



Organization of
American States



Dialogue between the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General with the Heads of Delegation of the Permanent Observers on the theme of the General Assembly “For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas”

June 4, 2013 - Antigua, Guatemala

Permanent Observer Mission of Estonia

Remarks delivered by:

Mart Laanemäe, Undersecretary for Europe and Transatlantic Relations

Mr. Secretary General, your Excellences, dear guests

Estonia has been a permanent observer of the OAS for 11 years and this is the first time to speak. As a small, far-away country – easier to find in the internet than on the map – that is part of the region of shared values of Europe and the OAS, it is important to speak out to offer our encouragement to your work.

In joining my European Union colleagues who have covered the important issues, I would like to mention some specific points.

Estonia as a small trading and investing nation promotes free trade and investment worldwide and sees great potential in broad transatlantic trade and investment agreements that take into account the needs of developing countries. Facilitating legal trade also entails a strong effort to combat illegal trade, above all the worldwide problem of drug trafficking.

Estonia is not only a destination of drug trafficking but Estonians who have engaged in trafficking are imprisoned worldwide and place an additional strain on our limited resources.

We need a joint transatlantic effort to combat drug trafficking and Estonia fully supports the efforts of the OAS to this end.

Estonia considers it important to develop and implement more digital solutions to combat drug trafficking and promotes digital issues, especially e-government worldwide, the more so that Estonia is considered to lead the world in internet freedom.

Altogether Estonia places great importance on human rights and as a new member of the UN Human Rights Council together with 9 OAS members fully supports the OAS Human Rights System.

Mr. Secretary General,

In closing let me thank you for the opportunity to speak here and wish the OAS a successful General Assembly. Thank you.