

European Update

Europe

Coordinating efforts to address Europe's drugs problem and using resources effectively were among the pledges made by the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Strasbourg http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_119695_EN_FactSheet_PompidouGroup_Final.pdf

EMCDDA

Prevention profiles

What are countries in Europe doing to prevent illicit drug use? The Prevention profiles section of the website tries to answer this question by providing information on the level of provision of different prevention measures in EU Member States, Croatia, Turkey and Norway.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/prevention-profiles>

EMCDDA

Conference to lay groundwork for monitoring drug markets, crime and supply reduction. The last two years have seen unprecedented interest, both technically and politically, in improving the evidence base for understanding issues of drug supply. In this optic, the European Commission and the EMCDDA joined forces to organise, with the active involvement of Europol, the first European conference on drug supply indicators.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/events/supply-indicators>

Albania

Albanian police say they have seized 8 kilograms (17.6 pounds) of cocaine, the biggest amount ever confiscated in the tiny Balkan country, and arrested 2 suspected traffickers. The cocaine, valued at €500,000 (\$700,000), was found at the port of Durres, 33 kilometres (20 miles) west of Tirana, the capital. It was on a truck carrying rice that had originated in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and had been transited through Rotterdam, Netherlands, and Malta. <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/world/breakingnews/albanian-police-seize-shipment-of-cocaine-arrest-2-suspected-traffickers-106627418.html>

Germany

A legal row has begun after police officers in a German town began wearing cannabis leaf emblems on their uniforms. Bemused motorists reported sightings of the white, green and red motifs on the shoulders and arms of officers stopping them at routine road checks.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1324920/The-High-way-police-German-officers-spotted-motorists-wearing-cannabis-motifs-uniforms.html>

Ireland

GARDAÍ have seized cannabis plants worth more than

€300,000, bringing to €3 million the total value of cannabis plants seized since July. One of the latest finds was made in Rathfarnham, south Dublin, where 519 plants valued at €207,000 were found growing in a rented house.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/1021/1224281621748.html>

Portugal

Portuguese police have detained four Britons suspected of cultivating cannabis in Portugal and smuggling it to northern Britain. The ring had cannabis fields near Lisbon and in the south, police said. They also had a high-tech laboratory for processing the drug.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/europe/news/article_1594846.php/Portuguese-police-bust-British-cannabis-ring

Russia

Russia's state anti-narcotics committee (GAK) is developing new forms of treatment for drug addiction, following exposure of a number of cases where addicts were subjected to coercive treatment. "We will develop methods of coercing [drug addicts] to receiving treatment, but not physically... shackles are not the way forward," Head of Russia's Federal Drug Control Service said.

<http://en.rian.ru/society/20101101/161166210.html>

Serbia

Police in Belgrade seized 120kg of pure heroin and arrested two suspected drug traffickers. The drugs' estimated value is about 10m euros. Interior Minister Ivica Dacic described it as the biggest single drug seizure in Belgrade so far and said the police operation continues and new arrests are possible. The heroin, apparently headed for markets in Western Europe, was found in a truck travelling from Istanbul to the Czech Republic.

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/newsbriefs/setimes/newsbriefs/2010/10/24/nb-05

United Kingdom

ACMD advertisement for appointment of new chair and 8 members to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. The closing date is 18 November 2010

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/acmd1/acmd-ad-appoint-nov10>

United Kingdom

The government has today banned the importation of a drug found in some samples of so-called legal high Ivory Wave.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/drug-import-ban>

World Update

Afghanistan

A mountain of heroin worth 10 million pounds at street prices was burned in Afghanistan. The haul is the result of 79 raids over several months in Helmand Province. http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/campaigns/our_boys/3197984/Taliban-lose-10m-as-mountain-of-heroin-is-burned.html

Bolivia

President Evo Morales urged farmers growing coca -- the source plant for cocaine -- to respect production limits because the excess crop was being funnelled to the illegal drug trade. Morales, 50, is a former head of the powerful coca farmer's union in the Chapare region, the heart of Bolivia's coca growing region. "Part of our coca goes to the illegal market" for the production of cocaine, Morales told a meeting of some 1,000 delegates of various regional coca growing unions. http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ht_Qi7pPAKX0vMf5LiXVFQh97Vyw?docId=CNG.8b21ca4f0fe5ded152fb7235fcbc6338.1511

Cambodia

A Nigerian man was detained at the Cambodian border in Sa Kaeo province on Monday attempting to smuggle 367 grammes of heroin, valued at B1.4 million, into Thailand. A Nigerian national was apprehended in Aranyaprathet district with the heroin secreted in his stomach. <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/204272/nigerian-arrested-with-heroin>

