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Reply
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The policy of the European Union on drugs is based on the EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020)¹ and on the EU Action Plan on Drugs (2017-2020)², which were adopted by the Council in December 2012 and July 2017 respectively.

The Strategy aims to help reduce drug demand and drug supply within the EU. It also aims to reduce the health and social risks or harm caused by drugs. The Strategy pursues these aims through an approach that supports and complements national policies, that provides a framework for coordinated and joint actions and that forms the basis and political framework for EU external cooperation in this field. The approach is integrated, balanced and evidence-based. The Strategy is thus wider than only a policy of prohibition and sanctions.

The Action Plan 2017-2020 was based on an external mid-term assessment of the EU Drugs Strategy and on the implementation of the EU Drugs Action Plan 2013-2016. The evaluation concluded that most of the actions provided for in the Action Plan 2013-2016 were concluded or in progress and that the need for a second Action Plan had been demonstrated. The EU Drugs Action Plan 2017-2020 takes into account the results of this evaluation and the major changes in the drug situation and policies since the adoption of the last Action Plan.

¹ OJ C 402 of 29.12.2012, p.1.

² OJ C 215 of 5.7.2017, p.21.