of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India.³⁸⁶⁸ The commitment was part of a larger commitment to global health infrastructure, particularly as centred on the World Health Organization.

On 13 October 2023, the State Department released a joint statement with Mexico to reaffirm its commitment to address drug trafficking, particularly in relation to synthetic drugs including Fentanyl. The statement reiterated the joint efforts of both countries. It also emphasized the success of the US-Mexico Binational Panel of Experts on Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Addiction in raising public awareness of the impact of Fentanyl and other illicit synthetic drugs on public health.³⁸⁶⁹

On 1 February 2024, the United States and China announced the launch of the US-PRC Counternarcotics Working Group, emphasizing the need for counternarcotics collaboration. The group complements existing efforts towards countering fentanyl, including the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats, and serves as a mechanism to support bilateral communication and policy enforcement coordination.³⁸⁷⁰

On 9 February 2024, Canada, Mexico and the US issued a joint statement to reaffirm their commitments to combat the trafficking of illicit synthetic drugs and firearms. They committed to increasing collaboration on the control of precursor chemicals and equipment related to illicit drug production, reviewing their legal frameworks and accordingly engaging with the private sector. The countries also committed to strengthening diplomatic efforts, building on the foundation laid by the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats. The statement also outlined the role of firearms trafficking in illicit drug production and distribution, highlighting the need to understand criminal organizations' methodologies for drug trafficking.³⁸⁷¹

On 14-22 March 2024, the United States participated in the 67th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in, focusing on Item 6 of the provisional agenda, which pertains to the follow-up of the implementation of

³⁸⁶⁷ Ministerial Declaration on Accelerating and Strengthening the Global Response to Synthetic Drugs, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 07 July 2023. Access Date: 08 November 2023. <https://www.state.gov/ministerial-declaration-on-accelerating-and-strengthening-the-global-response-to-synthetic-drugs/>

³⁸⁶⁸ G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 September 2023. Access Date: 29 October 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html>

³⁸⁶⁹ Joint Statement: U.S.-Mexico High Level Security Dialogue 2023, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 13 October 2023. Access Date: 08 November 2023. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-u-s-mexico-high-level-security-dialogue-2023/>

³⁸⁷⁰ Launch of United States-People's Republic of China Counternarcotics Working Group, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 1 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.state.gov/launch-of-united-states-peoples-republic-of-china-counternarcotics-working-group/>

³⁸⁷¹ Joint Statement from Mexico, Canada, and the United States Reaffirming Our Shared Commitment to Address the Regional Challenge of Synthetic Drugs and Firearms Trafficking, The White House (Washington D.C.) 8 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/02/08/joint-statement-from-mexico-canada-and-the-united-states-reaffirming-our-shared-commitment-to-address-the-regional-challenge-of-synthetic-drugs-and-firearms-trafficking/>

commitments made in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to address and counter the world drug problem.³⁸⁷² Participants discussed how to enhance and strengthen international and regional cooperation, as well as domestic efforts, to address the global synthetic drug problem. The meeting emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts at all levels to effectively tackle the challenges posed by synthetic drugs.

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs, engaging with other willing countries and the private sector. The US has taken part in establishing a Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats and is actively working with foreign nations, such as Mexico, to address illicit synthetic drug trafficking.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Rubi Chopra

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen their cooperation with both the private sector and willing countries to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs.

On 30 June 2023, the European Union passed legislation to revise the authority of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) to further increase powers to address current and future drug problems. The legislation included the creation of threat assessment capabilities, increase of capacity to monitor and address poly-substance use, increased research, best-practice intervention and improved international collaboration.³⁸⁷³

On 7 July 2023, the European Union met to help establish a Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats. The European Union Commission, along with ministers from 80 countries, undersigned a statement to reiterate their commitment to address the “emerging drug-related threat on a national, regional and international level. The coalition pledged multilateral action against synthetic drugs and committed to take action to protect public health and safety.³⁸⁷⁴

On 9 September 2023, the European Union reiterated its commitment to international cooperation, through sharing information and building capacity, to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, as part of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India.³⁸⁷⁵ The commitment was part of a larger commitment to global health infrastructure, particularly as centred on the World Health Organization.

