

European Update

European Commission

The European Commission adopted an EU drugs action plan for 2009-2012 which proposes wide-ranging measures to strengthen European cooperation to curb the consequences of drug use and cut drug-related crime. <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1366&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

European Commission

This month the European Commission has announced the launch of a Civil Society Discussion Forum on Drug Policy in the European Union. The forum is open to any NGO working in the drugs field in the EU. The discussion forum can be found at: <http://forums.ec.europa.eu/drugs/>

EMCDDA

A new publication data sheet that provides a condensed review of the key issues about how heroin manufactured from Afghan opium reaches European consumers via the Balkan and northern routes. 20-page PDF http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_62086_EN_emcdda_tds_herointrafficking_2008.pdf

European Court of Human Rights

The court decided that it was not incompatible with the notion of a fair hearing in criminal proceedings for the onus of proof to be placed on the accused to provide a credible account of his financial situation, once it has been proved that he had been involved in extensive and lucrative drug dealing over a period of years. <http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/reports/article4863913.ece>

Ireland

The Drug Treatment Centre Board has undertaken a novel approach to enhance outcomes in addiction treatment using charity sponsorship as an incentive for clients. <http://www.addictionireland.ie/news/article.asp?NID=141&NCID=1>

Ireland

Drugs counselling booklet for parents launched

Parents who find their children drunk on alcohol or high on drugs are being urged to stay calm in a new support booklet unveiled today. <http://www.drugs.ie/news/731/>

Spain

Researchers from Spain have found a strong and independent link between cannabis use and the onset of psychosis at a younger age. The association, they say, cannot be explained by chance, and is not related to gender or the use of other drugs. It is, however, related to the amount of cannabis used.

<http://www.psychiatrist.com/abstracts/abstracts.asp?abstract=200808/080802.htm>

Sweden

The first ever World Forum Against Drugs was held in Stockholm, Sweden, in September. This global forum is the first of its kind at which NGOs, self-help groups, treatment centers, academics, municipal and regional authorities, politicians and other decision-makers, private individuals, the business community from around the world have got the opportunity meet to express ideas and share experiences about how to work successfully against illicit drugs. See outcomes and resolution at: <http://www.wfad08.org/>

United Kingdom

The winter edition of Catalyst, the newsletter from the US Department of Education's Higher Education Center for alcohol and other drug abuse and violence prevention, focuses on evaluation. <http://www.higheredcenter.org/files/product/catalyst26.pdf>

United Kingdom

Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales, 2003-07. The figures show that male deaths from drug poisoning are at their highest point for five years while the figures for female deaths are the lowest since records started in 1993. <http://www.drugscope.org.uk/Documents/PDF/Good%20Practice/ONSdrugdeaths08.pdf>

United Kingdom

The number of 16 and 17-year-olds being treated for drug addiction has soared by 30 per cent in two years. And cocaine is fast catching up with cannabis as the drug of choice for teenagers, figures out today show. There were 7,857 youngsters aged 16 and 17 on drug treatment programmes in England in 2007/08 - up from 6,058 the year before. Worryingly, there was also a significant increase in the number of under-16s receiving treatment, up 17 per cent to 6,840.

http://www.nta.nhs.uk/areas/facts_and_figures/0708/docs/ndtms_annual_report_2007_08_011008.pdf

Wales

"Working Together to Reduce Harm" is the Welsh Assembly Government's new 10 year substance misuse strategy which aims to set out a clear national agenda for tackling and reducing the harms associated with substance misuse in Wales.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/dsjlg/publications/communitysafety/strategy/strategy.e?lang=en>

World Update

UNODC

UNODC's new Global Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Assessment Report warns that synthetic drugs such as ecstasy, amphetamine and methamphetamine - the drugs of modern times - are becoming more popular in developing countries.

<http://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/ATS/Global-ATS-Assessment-2008-Web.pdf>

UNODC

UN report focuses on spread of HIV through drug injection. The study, carried out by the Reference Group to the United Nations on HIV and Injecting Drug Use, is based on a review of 11,000 documents from published, government and non-government reports, as well as consultations with world experts in the field.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/un-report-focuses-on-spread-of-hiv-through-drug-injection.html>

WADA

The 2009 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods has been issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and will come into force on 1 January 2009.

