

European Update

European Union

EU votes to let customs stop and destroy fake drugs shipped through Europe. Plans to give customs officers the power to seize and destroy suspected fake medicines as they move through the EU have been welcomed by industry group EFPIA.

<http://www.in-pharmatechnologist.com/Regulatory-Safety/EU-votes-to-let-customs-stop-and-destroy-fake-drugs-shipped-through-Europe>

EMCDDA

Drug use in prison: assessment report. The report presents a review of tools for monitoring illicit drug use in prison population in Europe. The objective of the report is to describe the existing tools used at national level, to assess their comparability and to build a common European basis for data collection on drug use and prison. The introduction includes the recent activities carried out in the last years at the EMCDDA, the formal mandate and the methodological developments. The report presents the assessment results by information area.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-use-in-prison-assessment-report>

Germany

Bavarian police have launched an investigation after finding cocaine worth more than €250,000 in the locker of the head of a police narcotics department, but they are baffled as to where it came from.

<http://www.thelocal.de/20140225/top-drugs-officer-stashed-cocaine-in-locker>

Malta

Cocaine, ecstasy remain the most consumed illegal drugs in Malta 'One can go and purchase ecstasy as if he's going to buy a drink,' an expert tells about current drug accessibility in Malta.

<http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/national/Cocaine-ecstasy-remain-the-most-popular-drugs-in-Malta-20140222>

Norway

Norway to trial distribution of nasal spray antidote to heroin overdose. Naloxone, an antidote to heroin and other opioid overdoses, is an effective cure for the otherwise lethal overdose of heroin, which works by preventing the overdose victim from stopping

breathing if administered promptly in the event of an overdose. <http://www.talkingdrugs.org/norway-to-trial-distribution-of-nasal-spray-antidote-to-heroin-overdose>

Russia

Russia and its Federal Drug Control Service head, Victor Ivanov, are launching a major offensive to force the G8 countries into action against the Dope, Inc. heroin and cocaine plagues. Ivanov said that in 2008 the United Nations declared a policy aimed at a mass reduction of opium poppy and coca plant plantations over 10 years, and that this right policy failed not because it was wrong, but because of "inconsistencies" in implementing it.

<http://larouchepac.com/node/30016>

Ukraine

After the revolution, Kiev could well find itself on the front line of Europe's defence against a new wave of heroin trafficking. With over 1,150km of borders with EU member states, Ukraine provides an excellent entry point to the European market, especially through its ability to link up with existing heroin trafficking routes through Romania and the Balkans. Additionally, its sheer size and relatively porous borders with Russia have already led to it being described somewhat hyperbolically as 'the centre of the East-West drug trade', whilst its comparative proximity to Central Europe would give it the edge against an EU-bound trade via Belarus.

<http://strifeblog.org/2014/02/28/after-the-revolution-kievs-future-role-in-the-urasian-heroin-trade/>

United Kingdom

The Home Office has launched an urgent inquiry into new drugs - sometimes sold over the web as insomnia cures - which mimic the effects of heroin and are already feared to have led to the death of an innocent father. Norman Baker, the drugs minister has asked the Home Office's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, a panel of experts which provides expert guidance on drug control, to carry out an urgent inquiry into the substances, including one known as AH-7921, which is marketed as a liquid "sleeping pill".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/10665816/Minister-launches-review-of-dangerous-new-legal-high.html>

World Update

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

The UN has launched a counter-offensive against moves to liberalise drug laws around the world, warning that cannabis legalisation poses a grave danger to public health. The UN body for enforcing international drug treaties, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), voiced concern over "misguided initiatives" on cannabis legalisation in Uruguay and the US states of Colorado and Washington that fail to comply with international drug conventions.

http://www.incb.org/incb/en/precursors/technical_reports/2013.html

Afghanistan

It is a spartan life of dormitory beds, communal eating and prayer, but the Jangalak treatment centre in Kabul offers a rare glimmer of hope for heroin addicts caught in Afghanistan's spiralling drug problem. About 250 male addicts at a time undergo a 45-day course at the government centre, with 70 percent of all patients successfully staying off heroin after they leave.