On 10 October 2023, the European Parliament met with the EMCDDA to prepare for policy implementation. The meeting also included dialogue with civil society, discussion of relevant challenges and perspectives for

³⁸⁷² Summary of the open-ended expert group meeting on enhancing and strengthening international and regional cooperation and domestic efforts to address the global synthetic drug problem, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 22 March 2024. Access Date 13 May 2024. https://syntheticdrugs.unodc.org/uploads/syntheticdrugs/res/expert-group-meeting-jan-2024_html/2402942E.pdf

³⁸⁷³ New Legislation Grants Europe Stronger Powers to Tackle Current and Future Drug Problems, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon). 30 June 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2023/6/new-legislation-grants-europe-stronger-powers-tackle-current-and-future-drug-problems_en

³⁸⁷⁴ Ministerial Declaration on Accelerating and Strengthening the Global Response to Synthetic Drugs, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa). 7 July 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/07/ministerial-declaration-on-accelerating-and-strengthening-the-global-response-to-synthetic-drugs.html>

³⁸⁷⁵ G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 September 2023. Access Date: 29 October 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html>

cooperation within the European parliament. The EMCDDA announced preparation to implement new drug policy regulation with particular consideration for international challenges with fentanyl.³⁸⁷⁶

On 16 October 2023, the EMCDDA took an official visit to Peru to strengthen cooperation on anti-drug policy. The meeting included discussion about implementing a national early-warning system in Peru and the detection of new psychoactive substances. The EMCDDA and Peru also discussed improving health and social responses to drug problems, including prevention and treatment.³⁸⁷⁷

On 16 October 2023, the EMCDDA and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation published a report on amphetamine, the most common synthetic stimulant in Europe. The report was to inform action areas and policy. There is an emphasis on strengthening responses to reduce supply and enhance security. The goal is to improve international collaboration on policy, public health and safety responses.³⁸⁷⁸

On 18 October 2023, the European Commission adopted a new roadmap to combat organized crime and drug trafficking. The roadmap committed to combating drug trafficking with a multifaceted approach including strengthening European ports, increasing international collaboration, and dismantling high-level crime networks. Additionally, the roadmap outlined actions to be done to address the threat of synthetic drugs including health and security threat assessments and monitoring synthetic drug developments with a European alert system.³⁸⁷⁹

On 10 November 2023, the EMCDDA issued a call for scientists to serve on a committee regarding risk assessment of New Psychoactive Substances. The purpose is to inform the European Union's substance policy response.³⁸⁸⁰

On 17 November 2023, the EMCDDA provided new guidelines for drug checking services. The manual provides information for workers in the field on how to communicate drug related risks to individuals and communities. It also supports the development of drug checking programs by contributing suggestions and resources for their effective development.³⁸⁸¹

On 21 November 2023, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction hosted the 69th Reitox meeting, with representation from 30 national focal points. Reitox is the European network for drug research and information, responsible for collecting data on drugs and drug addiction.³⁸⁸²

³⁸⁷⁶ Dialogue with European Parliament on Preparations for New Agency Mandate, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon). 30 June 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2023/dialogue-european-parliament-preparations-new-agency-mandate_en

³⁸⁷⁷ EMCDDA official visit to Peru in the framework of Working Arrangement with DEVIDA, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon). 16 October 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2023/emcdda-official-visit-peru-framework-working-arrangement-devida_en

³⁸⁷⁸ Amphetamine: New Analysis on Europe's Most Common Synthetic Stimulant Highlights Sophisticated EU-Based Production and Environmental Concerns, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon). 16 October 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2023/amphetamine-new-analysis-europes-most-common-synthetic-stimulant-highlights-sophisticated-eu-based-production-and-environmental-concerns_en

³⁸⁷⁹ New EU Roadmap Steps Up Fight Against Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime, European Commission (Brussels). 18 October 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/new-eu-roadmap-steps-fight-against-drug-trafficking-and-organised-crime-2023-10-18_en