<http://www.c-f-1.com/d.aspx?e=MTI3MzE2OTYwNg==&c=1&linkID=916077>

Afghanistan

NATO forces in Afghanistan will step up attacks on drug lords and narcotics traffickers who are supporting an insurgency that over the past year has rebounded and is responsible for rising violence.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/10/02/asia/02military.php>

Australia

Methamphetamine Prevention Research Quarterly. 13-page PDF [Australian Drug Foundation]

http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/downloads/Prevention_Research_Quarterly/IP_08Sept_methamphetamine.pdf

Australia

The National Amphetamine-Type Stimulant Strategy 2008-2011 has been developed within the existing legislative framework and focuses on prevention, supply reduction and treatment in a partnership framework.

<http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/ats-strategy-08>

Canada

Saving the city from addiction. At first blush, a court challenge that argues for a heroin addict's right to shoot up in public looks like another demand to surrender to the addicts.

<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/comment/story.html?id=8ac08422-13ce-4cc0-9854-bf1323c605d4>

Costa Rica

A submarine-like vessel carrying seven tons of cocaine was captured by the U.S. Coast Guard in international

waters off the coast of Costa Rica. 37 bales of cocaine on board had an estimated street value of \$187 million.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2008/us-coast-guard-captures.html>

Middle East and North Africa

Funds Available for Harm Reduction Projects in the Middle East and North Africa. The Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRRA) has just announced a new call for proposals for harm reduction projects in the Middle East and North Africa region.

<http://www.ihra.net/News#FundsAvailableforHarmReductionProjectsInTheMiddleEastandNorthAfrica>

New Zealand

Alcohol and Other Drugs in the Workplace Employers guide. 20-page PDF [Alcohol Advisory Council of NZ]

http://www.acc.co.nz/PRD_EXT_CSMP/groups/external_business_description/documents/publications_promotion/prd_ctrb092011.pdf

USA

American officials announced what they called a significant blow to one of Mexico's largest and most ruthless drug cartels with the arrests of 175 people in the United States and Italy suspected of helping the group traffic drugs and launder profits.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/18/world/americas/18mexico.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

USA

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health, by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is based on interviews with about 67,500 people and shows little change in 2007.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/04/AR2008090400034.html>

USA

Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2009 identify the following countries as major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

<http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/prsr/ps/109777.htm>

USA

Illicit-drug use rates remained essentially unchanged last year, although there are some positive trends over the past five years, according to the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

<http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k7nsduh/2k7Results.cfm#TOC>

West Africa

The UN body fighting drug trafficking in West Africa says progress is being made despite serious problems in bringing suspects to face justice.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7611151.stm>

Drug Webwatch

SCAD Armenia

Drug trafficking and drug abuse in the South Caucasus is a challenge to national authorities in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and to the international community more broadly. The South Caucasus Anti-Drug (SCAD) Programme is the response of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union (EU) and national governments of the South Caucasus to reinforce drug control capacities in the region while simultaneously bolstering the capacity of national stakeholders to prevent drug abuse and provide continuum care to drug addicts.

The overall objective of the SCAD programme is the gradual adoption by beneficiary authorities of EU good practices in the field of drug policies. SCAD covers both supply and demand reduction and helps facilitate the implementation of the drug-related components of the action plans of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The Armenian web site of the Southern Caucasus Anti Drug project is <http://scadarmenia.org/>

The Georgian web site is <http://www.scad.ge/>

Publication

There's a new book from DrugScope, *The Essential Guide to Working with Young People about Drugs and Alcohol*, which has been edited by Jenny McWhirter and Hajra Mir. The *Guide* is aimed at a broad range of professionals who work with young people who are misusing drugs and alcohol or who are at risk of doing so, including teachers, youth workers, drug treatment workers, Youth Offending Teams and personal advisors. In eleven easy-to-digest chapters, the book's contributors, all practitioners themselves, provide practical advice and information and explain the latest government policies and strategies around young people's substance misuse.

<http://www.drugscope.org.uk/ourwork/pressoffice/pressreleases/essentials-young-people.htm>

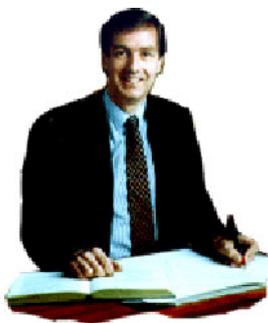
News items

The news page *DrugWorld* is updated on a regular basis with items from all around the world. You can access it at www.drugworld.co.uk/news.php Add it to your Favourites or Bookmarks for ease of access.

Future Issues

I would like to express thanks to those persons around the world who have contributed to this issue in particular to Jim Young at Substance Misuse. Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to paul@paul-cook.net

If you feel the information in this newsletter is of interest to members of your national drug information network then please feel free to translate and circulate copies to them.



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