

European Update

EMCDDA

Europe has responded to rising concern over the use of the synthetic drug mephedrone by formally requesting a scientific investigation into the health and social risks of the substance. The decision was communicated to the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) by the Council of the EU, in line with a legal procedure designed to respond to potentially threatening new psychoactive drugs in the EU. The risk-assessment exercise, which will result in a report by end-July, will be undertaken by the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, with the participation of additional experts from the EU Member States, European Commission, Europol and the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The exercise constitutes the second phase in the three-step legal procedure: (i) information exchange/early-warning; (ii) risk assessment; and (iii) decision-making/control. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/press/news-releases>

EMCDDA

Prevention and Evaluation Resources Kit (PERK)

This manual compiles basic but evidence-based prevention principles, planning rules and evaluation tips. Additionally, it provides related documentation or references for download; it is hoped that this additional material will be particularly useful for readers who have difficulty accessing the scientific prevention literature.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/perk>

EMCDDA

The General report of activities is an annual publication providing a detailed progress report of the EMCDDA's activities over a 12-month period.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/general-report-of-activities/2009>

EMCDDA

Threshold quantities for drug offences. This Topic Overview aims to summarise the information and simplify comparison between quantity limits for the four most common drugs.

<http://eldd.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index99321EN.html>

Bulgaria

Bulgarian customs officers seized around 41 kilograms of heroin, worth 2.7 million euros, or \$3.3 million, at the southeastern Kapitan Andreevo border checkpoint with Turkey. The drugs were divided into 42 packages hidden in the seats of a car with Turkish license plates.

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=bulgaria-customs-seize-41-kilos-of-heroin-at-turkish-border-2010-05-30>

Germany

Marijuana grown in Germany is increasingly edging out imports from countries that until now acted as suppliers, such as Morocco and Afghanistan. Where hippies of the past swore by "black Afghan," today's pot smokers are quite willing to roll German hashish and marijuana in their joints. <http://freeinternetpress.com/story.php?sid=26050>

Ireland

Fourteen cent of methadone users also test positive for substances previously sold in head shops, new research has shown. Approximately one in seven samples tested by the Drug Treatment Centre Board (DTCB) were positive for compounds sold in the shops.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/0528/1224271300020.html>

Romania

Heroin Dealers Arrested In Capital Bucharest. Three members of a drug dealing network in capital city Bucharest were arrested following antidrug police raids on their homes where they found 200 doses of heroin.

<http://www.mediafax.ro/english/heroin-dealers-arrested-in-capital-bucharest-6287311>

United Kingdom

A SPECIAL police unit has been set up to tackle Vietnamese drug lords running cannabis farms in East Lancashire. Police have smashed several large-scale cannabis factories across the region in the past two years, with the majority run by crime barons from the South East Asian country.

http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/8204365.Special_unit_to_tackle_Vietnamese_cannabis_farms_in_East_Lancashire/

United Kingdom

Warning over workplace drug testing. Clear guidance is needed from the Government on drug testing in the workplace to clear up "confusion" over the legality of random or routine checks, say union leaders.

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/177701/Warning-over-workplace-drug-testing>

United Kingdom/China

Two months after Britain banned the party drug mephedrone factories in China are making a host of new drugs to skirt UK laws.

<http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/China-Factories-Get-Round-Mephedrone-Ban-With-New-Chemical-Compounds-That-Mimic-Drug/Article/201006215645833?f=rss>

World Update

Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi police have seized 16 kilogrammes (34 pounds) of heroin which three Afghans and a Pakistani tried to sell to undercover agents.

<http://sify.com/news/abu-dhabi-police-seize-16-kilos-of-heroin-report-news-international-kqcn4beaghb.html>

Argentina

A Colombian beauty queen and onetime lingerie model has been arrested in Argentina on charges of leading a drug trafficking ring that allegedly used young models to carry cocaine.

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/ondeadline/post/2010/05/colombian-beauty-queen-arrested-as-alleged-leader-of-drug-smuggling-ring/1>

Bolivia

President Evo Morales has been re-elected as head of Bolivia's largest coca-growers union, a post he has held for more than two decades. Morales was sworn in as head of the Six Federations of the Tropic of Cochabamba, which represents more than 40,000 growers. Opposition members said it was inappropriate given an apparent rise in drug trafficking violence.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jjPwxTUE3NhlEnG0l3L0tyby_s_gD9G6Q7L00

China

China has begun using unmanned aircraft to track down illegal poppy crops being grown in the suburbs around its capital as part of a month long anti-drug campaign.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/04/AR2010060400076.html>

