

European Update

EMCDDA

The risk-assessment report is now submitted to the Commission and Council of the EU in the final stage of the process. On the basis of the report, the Council, upon an initiative of the Commission, may decide to subject mephedrone to control measures throughout the EU. http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_116485_EN_Risk%20Assessment%20Report%20on%20mephedrone.pdf

Austria

A rhinoceros enclosure at Hellbrunn zoo in western Austria turns out to have served a more lucrative purpose: as a cannabis plantation, the zoo revealed. A caretaker at the zoo was able to grow over 30 marijuana plants in the enclosure, unbeknownst to anyone else. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j66sdCNiK3n--ieGUasZbKvAglFQ>

Bulgaria

Bulgarian police say they have arrested two Croatians accused of trying to smuggle 13 tons of a chemical that can be used to make heroin. The Interior Ministry said a truck driver, 52, and his 50-year-old accomplice were arrested at the Kapitan Andreevo border crossing between Bulgaria and Turkey. The chemical they were allegedly smuggling to Turkey is acetic anhydride, and there was enough of it to make five tons of heroin. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5g03pgqcGRX7ZktFK5aeAdEXkLJaA>

Greece

Greek police have seized 120 kilograms of heroin hidden inside a truck in the Igumenitsa port. A Serbian citizen driving the Croatian license plates truck, that was headed for Italy, was arrested.

http://www.b92.net/eng/news/region-article.php?yyyy=2010&mm=08&dd=30&nav_id=69378

Ireland

New laws force more head shops to close. A number of head shops around the country shut down yesterday as tough new government legislation came into effect.

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/new-laws-force-more-head-shops-to-close-2308963.html>

Ireland

Heroin addicts in Cork are not getting fast access to Methadone Treatment Programmes, which could be causing some to overdose. Cork's Methadone Treatment Programme currently has 150 members, while there are a further 14 people waiting to access the programme.

<http://www.corkindependent.com/local-news/local-news/overdose-warning/>

Ireland

Zero tolerance won't solve jail's drugs problem, says ex-governor. The former governor of Mountjoy Prison insisted a zero-tolerance approach to drugs at the jail was "not the answer" to the problem.

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/zero-tolerance-wont-solve-jails-drugs-problem-says-exgovernor-2327365.html>

Turkey

Police in Turkey's largest city of Istanbul confiscated around 77 kg of heroin and detained six suspects in a major anti-drug operation. Turkey has been a key transit route for smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to markets in Europe.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/77-kg-heroin-seized-in-Turkey/Article1-592884.aspx>

United Kingdom

In England and Wales, the total number of deaths related to drug poisoning (involving both legal and illegal drugs) increased each year from 1993 to a peak in 1999, and then gradually declined until 2006. Numbers then increased for two years but have since stabilised in 2009.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=806>

United Kingdom

One of Britain's most senior police officers has proposed decriminalising the personal use of drugs such as cannabis to allow more resources to be dedicated to tackling high-level dealers.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/sep/18/police-chief-decriminalise-cannabis>

United Kingdom

2010 Drug strategy consultation paper

The government plans to publish a new drug strategy later this year. This targeted consultation provides an early opportunity for a wide range of partners to contribute to the development of the new strategy.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/cons-drug-strategy-2010/>

World Update

UNODC

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon introduced Yury Fedotov, the new Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of UNODC. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/September/secretary-general-introduces-new-executive-director-of-unodc.html>

Afghanistan

British troops are being investigated over the trafficking of heroin from Afghanistan into the UK. Military police received a tip-off that large quantities of the drug have been smuggled into Britain on military aircraft flying soldiers back home from the war zone.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2010/09/05/troops-probed-on-drug-traffic-115875-22538569/>

Atlantic

Royal Navy warship intercepts yacht carrying cocaine worth £4m. Drug found hidden in rudder after boat seized in Atlantic following tip-off from French intelligence.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/aug/30/royal-navy-cocaine-yacht-atlantic>

Australia

Drug manufacture has a toxic and largely hidden impact on the Australian community, scientists have warned pointing to the chemical fall-out of clandestine meth labs.

