

European Update

EMCDDA

DrugNet Europe Issue 69

In this issue: 2010 work programme and budget; EMCDDA and Europol step up information collection on mephedrone; upcoming Guidelines for collecting data on retail drug prices in Europe; European drug prevention quality standards.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index99830EN.html>

EMCDDA

Threat Assessment Anthrax outbreak among drug users. Joint ECDC and EMCDDA Threat Assessment Anthrax outbreak among drug users, UK and Germany Update http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/activities/sciadvice/Documents/2010-02-11-TA_anthrax_IDU_ECDC-EMCDDA.pdf

Denmark

First free heroin clinic opens in Denmark. After years of contention, Denmark opened its first clinic equipped to distribute free heroin under medical supervision to people heavily addicted to the drug. The Scandinavian country joins a number of countries like Switzerland, the Netherlands and Germany to allow prescriptions for medicinal heroin, or diamorphine, to be written out to a small group of addicts so hooked on the substance that more traditional substitutes like methadone have no effect.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gTkinIRauGzVuolBAMquCoxnlbBA>

Italy

Italy MP Tests Positive for Cocaine, One of the 232 Italian members of parliament who voluntarily submitted to drug testing received a positive result for cocaine, the country's antidrug agency said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-19/italy-mp-tests-positive-for-cocaine-antidrug-agency-says.html>

Montenegro

Montenegro has become a major smuggling route for South American cocaine into Europe in recent years. Working with Latin American authorities, Serbian intelligence officials recently broke a suspected drug trafficking trying to get \$350m worth of cocaine to Western Europe through Montenegro. (Video)

<http://migenteunida.org/en/world-wide/the-balkan-cocaine-route>

Romania

Romanian authorities discovered a substantial haul of heroin hidden in a Bulgarian registered truck carrying aid for Haiti. The driver of the truck claimed he was transporting humanitarian aid for the Haiti quake victims. But when they searched the truck, police officers found the heroin

stashed in the vehicle's brake system.

http://www.sofiaecho.com/2010/02/21/862036_heroin-found-in-bulgarian-aid-truck-bound-for-haiti

Russia

The head of the Federal Drug Control Service said Wednesday that Russia would seek to get Afghan drug production recognized as an international security threat when it takes over the chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council in August.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/russia-to-press-un-over-drugs/400924.html>

Spain

Spanish authorities in Valencia have seized 1,200 kilos of pure cocaine, hidden in the false floor of a container on a freighter whose last port of call was Dominican Republic, consigned to a company in Madrid. Sources close to the ongoing investigation said two people were arrested.

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/dr/world/2010/3/4/35001/Spanish-agents-find-1200-kilos-of-cocaine-on-boat-from-Dominican-Republic>

Sweden

Maria Larsson, Swedish Minister for Elderly Care and Public Health, talks about Swedish drug policy.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TheWFAD>

United Kingdom

Largest ever study of cocaine users in treatment published. More people are using powder cocaine, are seeking help for dependency, and more are being successfully treated, according to the results of the largest ever study into the effectiveness of treatment for powder cocaine dependency in England, published by the [NTA, UK]

http://www.nta.nhs.uk/media/media_releases/2010_media_releases/largest_ever_study_of_cocaine_users_in_treatment010310.aspx

United Kingdom

Mephedrone: classifying 'legal highs'. 'Until we know the real harm of legal recreational drugs such as mephedrone, they should be put into a holding 'class D', say Professor David Nutt.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/mar/01/drugs-mephedrone-class-d>

United Kingdom

HIV prevention, treatment, and care services for people who inject drugs: a systematic review of global, regional, and national coverage

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)60232-2/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60232-2/fulltext)

World Update

UNODC

UNODC Documents Support for Harm Reduction in 2009. A report of the executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime summarised the agency's support for harm reduction strategies internationally

<http://www.ihra.net/News#UNODCDocumentsSupportforHarmReductionin2009>

UNODC

Newsletter Issue 9, March 2010 from the UNODC.
http://www.unodc.org/documents/newsletter/NewsUNODC_March10.html

Australia

The Australian Drug Foundation (ADF) has updated another resource in the ever-popular *What drug is that?* series. This handy brochure builds on the demand for information, and photographs of a range of legal and illegal drugs for general community members.

