

European Update

EMCDDA

Director of the US White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), R. Gil Kerlikowske, visited the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) in Lisbon for talks with the agency's Director Wolfgang Götz and principal scientists. The meeting offered a forum for exchanging views on EU and US drug policy developments and for showcasing the latest projects and activities.

During the meeting, analysts compared notes on a broad range issues, including: drugged driving; best practice and demand reduction approaches; early-warning systems on new drugs; and the medical use of cannabis.

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_118332_EN_ONDCPFactSheet_Final.pdf

EMCDDA

New manual - Guidelines for testing HIV, viral hepatitis and other infections in injecting drug users.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index118461EN.html>

Bulgaria

The customs officers at Oryahovo border checkpoint have seized a large amount of heroin. The drug was hidden in a car with a Bulgarian license plate which was traveling from Bulgaria to Austria. A Bulgarian family with two children was traveling in the vehicle. <http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n231639>

Finland

Police arrested two African men on drug charges stemming from the seizure of half a kilogramme of heroin in Espoo. According to the newspaper Helsingin Sanomat, police believe the drugs are part of a consignment from the same supplier that provided the heroin involved in an overdose death at Helsinki's Glo Hotel

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2010/10/police_arrest_two_in_heroin_bust_2028082.html

Malta

INCB President addresses 17th ECAD Conference on Gozo Island, Malta. The President's address covered the achievements and challenges of international drug control and best practice in demand reduction.

http://www.incb.org/documents/President_statements_10/INCB_President_Statement_ECAD_Malta_23Sep10.pdf

Ireland

Heroin use in Dublin is continuing to grow, according to the annual report of Merchants Quay Ireland. The charity, which provides support and counselling to drug users, the homeless and prisoners, also says there is further evidence the drug problem is continuing to rise outside of the capital. <http://www.rte.ie/news/2010/0924/drugs.html>

Romania

A Romanian citizen tried to smuggle over one kilogram of heroin through Danube bridge border checkpoint. He was arrested due to joint actions of the Romanian and Bulgarian services.

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n230877>

Russia

Russia's State Duma Foreign Affairs Committee and the National Counternarcotics Fund held a conference on drug trafficking in Moscow on Monday. Russian deputies suggest that an international database of drug smugglers should be created.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/10/04/23975573.html>

Spain

The group of 13 – including four women – were picked up for selling ecstasy and cannabis on the Costa Blanca and the party island of Ibiza. Spanish police seized 53,000 ecstasy pills and 100 cannabis plants during the swoop. The gang, who all come from Liverpool, are accused of producing and distributing the “designer” drugs from a base in Alicante.

<http://www.theolivepress.es/2010/10/06/british-drug-gang-including-a-pensioner-and-four-women-busted-in-spain/>

United Kingdom

The Birmingham Drug and Alcohol Action Team (BDAAT) have developed a new e-learning package to enable individuals to increase their knowledge and awareness of substance use and related issues.

<http://www.bdaat.co.uk/elearning.php>

United Kingdom

The player unions representing footballers and cricketers in England have called for recreational drugs to be removed from the World Anti-Doping Agency's prohibited list. Rather than punishing athletes who test positive for cocaine and marijuana during in-competition testing with a two-year ban for a first offence, the groups the focus should be on rehabilitation.

http://espn.go.com/sports/soccer/news/_id/5649320/english-unions-call-removal-cocaine-marijuana-tests

United Kingdom

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs: Consideration of the anabolic steroids. This ACMD report considers the issue of anabolic steroid misuse.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/acmd1/anabolic-steroids-report/>

World Update

Afghanistan

The Taliban made £65million last year from Afghanistan's opium trade despite the presence of thousands of British troops, a damning UN report has found. In a startling indication that the war on poppy growing is having little effect, insurgents are still reaping the benefits despite the loss of life and huge amounts of money being thrown at the problem. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1316562/Taliban-rakes-63m-heroin-crops-despite-British-troops-crackdown.html>

Australia

Cannabis worth \$14 million has been seized by police investigating a large-scale drug syndicate that recruited financially vulnerable people of Southeast Asian background. <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/cannabis-worth-14m-seized-in-sydney-20100923-15o7s.html>

Canada

Police have broken up a sophisticated international drug ring that smuggled more than \$9 million of cocaine and meth from Mexico hidden in clay bricks and lawn ornaments. <http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Police+bust+drug+ing+seize+million+cocaine+meth/3630168/story.html>

