

European Update

EMCDDA

Statistical bulletin on the number of drug-induced deaths recorded in EU Member States and Norway according to EMCDDA standard definition 'Selection B', 1995 to 2008
<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/stats10/drdrtab3>

Finland

Finland used by drug smugglers as gateway to Russia. Rising standards of living boost demand for Western drugs. Increasing amounts of illegal drugs are being smuggled to Russia, with Finland as a transit point.
<http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Finland%2Bused%2Bby%2Bdrug%2Bsmugglers%2Bas%2Bgateway%2Bto%2BRussia/1135259229895>

Ireland

Retailers who have sold certain 'legal highs' could face up to 10 years in prison following the initiation of prosecutions by the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) against several companies for the "unauthorised" sale and importation of medicinal substances
http://www.drugs.ie/news/article/retailers_who_have_sold_certain_legal_highs_could_face_up_to_10_years

Czech Republic

Czech authorities announced Wednesday they had dismantled a major cannabis network and arrested 21 suspected members from Vietnam, following a six-month drugs operation by police and customs officers.
<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/International/Czech-dismantles-major-cannabis-network-9516.html>

Russia

Moscow police to test drug detecting device on drivers. Drugs and traffic police will work in tandem on an experiment to detect drivers under the influence of narcotics on the streets of Moscow.
<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20100817/160230094.html>

Scotland

Drug Death Matters - Newsletter

Issue 9 features: update from the National Forum on Drug-related Deaths; details of the recently established Scottish Drugs Recovery launch and their new partnership with the UK Drug Policy Commission on stigma research.
http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/local/drugs_deaths_newsletter_ed9.pdf

Scotland

In the first of a major two-part investigation David Pratt follows the flood of heroin from Afghanistan to Scotland and asks: why has the war made it worse?
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/the-trail-of-destruction-1.1048309?localLinksEnabled=false>

Serbia

Serbian customs officials seized more than 50 kilograms of heroin at a border post with Bulgaria. The drugs were concealed in compartments built under car seats.
http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gjf9U_oCTWI0uyzj_CIJ_gWc6TPA

Spain

The cannabis-derived medicine Sativex has been approved in its second European market, Spain, as an add-on therapy for treating spasticity in patients with multiple sclerosis.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE66R08U20100728>

South East Europe

IDPC magazine features interviews with police officers from South East Europe and Eurasia – Albania, Greece, Kyrgyz Republic, Serbia and Ukraine. Police officers are asked their views on their law enforcement strategies, which in these 2 regions tend to focus on arresting drug users for possession of small amounts of illegal drugs.
<http://idpc.net/sites/default/files/library/Issue%202.pdf>

The Netherlands

Maastricht, the Dutch town that has come to symbolise a Europe of open borders, may be about start closing them again, having won the first stage of a legal battle to stop foreigners being sold cannabis in its licensed coffee shops.
<http://www.presseurop.eu/en/content/news-brief-cover/317721-maastricht-goes-pot>

United Kingdom

A smuggler has been jailed for 20 years for the manslaughter of a taxi driver who died after unwittingly drinking a shot of rum from a bottle heavily laced with cocaine. The death was the tragic culmination of a chain of coincidences after the bottle of Bounty Rum and its lethal contents was taken aboard a flight from St Lucia to Gatwick airport by an unsuspecting passenger, who then passed it to another, before it was given to the driver as a thank-you present.

http://www.policeoracle.com/news/20-Years-For-Smuggling-Cocaine-Laced-Rum_25747.html

United Kingdom

Ivory Wave drug implicated in death of 24-year-old man. Drug bought online as legal high following ban on mephedrone causing several hospitalisations and possibly one death.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/aug/17/ivory-wave-drug-alleged-death>

World Update

Abu Dhabi

Police have arrested a man for allegedly being in possession of eight kilogrammes of heroin stowed away inside electronic devices. The Afghan man had concealed narcotics inside 51 electronic goods including DVD players and car music systems. The 22-year-old suspect had arrived in the country on a tourist visa.

<http://gulfnnews.com/news/gulf/uae/crime/arrest-of-man-on-tourist-visa-leads-to-8kg-heroin-stash-1.658919>

Costa Rica

Why are Marines Disembarking in Costa Rica? The recent decision in Costa Rica to allow a massive build-up of US military presence has less to do with drug trafficking than US imperial strategy. <http://www.tni.org/article/why-are-marines-disembarking-costa-rica>

Dubai

Police at Dubai airport seized a huge stash of cocaine in the hand luggage of a man traveling from Brazil to Africa through the Gulf aviation hub. The haul of almost 10 kilograms was found by an anti-drug unit after officials noticed the man was displaying 'signs of confusion.'