<http://webmail.tiscali.co.uk/cp/ps/Main/layout/MetaFrameSet?d=lineone.net&SA=Mail&u=paul.cook&t=d21d48d29d40&l=en>

Colombia

In the jungle-clad mountains of the Sierra Nevada, Colombia, a cocaine lab run by a coca farmer is visited. How do you make cocaine? Take some coca leaves, a number of nasty substances, add some bullets, some scary paramilitary soldiers, a dash of guerrillas, some corrupt cops and a pinch of coca farmer, and you've got one of the world's deadliest drug cocktails. (Video)

<http://thesightseeingspot.com/cocaine-factory-lonely-planet-travel-video/>

India

Customs officials confiscated approximately 20 kilograms of heroin worth around rupees one billion in the international market from a drug runner at Amritsar. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has termed this as one of the biggest ever drug seizures in India.

<http://news.oneindia.in/2010/02/21/customsofficials-seize-20-kilograms-ofheroin.html>

Mali

Three al-Qaeda agents assured the Colombians that they would have no problem moving their shipment of European-bound cocaine through the Islamist Sahara. As supporters of the terrorist organisation's North African branch, they would guarantee shipment of the drugs through territory they controlled - so long as they were paid fee of \$2,000 per kilo. The trio, all from Mali, thought they were setting up a deal with representatives of Colombia's Marxist FARC guerrillas to smuggle up to 1,000 kgs of cocaine. In fact, they were speaking to informants for the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandin-dianocean/mali/7386278/Cocaine-kidnapping-and-the-Al-Qaeda-cash-squeeze.html>

Mauritius

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam pledged to impose the death penalty for drug offences. The Prime Minister - an Ireland-trained physician - even suggested including Subutex, an opioid substitute which is used to treat drug dependence, to the list of substances that could be tried as capital crimes.

<http://www.ihrablog.net/2010/03/mauritius-prime-minister-to-drug-users.html>

Mexico

A top Mexican drug kingpin who allegedly smuggled hundreds of millions of dollars worth of cocaine and heroin into the United States has been extradited to stand trial in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Jesus Vicente Zambada-Niebla, whose father allegedly leads a large faction of the Sinaloa cartel, was handed over to Drug Enforcement Administration officials.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/02/18/mexico.us.druglord.extradite/?hpt=Sbin>

Morocco

Customs officials at the port of the Moroccan city of Casablanca have intercepted more than six tonnes of cannabis resin, destined for Spain. The smuggling gang had tried to conceal the drugs in boxes of paper.

http://www.barcelonareporter.com/index.php?/news/comments/police_intercept_six_tons_of_cannabis_resin_destined_for_spain/2202100734am

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leoneans are increasingly growing cannabis instead of staple foods such as cassava and rice, a shift that is threatening food production capacity. The information from a nation still recovering from 11 years of war is the latest stark warning of a trend towards West Africa increasingly becoming a producer of and transit point for drugs bound for Europe or consumed locally.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE61G00020100217>

USA

The first U.S. clinical trials in more than 20 years on the medical efficacy of marijuana found that pot helps relieve pain and muscle spasms associated with multiple sclerosis and certain neurological conditions, according to a report by a research centre.

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v10/n123/a07.html>

Zambia

The Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) in Lusaka has disclosed that the Zambian woman who was arrested recently in India for drug trafficking has been on its watch list. Matapo Ejar Twambo was arrested on in Mumbai, India for trying to smuggle out 5.4 kilograms of cocaine and 950 grammes of heroin.

http://www.postzambia.com/post-read_article.php?articleId=6755

Drug Update

Recently published Reports

USA State Department

2010 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report

This US report is a review of foreign governments' efforts to deal with their own domestic narcotics problems and to meet their international responsibilities as set forth in UN narcotics and crime treaties.

Volume 1: Drugs and Chemical Control. Volume 2: Money Laundering and Financial Crimes.

<http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2010/index.htm>

United Nations

International Narcotics Control Board Report on 2009

This year the report focuses on primary prevention; international drug control; special topics including herbal mixtures, ketamine and illegal internet pharmacies; plus an analysis of the world drug situation by region.

<http://www.incb.org/incb/en/annual-report-2009.html>

United Nations

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

http://www.incb.org/pdf/precursors-report/2009/English/Precursors_Report_09_english.pdf

United Kingdom

UK Drug Situation: UK Focal Point on Drugs 2009 Edition Annual Report to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

<http://www.cph.org.uk/showPublication.aspx?pubid=620>

United Kingdom

The Cocaine Trade - Home Affairs Committee - Seventh Report

Cocaine powder use in the UK has risen steeply. The number of adults reporting cocaine use within the past year quintupled from 1996 to 2008/09, as did the number of young people: this trend bucks the overall trend in illicit drug use in the UK, which fell during the same period. The number of individuals in treatment for primary cocaine powder addiction has also risen, from 10,770 in 2006/07 to 12,592 in 2007/08.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmhaff/74/7402.htm>

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 and Roger van de Sompel**

Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to paul@paul-cook.net

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