Gambia

Gambia is gradually becoming a safe-haven for drug cartel networks—notably drug dealers from South America, Guinea Bissau, and the country's indigenous local citizens who used the West African country to traffic cocaine and other dangerous drugs,

<http://www.freedomnewspaper.com/Homepage/tabid/36/mid/367/newsid367/5309/Breaking-News-Gambia-MAJOR-COCAINE-CATCH-IN-GAMBIA-/Default.aspx>

Kenya

Cocaine worth millions of shillings concealed as office materials destined for the United Nations staff in Uganda has been seized at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The narcotic drugs weighing 21.4 kilograms were wrapped in 10 packets and packed in two plastic boxes bearing UN logos.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201006070278.html>

Malaysia

Two Men Get Death For Trafficking Cannabis. The High Court on Sunday sentenced two men to death after finding them guilty of trafficking in 11,135 grams of cannabis four years ago.

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=503817>

Morocco

Morocco has cut cannabis traffickers' revenue to less than one-third of its 2005 level but its efforts could be undermined if Europe relaxes its policing of the drug, a senior Moroccan police official said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE65A06320100611>

Nigeria

A young secondary school leaver was arrested while attempting to board an Air France flight to Paris, at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport. He had ingested 66 pieces of cocaine, weighing 900 grammes. Another man had ingested 73 wraps of cocaine, weighing 1.285 of cocaine. Eight others were arrested with a combined total weight of hard drugs estimated at 12.33kg, comprising 11.215kg of cocaine and 1.115kg of heroin.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201005310508.html>

Pakistan

A joint team comprising officials of three major agencies, searched a PIA domestic flight in Karachi which had arrived from Lahore, and recovered 6.5 kilogrammes of heroin. Officials claimed it was the biggest heroin recovery from a domestic flight. The heroin was concealed in the ceiling of the rear toilet of the aircraft. Its value in the international market is around Rs 65 million.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C05%5C30%5Cstory_30-5-2010_pg12_11

Turkey

Turkish police seized 51.5 kilograms of heroin in the province of Bitlis in eastern Turkey. Acting on a tip-off, the police stopped and searched a car on the Bitlis-Diyarbakir inter-city highway, finding the haul stashed in special compartments of the car.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-06/06/c_13335300.htm

USA

A man is sentence to 40 years in jail for dealing cocaine in Lafayette. Prosecutor Pat Harrington says Phillip Spratt will serve 40 years in the Indiana Department of Corrections for two counts of dealing cocaine and one count for possession of cocaine. Spratt was found guilty of selling cocaine to undercover officers.

<http://www.wlfi.com/dpp/news/crime/man-will-serve-40-years-for-dealing-cocaine>

USA

New Report Provides Startling Look at Substance Abuse On An Average Day In The Life Of American Adolescents. In 2008 there were a quarter of a million drug-related emergency hospital visits by adolescents. On an average day, 508,000 adolescents aged 12-17 in the United States drink alcohol; 641,000 use illicit drugs.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/100603>

Drug Update

World Bank Report. Innocent bystanders: developing countries and the war on drugs. Drug use and abuse is one of the most difficult challenges facing the contemporary world. If it is true that there has always been consumption of different types of drugs in different societies, although not in all of them, it is no less true that it generally took place in restricted, socially regulated realms, especially in ritualistic ceremonies. This is not the case today. Drug use has spread to all segments of society.

http://idpc.net/es/node/767?utm_source=IDPC%2BMonthly%2BAlert&utm_campaign=ba40e487b1-IDPC_May_Alert5_21_2010&utm_medium=email

Mentor International Prevention Awards 2010:

Deadline for Applications Extended to June 18th

Mentor will now be accepting applications for the Mentor Prevention Awards 2010 until Friday 18th June 2010. The Awards celebrate promise and achievement in drug abuse prevention globally. Awards are open to all non-government organizations working in the field of drug abuse prevention.

Apply at: <http://awards.mentorfoundation.org/>

17th ECAD Mayors' Conference - Malta

The postponed conference, due to volcanic ash disrupting flights, will now take place on 23/24th September 2010.

<http://www.ecad.net>

The International Conference Urban Drug Policies in the Globalised World, will be held in the Prague art deco monument the Municipal House during the dates 30th September – 2nd October 2010. The programme of the conference "Urban Drug Policies in the Globalised World" deals with burning questions and recent developments in the field of urban drug policy and related interventions. The aim of the conference is to bring together three key groups involved in drug policy making on a local and regional level – politicians and decision makers, medical and other health and social care professionals, and community planning, research and evaluation staff. Further information from: <http://www.urbandrugpolicy.com>

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

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Paul Cook

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