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h5RRshLZkw3IkD9RP4GFyghsepMA>

India

Drug abuse has become widespread. Kashmir, a traditional center of mystical Sufi Islam, has a long history of opium and marijuana use in cultural practices. Now many are addicted to smoking heroin and hash, while others are taking codeine-laced cough syrup and prescription opiates from the rash of unregulated pharmacies that sell even morphine without a prescription. Teens regularly sniff glue, corrective liquid and even cooking gas.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hn_7MfiHSyItwIGqTIOGz5PXZWRQD9HJMD101

Mexico

Mexico drug cartels thrive despite offensive. Nearly four years after President Felipe Calderón launched a military-led crackdown against drug traffickers, the cartels are smuggling more narcotics into the United States, amassing bigger fortunes and extending their dominion at home with such savagery that swaths of Mexico are now, in effect, without authority.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2012/588754_mexdrug11.html

Morocco

Moroccan maritime police seized about 2.7 tons of cannabis resin bound for Europe off the north African country's Mediterranean coast.

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100814203922290C199228

Nigeria

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency has smashed a major International drug syndicate of two Chinese nationals including their Nigerian clearing agent

that smuggles cocaine from South American countries to West Africa. The arrest was following the interception of over 450kg of cocaine unlawfully imported from Chile; with an estimated street value of over 4 billion.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007270225.html>

Peru

Around two tonnes of cocaine camouflaged among sacks of coffee meant to be shipped to Europe were seized in Peru. Police launched an operation and seized the narcotics, and also dismantled a drug cartel. Over 250,000 pills of party drug ecstasy, which the cartel was about to send to Mexico, were also seized. Eight people of Peruvian nationality were detained. Police added that the drug cartel also consists of Colombian and Dutch nationals.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Two-tonnes-of-cocaine-found-in-coffee-bags/Article1-577359.aspx>

Puerto Rico

U.S. authorities have seized 241 kilograms (about 530 pounds) of cocaine from a makeshift boat traveling toward Puerto Rico's west coast. After a brief chase, they detained two U.S. citizens aboard the boat and seized 209 bricks of cocaine.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jObovb8WKA46eJ0dp7ZZssEOad6gD9HI6ML82>

Singapore

The Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) seized about \$5.9 million worth of drugs in the first half of 2010, which is almost \$2 million more compared to the same period last year. Heroin seizures have been the highest half-yearly seizure since the first half of 2008, while the methamphetamine seizures have been the highest half-yearly seizure in the last five years.

http://www.thegovmonitor.com/world_news/asia/singapore-reports-drug-seizures-up-in-first-half-of-2010-36705.html

Venezuela

One 4-ton shipment was arriving on a jetliner to Mexico. Another ton and a half would cross on a propeller plane, tons more by ship. The shipments were bound for Russia, Western Europe and the West African nation of Ghana, with some eventually going to New York. They were all coming from one place: Venezuela. Drug smuggling through Venezuela has exploded since President Hugo Chavez severed contacts with U.S. law-enforcement agencies in 2005, U.S. and U.N. say in reports. Some experts worry the country is headed for an epidemic of organized crime like the one that has gripped Mexico.

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/article/s/2010/07/27/20100727venezuela-drug-activity-increasing.html>

Drug Update

Reports.

Drug Misuse Declared

Findings from the 2009/10 British Crime Survey England. Accompanying tables and reports [Home Office, UK]
<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1310.pdf>

A Matter of Substance - Fighting Drug Trafficking With a Substance-Oriented Approach

This paper discusses the "substance-oriented approach" Dutch authorities implemented to scare off potential small-scale cocaine smugglers. The focus was on the drugs, rather than the couriers, and on incapacitating the smuggling route, rather than deterrence by incarceration.

<http://www.druglawreform.info/images/stories/documents/dlr7.pdf>

Argentina: Reform on the Way?

A landmark ruling in Argentina declared criminalization of drug carrying for personal consumption as unconstitutional, but there is a long way to go in implementing an effective drug reform agenda.

<http://lists.tni.org/newsletter/lt.php?id=LUUCB1VXAg1WAKIUBApJVAMBAw%3D%3D>

Isle of Man - Drug and Alcohol Strategy Annual Report 2009-10

This report is a snapshot of all the work in progress to ensure that we continue to be an Island where families, individuals and communities feel safe, protected and secure.

<http://www.gov.im/lib/docs/dha/ceo/DandA/drugandalcoholstrategyannualrep.pdf>

Scotland - Drug Related Deaths in Scotland in 2009. NHS Board and Council statistics for certain drugs for 2009, on the 'all drugs found present in the body' basis. <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/drug-related-deaths/drd2009/index.html>

United Kingdom: Drugs Production Causing Violent Crime (ACPO).

A rising tide of violence is accompanying a boom in illegal cannabis farms and factories in Britain, according to senior police officers. Nearly 7,000 cannabis farms and factories were uncovered by the police in the past 12 months – more than double the number detected in 2007-08.

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/064a%20UK%20National%20Problem%20Profile%20Cultivation%20of%20Cannabis.pdf>

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**

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

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