³⁸⁸⁰ Call for Experts to Support the Risk assessment of New Psychoactive Substances, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon). 10 November 2023. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2023/call-experts-support-risk-assessment-new-psychoactive-substances_en

³⁸⁸¹ New Guidance for Drug Checking Services in Health Risk Communication, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon). 17 November 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2023/new-guidance-drug-checking-services-health-risk-communication_en

³⁸⁸² 69th Reitox Extended Meeting, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs (Lisbon). 23 November 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/07/ministerial-declaration-on-accelerating-and-strengthening-the-global-response-to-synthetic-drugs.html>

On 23 January 2024, the EMCDDA met with the Libyan Ministry of the Interior about collaboration on addressing illicit drugs in Europe and Libya. The meeting also included discussion of national observatories and monitoring drug trafficking.³⁸⁸³

On 24 January 2024, the European Commission announced the European Ports Alliance. The European Ports Alliance serves to combat drug trafficking via water by providing EUR200 for drug searching equipment, increasing law enforcement at ports and establishing further partnership with the private sector.³⁸⁸⁴

On 29 January 2024, the EMCDDA announced a series of collaborations with the Jamaican National Council on Drug Abuse. Collaboration included meetings about forensic capacity in Jamaican drug markets and early-warning systems implementation.³⁸⁸⁵

On 20 February 2024, the EMCDDA attended the COPOLAD III events in Bolivia. Across the week, the EMCDDA met with Latin American officials to address the strengthening of national drug observatories, problematic use and vulnerabilities, reduction of illicit drug markets and strengthening the dialogue between Latin American and Caribbean countries with the European Union regarding drug policy.³⁸⁸⁶

On 7 March 2024, the EMCDDA and Europol published a new analysis report of drug markets in the European Union. The report included information and trends of the drug market and outlined what actions need to be taken to address the issues of illicit drugs.³⁸⁸⁷

On 13 March 2024, the EMCDDA visited Moldova to discuss and review their collaboration on anti-drug policy. This included a review of Moldova's early-warning system, national observatory and collection of drug related data. Additionally, the EMCDDA discussed the set-up of new forensic and toxicological laboratories.³⁸⁸⁸

On 15 April 2024, the EMCDDA hosted a training course in Lisbon on drug crimes and markets. The meeting included a collaboration with law enforcement agencies and discussion of the impact of synthetic drugs.³⁸⁸⁹

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen their cooperation with both the private sector and willing countries to address the public health and security threat posed by illicit synthetic drugs. Through collaboration with exterior actors and creation of a new drug agency and roadmap, the European Union has taken action that strengthens action against illicit, synthetic drugs.

³⁸⁸³ Libyan Anti-narcotics Agency Pays First Visit to the EMCDDA, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon) 23 January 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2024/libyan-anti-narcotics-agency-pays-first-visit-emcdda_en

³⁸⁸⁴ European Ports Alliance to Combat Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/european-ports-alliance-fight-drug-trafficking-and-organised-crime-2024-01-24_en

³⁸⁸⁵ COPOLAD III: EMCDDA Embarks on Week of Events with Jamaican Partners, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon) 29 January 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2024/copolad-iii-emcdda-embarks-week-events-jamaican-partners_en

³⁸⁸⁶ EMCDDA Participates in COPOLAD III Events in Bolivia, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024.

³⁸⁸⁷ EMCDDA and Europol Spotlight Drug-related Violence in Latest Market Overview, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon) 7 March 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2024/emcdda-participates-copolad-iii-events-bolivia_enhttps://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2024/3/emcdda-and-europol-spotlight-drug-related-violence-latest-market-overview_en

³⁸⁸⁸ EU4Monitoring Drugs II: EMCDDA visit to Moldova, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon) 13 March 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2024/eu4monitoring-drugs-ii-emcdda-visit-moldova_en

³⁸⁸⁹ International Cooperation Partners Participate in EMCDDA-CEPOL Training Course on 'Drug crime and markets: Strategic Analysis', European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon) 15 April 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2024/international-cooperation-partners-participate-emcdda-cepol-training-course-drug-crime-and-markets-strategic-analysis%E2%80%99_en

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

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