<http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/meth-labs-pose-toxic-risk-to-community-20100826-13t4q.html>

Colombia

Recently, the Government launched a new public awareness campaign in the capital, Bogotá, called "Colombia, a drug free territory". The campaign, in the form television, radio and online infomercials, is being carried out in major cities in the country.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/August/colombia-new-anti-drugs-campaign-targets-the-public.html>

Colombia

Colombian police seized over 1 ton of cocaine hidden in two trucks. Police said the drugs were hidden in the fake bottom of the trucks, which were stopped at a checkpoint.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/americas/news/article_1582266.php/One-ton-of-cocaine-seized-in-Colombia

Gambia

Three Gambian nationals and three Senegalese were arrested after over one tonne of cannabis was found in their possession. Officers of the National Drug Enforcement Agency and the military arrested the six offenders in Seewol village in the country's western region.

<http://sify.com/news/one-tonne-of-cannabis-seized-in-gambia-news-international-ki1haffjchi.html>

Guinea Bissau

Crack cocaine use on rise in Guinea-Bissau. Use of crack cocaine is growing in Guinea-Bissau, the west African nation that has become a major transit point for South American cocaine bound for Europe, police said.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jJW9IMHINO3oH_0pOX8vx50-WrAA

Kyrgyzstan

It is quite possible that 3 tons of heroin are planned to be smuggled through the territory of Kyrgyzstan, said the head of the State Drug Control Service of the Kyrgyz Republic (GSKN KR) Vitaly Orozaliev.

<http://eng.24.kg/investigation/2010/09/06/13441.html>

Mexico

Central America is struggling to contain rising violence as powerful Mexican drug cartels, facing an escalating government crackdown at home, expand southward and intensify operations in neighboring nations.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67P3MA20100826>

Malaysia

142 of 177 Indonesians facing death penalty in Malaysia are drug offenders. The death penalty for drug offences is a violation of the right to life as enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

<http://www.ihra.net/contents/720>

Palestine

An Israeli court has charged three Palestinians with smuggling narcotics from Jordan. The arrests came as the result of a joint operation between Israel's military and Palestinian Authority security services. The three Palestinians were accused of bringing 60 kilograms of heroin into the West Bank.

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=311995>

Uzbekistan

Authorities in Uzbekistan have destroyed half a ton of heroin seized in several busts in an effort to disrupt the drug trafficking route from neighbouring Afghanistan. Around 50 kilograms of opium and 160 kilograms of hashish were also incinerated in a blast furnace in the capital, Tashkent.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5gQx6hGMyQSoCJc2ytzFTm_tSqkFQ

Venezuela

Venezuelan authorities found four tonnes of cocaine buried on a ranch on Thursday after stopping a plane presumably on its way from Mexico to pick up the illegal drug haul.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67Q05F20100827>

Drug Update

Article by Antonio Maria Costa the outgoing executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 'Legalise drugs and a worldwide epidemic of addiction will follow'. Those who argue we should de-criminalise the trade in narcotics are blind to the catastrophic consequences.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/sep/05/legalisation-drugs-antonio-maria-costa>

UNODC

The **new Executive Director of UNODC**, spelled out the initial priorities for his Office upon assuming duties today. Formerly Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Fedotov is also Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV). <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/September/new-unodc-ed-sets-out-immediate-priorities.html?ref=fs1>

Books

Frederick Forsyth's new thriller, "The Cobra," reviewed by Patrick Anderson. 'The president of the United States (not named but said to have had a Kenyan father, which narrows the field) is moved by a teenager's fatal overdose to declare an all-out war on the Colombian cocaine industry.'

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/05/AR2010090502748.html>

Reports.

2010 Street Drug Trends Survey

The ban on mephedrone, the recession and Britain's rising alcohol problems have all left their imprints on the UK drug market over the last year, according to Druglink Street Drug Trends 2010.

<http://www.drugscope.org.uk/Documents/PDF/Publications/Druglinkpromosept10.pdf>

A review of international evidence to support Scotland's National Drugs Strategy, The Road to Recovery. This report presents evidence on effective treatment and recovery from substance misuse

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/08/18112230/0>

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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