

## European Update

### EMCDDA

João Goulão, Portuguese national drug coordinator and Head of the Institute for Drugs and Drug Addiction — the national focal point in the EMCDDA's Reitox network — was elected Chairman for the next three years. Dr Goulão has been member of the EMCDDA Board since 2005. A medical doctor by profession.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/press/news-releases>

### EMCDDA

#### 2009 Annual Report on the drug problem in Europe

The report presents the EMCDDA's yearly overview of the drug phenomenon. This is an essential reference book for policymakers, specialists and practitioners in the drugs field or indeed anyone seeking the latest findings on drugs in Europe. The report contains non-confidential data supported by an extensive range of figures.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/annual-report/2009>

### EUROPOL

International drug cartels have abandoned the US dollar for high denomination euros to launder millions in illegal profits, Europol has revealed. The gangs no longer use \$100 bills because €500 notes — the largest denomination of euro — take up less room when transporting large amounts of cash across the world. In a single consignment on a British Airways plane bound for London from the United States, US police found £11m worth of drug profits in €500 bills.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global/2009/dec/06/drug-cartels-eruos-dollars-europol>

### Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia

SECI Regional Center for Combating Trans-border Crime, headquartered in Bucharest, Romania 3 member countries, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Greece, worked together and coordinated a controlled delivery operation, which led to 44,8 kg of heroin seized and 8 people arrested.

The case was initiated by the officers of the Anti-Drug Department of the Ministry of Interior of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Following an investigation on a criminal group, they obtained the information about a transport of drugs from Turkey to Europe, by truck

<http://www.secicenter.org/p477/26+November+2009>

### Ireland

The mixing agents used to cut cocaine in Ireland appear to be more lethal than those used in other countries, warn doctors who have recorded a dramatic increase in the number of cocaine-related overdoses in recent years.

The number of people admitted to Ireland's largest intensive care unit (ICU) following an overdose has risen 10-fold in the past six years. A study by doctors at the unit in the Mater hospital in Dublin shows that very few of those admitted with overdoses survive.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/ireland/article6946064.ece>

### Jersey

One of Britain's most notorious criminals was sentenced to 13 years in jail yesterday after being found guilty of conspiring to smuggle 1 million pounds worth of cannabis into Jersey. Curtis Warren, a former Liverpool street dealer who became Interpol's most wanted man, watched by video link from Belmarsh prison in London as judge Sir Richard Tucker delivered the sentence at the royal court in St Helier.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/dec/03/curtis-warren-jailed-jersey-drugs>

### Slovakia

Slovak police have detained two more Nigerian drug smugglers at the Bratislava Airport. During a police operation on November 28 codenamed Parabola, two men were detained who had cocaine with street value exceeding EUR 75,000 in their possession. The police think that Slovakia was just a transit country and that the cocaine was destined for Austria or the Czech Republic.

### Spain

Late last month, the Guardia, the Civil Guard, announced that raids across the country against an alleged doping ring had led to the arrest of 11 people, including three bicycle racers, one a professional, two amateurs. The suspects were identified only by their initials. Dubbed Operación Grial, or Operation Grail, the raids were carried out in Valencia, Barcelona, Murcia and Granada.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/03/sports/cycling/03iht-BIKE.html?\\_r=1&scp=1&sq=doping%20in%20sport%20spain&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/03/sports/cycling/03iht-BIKE.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=doping%20in%20sport%20spain&st=cse)

### United Kingdom

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have released the UK National Anti-Doping Policy, which comes into effect on 14 December 2009. The policy sets out the anti-doping framework in the UK and outlines the objectives and requirements of the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations regarding anti-doping in sport. It also identifies the roles played by UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) and National Governing Bodies in delivering these objectives.

[http://www.uk-sport.gov.uk/news/uk\\_national\\_anti-doping\\_policy\\_released/](http://www.uk-sport.gov.uk/news/uk_national_anti-doping_policy_released/)

## World Update

### UNODC

Unlike the markets for heroin and cocaine, the market for synthetic drugs is constantly evolving, with new products appearing each year. The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme of UNODC was designed to improve the capacity of selected States to generate, manage, analyse, report and use information on illicit synthetic drugs. Given the speed with which changes in the synthetic drugs markets occur, it is especially important to have a simple mechanism for frequently sharing new information from different parts of the world. In order to meet this need, UNODC has published the *Global SMART Update: Volume 2*, . <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2009/November/keeping-tabs-on-synthetic-drugs.html?ref=enews171109>