<http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2014/03/03/kabul-clinic-offers-rare-shot-at-hope-for-afghanistans-rising-drug-addict-population/>

Australia

What is betel nut? Betel nut (also known as areca nut) can be chewed in a similar way to chewing tobacco, producing a mildly euphoric and stimulating effect. Around 10 to 20% of the world's population chews betel nut in some form. This makes it the 4th most widely-used psychoactive substance, after nicotine, alcohol and caffeine.

<http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/drug-facts/betel-nut>

Australia

New psychoactive drugs update . NBOMe (N-methoxybenzyl) is the name for a series of drugs that have hallucinogenic effects. Reports indicate that there are a number of different versions of NBOMe available – all with differing effects.

<http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/drug-facts/nbome-facts>

Malaysia

A 28 year old Nigerian student, Prince Bartholomew Obitube, has been sentenced to life imprisonment by an high court in Malaysia for trafficking drugs. The Shah Alam High Court gave the death penalty to Obitube after he was found guilty of trafficking cannabis, also known as marijuana. The accused, a student with a private college in Kuala Lumpur, was arrested with 9,189kg of cannabis.

<http://www.osundefender.org/?p=152468>

Mexico

The capture by Mexican marines of drug lord Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman has been lauded as "an impeccable operation". The world's most wanted drug trafficker - perhaps the world's most wanted man - had evaded the joint efforts of the Mexican and US security forces to apprehend him for 13 years.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-26320182>

Pakistan

A UNODC Report on Drug Use in Pakistan 2013 reveals high levels of drug use and dependency. A substantial proportion of Pakistan's population aged 15 to 64 suffer from the devastating consequences of substance abuse. The Report estimates that six per cent - or 6.7 million adults in Pakistan - used drugs in the previous year.

<https://www.unodc.org/pakistan/en/report-on-drug-use-in-pakistan-2013-reveals-high-levels-of-drug-use-and-dependency.html>

Uruguay

In December, Uruguay became the first nation in the world to legislate for the production, sale and state regulation of marijuana. Many hope that when the law takes full effect next year, fewer people will use a cheap, highly addictive cocaine derivative called "pasta base". Others fear the opposite.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-26436094>

USA

New Mexico's Secretary of Health Retta Ward announced the Martinez Administration's decision to approve adding Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease to the list of medical conditions for which New Mexicans are allowed to seek medical marijuana.

<http://enewspf.com/latest-news/health-and-fitness/50639-new-mexico-medical-cannabis-program-adds-two-qualifying-conditions-announces-plan-to-address-severe-supply-shortage.html>

USA

Cocaine greatly increases stroke risk in young adults within 24 hours of use, much more than other risk factors according to research presented at the American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference 2014. Cocaine users were 6 to 7 times more likely to suffer an ischemic stroke within 24 hours of using the drug, and the effect existed across different ethnicities.

<http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/2014/03/03/american-stroke-association-says-cocaine-greatly-increases-stroke-risk-within-24-hours-use/>

Drug Webwatch

Seminar

Enhancing Cross-border Law Enforcement Cooperation to Reduce Drug Supply

Practical Experiences in EU Member States

Trier, 15 May 2014 – 16 May 2014

Areas of law: Criminal Law, Police Cooperation

Objective

The first of two seminars will look at EU legislation and policy in place to counter drug trafficking and its supply. New legislative initiatives will be analysed and possibilities of cooperation at EU level explained.

Key topics

The EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 and related Action Plan

EU Recommendations and EU Regulations on the prevention of diversion of chemical precursors

Work and possibilities of cooperation with EU agencies in the field: Europol, Eurojust and EMCDDA

Case studies and best practice from the Member States

Full details:

https://www.era.int/cgi-bin/cms?_SID=56fe3c351234b0a1f5731d9e433566c8c64a925000285686310095&_sprache=en&_bereich=artikel&_aktion=detail&idartikel=124292



I would like to express thanks to those persons around the world who have contributed to this issue. Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to

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