

European Update

EMCDDA/EUROPOL

New psychoactive substances are becoming widely available at an 'unprecedented pace'. This is according to the EMCDDA–Europol 2010 annual report on new drugs entering the European market released today in Lisbon. In 2010, a record number of new drugs were officially reported to the EMCDDA and Europol via the EU early-warning system (EWS) on new psychoactive substances. A total of 41 new psychoactive substances were officially notified for the first time to the two agencies in 2010. This represents the largest number of substances ever reported in a single year, considerably up on 2009 (24 substances) and 2008 (13 substances)

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2011/2>

EMCDDA

Developing a set of indicators on drug markets, crime and supply reduction in Europe: your input is welcome.

The need to scale up the monitoring of illicit drug supply in Europe is an important component of the current EU action plan and EMCDDA work programme 2010–12. In October 2010, the first European conference on drug supply indicators, organised by the European Commission and the EMCDDA, with the active involvement of Europol, initiated work on the conceptualisation of technically sound and sustainable indicators in this area of key importance for European drug policy.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index127481EN.html>

Bulgaria

Bulgarian customs officials on board the Vidin ferry-boat discovered about 30.5 kgs of heroin concealed in the gas tank of a car. The substance was found in 60 separate packets. When probed on site, it tested positive for heroin.

http://www.sofiaecho.com/2011/05/23/1093869_42m-leva-of-heroin-seized-by-bulgarian-police

France

Ministers and senior officials from 22 countries began meeting in Paris to hammer out a joint plan to tackle the booming transatlantic cocaine trade. The summit, which aims to recruit cocaine-producing

countries in Latin America and countries of transit and consumption into a transatlantic war on the drug trade, is being hosted by France.
<http://en.trend.az/regions/world/usa/1873706.html>

Ireland

Marches to legalise cannabis held. Participants in the fifth annual Legalise Cannabis marches have stressed that the money that is raised through the drugs trade would be better spent by the Government than by criminal gangs who currently control it.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2011/0509/1224296491982.html>

Ireland

Doctors have been warned to severely restrict their use of a wakefulness promoting drug with a history of abuse by students seeking to boost exam performance because of new concerns about its safety.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/health/2011/0517/1224297110754.html>

Jersey

The UK drugs baron Curtis Warren intends to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights against his conviction for importing cannabis into Jersey. Warren was jailed for 13 years in 2009 for the plot. The appeal announcement comes more than a month after the 47-year-old lost an appeal in Jersey's Privy Council against his conviction.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-13417760>

Russia

A large-scale drug addiction threatens Russian security, the State Council working group said in a report on tougher measures against drug addiction among young people.

<http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/level2.html?NewsID=16162219&PageNum=0>

United Kingdom

Addiction to prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines is linked to illegal drug use in the majority of cases, a DoH-commissioned report has found.

<http://www.gponline.com/channel/news/article/1070141/otc-drug-addiction-often-tied-illegal-drug->

World Update

Afghanistan

The number of drug addicts in the western Herat city has risen to over 70,000, provincial officials say. Herat addicts mainly include jobless youths most of whom have returned from Iran.

<http://www.e-ariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/0D7879E1590C34AC872578720051DC65?OpenDocument>

Australia

MEXICAN cocaine cartels are penetrating the Australian market at an ever-increasing rate and the risk associated with their violent involvement will only increase. Despite the cocaine market continuing to decline in important markets such as the US, the global market remains "robust" and Australia a favoured market, given the relatively high profit margins for the cartels.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/mexicoke-on-rise-as-criminal-cartels-gain-foothold-here-20110414-1dg0f.html>

Canada

RCMP have a cut a community policing program that saw a constable permanently placed in schools in eastern P.E.I., working with students to prevent the use of illegal drugs.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2011/05/18/pei-school-drug-abuse-rcmp-584.html>

Colombia

The Colombian security forces say they have seized a massive haul of cocaine in the port city of Cartagena. Sniffer dogs found more than 12 tonnes of the drug hidden in a shipment of brown sugar destined for Mexico. It is believed to belong to one of Colombia's most powerful drug gangs, the Rastrojos. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-13513342>

New Zealand

Two Christchurch women were caught with cannabis at Queenstown Airport. A 52-year-old woman was caught after repeatedly setting off a metal detector on her way through security. She had stuffed about 50g of the drug into 28 individually foil-wrapped cannabis bullets inside her bra.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/4899615/Cannabis-tinnies-in-bra-set-off-airport-metal-detector>

Pakistan

A study by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) of 4,632 female drug users in 13 cities in Pakistan's four provinces in 2010 found that drug use among women was discreet, hidden and more of an individual activity than among male users. While the number of users was fairly large in cosmopolitan cities like Karachi and Lahore, it also existed in other areas of the country. The study found that nearly three-quarters of users were aged 21-40, and were illiterate. However, in Peshawar city, nearly half of the users had some education. Overall, more than half were married and mostly lived with their husbands. Most used hashish, but some used hard addictive drugs including synthetics that were available over the counter.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=92791>

Philippines

Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force arrested two drug traffickers in an entrapment in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu and seized P15 million (\$350k) worth of cocaine.

<http://www.journal.com.ph/index.php/news/provincial/3390-p15-m-cocaine-seized-in-cebu>

Puerto Rico

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) air and marine units intercepted a vessel with 47 bricks of cocaine (46 kilos) near the Cabo Rojo lighthouse. The crew of the CBP Caribbean Air & Marine Branch (CAMB) DHC-8 aircraft detected a vessel traveling in the southwest coast of the island.

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/dr/local/2011/5/19/39609/Agents-seize-561-kilos-of-cocaine-from-Dominicans-at-Puerto-Ricos-coast>

Venezuela

Police seized 66 pounds (30 kilograms) of cocaine aboard a bus transporting members of Venezuela's government-organized militias. The cocaine was discovered when the bus was stopped near the presidential palace in Caracas, where the militia members were slated to participate in an event celebrating President Hugo Chavez's return to power following a 2002 coup.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5jaYpDTi69xQc8TgxB9QGvrY7fMbA?docId=6569037>

Drug Webwatch

Reports

Afghanistan

Opium Poppy Survey. Winter Rapid Assessment all regions | UNODC

http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/ORAS_report_2011_phase_II_20110415.pdf

USA

An Assessment of the Scientific Support Underlying the FY2011 Budget Priorities of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/testimonies/2010/RAND_CT344.pdf

Latin America and the Caribbean

Coverage of Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean

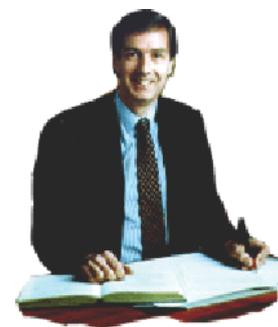
This report provides a summary of the discussions of nearly 50 journalists and academics from Latin America and the Caribbean on media coverage of organized crime and drug trafficking in the continent.

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/media/articles_publications/publications/austin-forum-20110515/austin-forum-20110515-en.pdf

United Kingdom

Taking drugs seriously: A report on legal highs

The proliferation of new psychoactive substances, or 'legal highs', in recent years has thrown the existing regulatory measures for drugs into sharp relief. As quickly as policy makers seek to control new substances through the Misuse of Drugs Act, others are being manufactured and put on the market. The effects of these new substances are unknown and untested; it is this uncertainty combined with easy accessibility that presents major challenges to public safety. <http://www.ukdpc.org.uk/publications.shtml#legalhighs>



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

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