Chile

Chile defender Roberto Cereceda has tested positive for cocaine and faces a two-year suspension, his club Colo Colo said. The positive results of both A and B samples came from a test after a match against Bolivia's Universidad de Sucre last month in the Copa Sudamericana, South America's equivalent of the Europa League. <http://uk.eurosport.yahoo.com/09102010/58/international-football-chile-defender-tests-cocaine.html>

Gambia

The Gambia has introduced harsher penalties against drug crime, including execution for anyone found holding more than 250g of cocaine or heroin. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11489200>

Guatemala

Guatemalan police captured a suspected drug trafficker wanted in the United States for cocaine smuggling and seized nearly \$2 million in cash that his brother was carrying in two bags. Mauro Ramirez Barrios, alias "The Purple One," was arrested Saturday in the southern town of San Bernardino after a four-day search. http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gqdPZnz_XVCuM8OKQjEjEvf8WezjAD9IKF5RG2?docId=D9IKF5RG2

India

During a special drive against drug smuggling in the areas bordering Pakistan, the police arrested four smugglers and recovered 5 kg of heroin and a 30-bore pistol from their possession in two separate incidents. The value of the seized contraband has been estimated to be

around Rs 25 crore in the international market. <http://www.thelinkpaper.ca/?p=3473>

New Zealand

Organised crime is more than just guns and drugs with environmental and cyber crime also proving a lucrative business, says the country's newest crime-busting agency. The Organised and Financial Crime Agency of New Zealand (OFCANZ) has put out its first assessment which reveals that Oceania has one of the highest amphetamine-type substance user rates per capita in the world. http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10675581

Panama

The Panamanian police has seized three tons of cocaine in a latest operation, a record amount so far this year, on its Atlantic coast. The anti-drug operation took place on Police detected a suspicious speedboat and then started chasing it. After a shootout, police managed to intercept the boat, but the suspects escaped. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-09/25/c_13528767.htm

Russia

Army to fight drug trafficking. The head of the Federal Service for Drug Control, Viktor Ivanov, proposed such measures that would provide for significant changes in the organization of Russia's military and foreign policy at a meeting of the State Anti-Narcotics Committee. <http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20100928/160752316.html>

Singapore

Singapore has seized 4.68 kg of heroin, the largest seizure of heroin since 2008, in a recent operation. <http://world.globaltimes.cn/asia-pacific/2010-10/579977.html>

South East Asia

The South-East Asian drugs market has been undergoing a radical transformation in recent years with the traditional monopoly of opium use being replaced by a plethora of other substances. Nevertheless, South-East Asia has often been touted as one of the key examples of how a successful drug policy can be enacted. <http://www.talkingdrugs.org/changes-in-the-south-east-asian-drug-market>

Vietnam

A Vietnamese court has sentenced two Filipinos involved in a heroin smuggling ring to prison. Ringleader John Lopez Diensen, 48, a former senior officer in the Philippine police, was sentenced to life in prison. His accomplice Raquel Malayao Ramos, 32, received 20 years. http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1588361.php/Vietnam-jails-two-Filipinos-for-heroin-smuggling

Drug Update

Reports

The UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs: Consideration of the anabolic steroids. This ACMD report, released on 21 September 2010, considers the issue of anabolic steroid misuse. Also available are the annexes to the report, covering council members, additional expertise, pharmacology and chemistry, harmful effects and case studies. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/acmd1/anabolic-steroids-report/>

A Study Links Some Cannabis Strains With Memory Impairment

People who smoke potent strains of **cannabis** that are low in cannabidiol (such as skunk) are putting themselves at far greater risk of acute memory loss than people who smoke other types of the drug, according to new research published in the October issue of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/203204.php>

The Patel report: Reducing drug-related crime and rehabilitating offenders

A report by Professor Lord Patel of Bradford OBE, chair of the independent Prison Drug Treatment Strategy Review Group has been produced on drug treatment and interventions in prison and has been submitted to Ministers in the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health in response to the drug strategy consultation. The report focuses on drug treatment and interventions for people in prison, people moving between prisons and the continuity of care for people on release from prison.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_119851

USA National Drug Strategy 2010

The 2010 National Drug Control Strategy was developed by ONDCP with input from Federal, State, and local partners. It provides a collaborative and balanced approach that emphasizes community-based prevention, integration of evidence-based treatment into the healthcare system, innovations in the criminal justice system, and international partnerships to disrupt drug trafficking organizations. <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/strategy/>

UNODC

Afghanistan Opium Survey 2010

Summary of findings pdf.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drugs/afghan-opium-survey-2010.html>

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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