Colombia

Cocaine worth £67million has been seized by the Royal Navy in a raid on a fishing boat off the Colombian coast. Under the cover of darkness the Type 42 destroyer HMS Manchester closed in on the small craft. The three smugglers tried to dump their cargo of eight bales of cocaine into the sea but Navy personnel recovered 60 kilos -- a quarter of the haul. The smugglers were handed over to the Colombian authorities. <http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/205824/Navy-seizes-cocaine>

Dubai

The recent floods in Pakistan and continuing seizures by Dubai Police of illegal drugs has sharply pushed up the street value of the contraband due to the shortage in supply, a top Dubai Police official said. <http://www.emirates247.com/news/how-much-for-a-kilo-of-cocaine-dh100-000-2010-10-17-1.304874>

Ghana

Ghana is no longer tagged as a cocaine destination point by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, says Mr. Martin Amidu, Minister of the Interior. He attributed the feat to the hard work and commitment of the security agencies towards the fight against illicit drugs. Until early this year, the minister said the UN Office of Drugs and Crime had tagged Ghana as a "Cocaine Coast."

<http://news.peacefmonline.com/social/201010/91532.php>

Indonesia

A lower court in Indonesia sentenced to death a Filipina caught last April with 2.6 kilograms of heroin. She was sentenced to death by Yogyakarta's lower court on October 11, despite the state prosecutor's petition for life imprisonment. <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/news/breakingnews/view/20101027-300071/Filipina-caught-with-26-kg-of-heroin-sentenced-to-death-in-Indonesia>

Mexico

Police in Mexico need two days to burn off massive cannabis haul. Police in the violent border town of Tijuana seized the 105 tonnes of cannabis with a street value of £215million after a shootout with drug traffickers. It's enough for 210million spliffs. <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/2010/10/20/cops-in-mexico-need-two-days-to-burn-off-massive-cannabis-haul-weighing-105-tonnes-86908-22646086/>

New Zealand

The Drug Foundation of New Zealand is concerned over the manufacturing of synthetic drugs at an increased rate. Executive Director, Ross Bell is demanding stringent amendments in drug law in order to clamp down on the open selling of new products, which are causing an effect same as cannabis. <http://topnews.net.nz/content/29439-drug-foundation-worried-about-synthetic-drugs-being-developed-rapid-rate>

USA

Project Deliverance was a police operation in Colorado and the amount of drugs and cash seized is mind boggling. 22-hundred arrests, 154 million dollars, half a ton each of meth and heroin, 2 tons of coke and a whopping 69 tons of marijuana. <http://www.coloradoconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=529010>

West Africa

In July 2009, chemicals and large-scale equipment used in the illicit manufacture of ecstasy were discovered in Guinea, highlighting potential manufacture in West Africa. Since then, several cases of methamphetamine trafficking originating from various West African nations, including Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal and Nigeria, have been reported. The latest developments in methamphetamine in Africa are highlighted in the latest issue of the Global SMART Update Volume 4, issued by the UNODC global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/October/is-west-africa-becoming-a-hub-for-global-methamphetamine-trafficking.html?ref=fs1>

Drug Update

Reports

EMCDDA

ANNUAL REPORT 2010: THE STATE OF THE DRUGS PROBLEM IN EUROPE

The report, the agency's flagship publication, will be released in Lisbon in November, offering an overview of the drug situation across the 27 EU Member States, Croatia, Turkey and Norway. Individual chapters dedicated to specific drugs are complemented by updates on: new drugs and emerging trends; drug-related infectious diseases and deaths; and current legal, political, social and health responses to Europe's drugs problem.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/events/2010/annual-report>

EMCDDA

EU and the Drug Phenomenon - Frequently Asked Questions

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_118763_EN_TD3110542ENC-1.pdf

Australia

Australian Drug Trends Series 2010

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) operate annually in all states and territories.

[http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/Conference1/\\$file/IDRS%2B&%2BEDRS%2B2010.pdf](http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/Conference1/$file/IDRS%2B&%2BEDRS%2B2010.pdf)

Wales

Statistics on Substance Misuse in Wales, include data on clients seen at drug and alcohol treatment agencies in Wales for the year to the end of March 2010. The main source of the data is the Welsh Database for Substance Misuse held by NHS Wales Informatics Service. The data only relates to people presenting to treatment services for substance misuse and these may constitute only a proportion of all substance misusers. The report also includes additional information from other routine data sources including hospital, mortality, education and crime data.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2010/101020/?jsessionId=JzGdM1BLTGhGLBKFn5QHwh3flG4H1pGzTnW1t9p2Jnb81QvTjN3F!55528624?lang=en>

England and Wales

Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales, 2009/10. The statistics in this publication relate to all drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1710.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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Paul Cook

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