### Afghanistan

An Afghan court sentenced the mayor Kabul to four years in prison in absentia, due to allegations of corruption. It's taking the first anti-corruption process with senior Afghan officials, since the President Hamid Karzai once again took the presidential office. <http://www.wbn.sk/krimi/starosta-kabulu-dostal-4-roky-za-korupc/27881-clanok.html>

### Africa

The Sahara desert has become a new centre for trading cocaine from west Africa for heroin from east Africa. Antonio Maria Costa said drugs money was being used to fund terrorists and anti-government forces and the UNODC had "acquired evidence" of new trafficking routes across Chad, Niger and Mali. He told the UN security council that the trade of west African cocaine for east African heroin was making drugs a new kind of currency in the region. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/dec/09/sahara-drugs-trade-heroin-cocaine>

### Canada

Prescribing of opioid analgesics and long-acting oxycodone - related mortality. Opioid-related deaths in Ontario have increased markedly since 1991. A significant portion of the increase was associated with the addition of long-acting oxycodone to the provincial drug formulary. <http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/abstract/181/12/891>

### Caribbean

Crime of International Drug Trafficking. Trinidad and Tobago and Belize propose the inclusion of the Crime of International Drug Trafficking in the Statute of the International Criminal Court. <http://www.ihrablog.net/2009/12/trinidad-and-tobago-and-belize-propose.html>

### China

Chinese police have arrested 85 people and seized tonnes of crystal meth in the country's biggest drug bust. The operation resulted in the seizure of 44 tonnes of raw

materials that could have been used to make more than 2 billion yuan (£180 million) of the illegal amphetamine.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6942612.ece>

### Mali

Mali has opened a judicial inquiry into a burnt-out Boeing plane that the UN says transported cocaine from Venezuela to the west African country. According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Boeing 727 landed on a makeshift airstrip and unloaded a cargo of illegal drugs before crashing as it tried to take off. [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gGaAcrZo\\_r62FGGa\\_qO2TCEIXQBQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gGaAcrZo_r62FGGa_qO2TCEIXQBQ)

### Russia

Russia has long grappled with alcoholism among its population. Now, a second plague is afflicting the country: intravenous drug use. Officials say addiction — whether it's drug or alcohol dependency — is threatening the country's future. Heroin use is a relatively new phenomenon in Russia. It first exploded in the 1990s, when the country was in post-Soviet turmoil and uniquely unprepared to cope with the problem, and it has spread like wildfire. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=120792687&ps=cprs>

### Venezuela

Venezuelan authorities seized 1.8 tonnes of cocaine hidden in two containers bound for Spain. The shipment was detected Saturday by National Guard members and officials at the Port of La Guaira, the country's main customs station, located about 20 km northwest of Caracas. The cocaine was found to be distributed in packets hidden in boxes mixed in with others containing the cleaning products, including detergents and disinfectants. [http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/world-news/18-tonnes-of-cocaine-seized-in-venezuela\\_100285276.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/world-news/18-tonnes-of-cocaine-seized-in-venezuela_100285276.html)

### USA

Two of the three individual Olympic medals stripped from Marion Jones for drug taking are finally to be reallocated nine years after she won them at the Sydney games in 2000. However, her 100m gold will not be included as the runner-up was the Greek sprinter Katerina Thanou, herself involved in a drugs scandal at the 2004 Games in Athens. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/sport/2009/dec/07/marion-jones-2000-olympic-medals>

## Drug Update

### Conferences

#### WORLD FEDERATION AGAINST DRUGS ANNOUNCES

The 2nd World Forum Against Drugs will be held in Stockholm, Sweden May 24-26, 2010

The First World Forum Against Drugs was held in Stockholm, Sweden in September 2008. More than 600 representatives from 82 countries attended the first World Forum. The Forum resulted in a Declaration that has been signed by a large number of organisations and individuals.

This year the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD) was formed in Vienna, Austria with a board representing all continents.

May 24-26, 2010 WFAD will host the second World Forum Against Drugs under the patronage of H.M. Queen Silvia of Sweden.

The 2010 World Forum will focus primarily on

New research on cannabis

Drugs in Sub-Saharan Africa

Adult drug abuse and its influence on children

Please go to <http://www.wfad.se> to read updated information about the Forum and the Federation.

### Publication

International Drug Control into the 21st Century - edited by Hamid Ghodse

Published by Ashgate, Aldershot, UK. ISBN 978-0-7546-7215-9

This book gives an invaluable summary of the topics addressed by INCB Committees each year over the last 15 years.

### 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 and Roger van de Sompel**

Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to [paul@paul-cook.net](mailto:paul@paul-cook.net)

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