

## European Update

### EMCDDA

The General report of activities 2010 is an annual publication providing a detailed progress report of the EMCDDA's activities over a 12-month period. It catalogues the Centre's achievements in each area of its annual work programme. The report is a useful information source for all those seeking comprehensive information on the Centre and its work. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/general-report-of-activities/2010>

### EMCDDA

#### Standards and Guidelines for practices

This page contains a listing of national harm reduction guidelines in Europe, along with some international standards and guidelines. The title, the methodological basis and the types of treatment covered by each guideline are provided, along with a download link, where available. The guidelines were collected in three phases in 2008, 2009, and 2010. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/best-practice/standards/harm-reduction>

### France

The issue of legalising cannabis is once again making headlines in France following the release of a parliamentary report recommending that the drug should be subject to "controlled legalisation". The report, compiled by an opposition working party, recommends that the cultivation and sale of marijuana should become a state-controlled activity, like the sale of alcohol and tobacco, and concluded that the government could not continue to "advocate the illusion of abstinence".

<http://www.france24.com/en/20110616-french-cannabis-debate-cul-de-sac-legalisation-consumption-marijuana-parliament-report>

### Ireland

Seizures for last year show the drug market has completely collapsed, mirroring the rest of the economy. <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2011/0620/1224299224918.html>

### Malta

A drug courier who was arrested on his arrival from Rome admitted to importing more than 800 grams of cocaine. Iancuba Balde, 24, from the Republic of

Guinea-Bissau, in West Africa, lived in Portugal before travelling to Brazil to pick up the cocaine. <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110616/local/Drug-courier-confesses-to-importing-cocaine.370786>

### Russia

Russia's punitive drug laws. Life is especially difficult for the 6 million drug addicts living in Russia because methadone is banned, and they are reluctant to use the few available needle and syringe exchange programmes for fear of being exposed. <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2811%2960903-3/fulltext?>

### United Kingdom

More than half of British people believe that the Government's approach to illegal drugs is ineffective, our poll has discovered. Nearly half think that illegal drugs are a serious problem that is affecting the entire country, but almost 90% feel that realistically, there will always be people who use drugs, and that the aim should therefore be to reduce the amount of harm they cause to users and others. The majority of Brits believes that those who use illegal drugs but have not committed any other crimes should be regarded as people who may need treatment and support, not as criminals, while more than two in five think that the legalisation of drugs would see an decrease in associated illegal activities such as drugs smuggling and human trafficking. See results:

<http://today.yougov.co.uk/sites/today.yougov.co.uk/files/yg-archives-pol-yougov-drugs-130611.pdf>

### United Kingdom

Police will soon be equipped with 'drugalyzers' as part of a major clampdown on drug-driving. It is believed that people getting behind the wheel after taking cannabis, cocaine or ecstasy is a widespread problem, but the offence is currently difficult to detect. The fact only 253 people were prosecuted for drug-driving in 2008, compared with 73,000 for drink-driving, is thought to be down to the lack of an effective roadside test.

[http://www.policeoracle.com/news/Drug-Driving-Being-Highlighted-By-Roadside-Kits\\_34456.html](http://www.policeoracle.com/news/Drug-Driving-Being-Highlighted-By-Roadside-Kits_34456.html)

## World Update

### Australia

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement reported that there is an: "extreme difference between Australian and international drug prices. This difference is likely to make Australia a lucrative target for drug smuggling syndicates." Using prices from 2007-08 it gave as one example: "the wholesale price for a kilogram of cocaine in Colombia, a source country, is reported to be \$US2348. By comparison, the same amount of cocaine had an Australian wholesale price of between \$US150,000 to \$US250,000

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/blogs/crime-and-punishment/australian-illegal-drugs-among-worlds-most-expensive-20110616-1g5ie.html>

### Central Asia

Regional cooperation key in countering drug routes in Central Asia. UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov met with the President and several key leaders in Kazakhstan to discuss the country's and region's ongoing efforts in curbing drug use, illicit trafficking, and organized and financial crime.

[http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2011/June/unodc-regional-cooperation-key-in-countering-drug-routes-in-central-asia.html?utm\\_source=twitterfeed&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2011/June/unodc-regional-cooperation-key-in-countering-drug-routes-in-central-asia.html?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter)

### Colombia

Colombia's capacity to produce cocaine fell by more than half in the past decade, according to the office of the US drug czar. "There has been a sharp decrease in the amount of pure cocaine produced in Colombia... from an estimated 700 metric tons potential cocaine production in 2001 to 300 metric tons in 2010... a 57 percent drop,". Colombia last year fumigated 101,000 hectares (250,000 acres) of coca and manually eradicated another 44,775.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g4BrO2F1fWCVzbuL771abRos-F4Q?docId=CNG.ae6d4035ac5fdab3b287d9003b822c9f.c21>

### India

Mumbai: In an unprecedented decision, the Bombay High Court struck down the mandatory death penalty for drug offences, becoming the first Court in the world to do so. The court declared Section 31A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act) that imposes a mandatory death sentence for a subsequent conviction for drug trafficking 'unconstitutional'.

<http://www.ihra.net/contents/1034>

### Kenya

Police at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) have arrested a woman alleged to have been trafficking cocaine worth Sh12 million. <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/Kenyanews/Kenyan-woman-arrested-with-Sh12m-Cocaine-13172.html>

### Paraguay

Paraguay has made its largest cocaine seizure, more than 875 kilograms of white powder disguised as bags of rice. The container was headed to Mozambique, en route to Europe, where it would be worth \$US123 million on the streets. <http://www.smh.com.au/world/record-cocaine-haul-paraguay-seizes-us123-million-worth-of-drug-20110602-1fh7c.html>

### United Arab Emirates

The National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held a coordinating with strategic partners to review framework, objectives and pre-requisite of a study on assessment of the current situation. The meeting aims at establishing a data base that helps monitoring and evaluation of addiction in the run up of tailoring a national anti-drug strategy.

[http://www.wam.ae/servlet/Satellite?c=WamLocEnews&cid=1289994009854&pagename=WAM/WAM\\_E\\_Layout&parent=Query&parentid=1135099399852](http://www.wam.ae/servlet/Satellite?c=WamLocEnews&cid=1289994009854&pagename=WAM/WAM_E_Layout&parent=Query&parentid=1135099399852)

### Vietnam

Authorities at all levels should be more efficient in following policies, laws and Government strategies to better prevent and fight drug abuse, said Deputy Prime Minister Truong Vinh Trong in Ha Noi. Trong, who is also chair of the National Committee for HIV/AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution Prevention and Control, made the comments at a meeting to kick off a national campaign to support the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which falls on June 26.

<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/Social-Issues/212482/Drug-abuse-fight-needs-to-be-ramped-up-says-Deputy-PM.html>

### West Africa

West Africa drugs trafficking is increasingly sophisticated. UN anti-drugs officials believe cocaine trafficking through West Africa to reach the lucrative markets in Europe is now worth some \$800m (£494m) a year. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13852399>

## Drug Webwatch

### Reports

#### World Health Organisation

The WHO Policy Guidelines for Controlled Substances. WHO Policy guidelines ensuring balance in national policies on controlled substances, guidance for availability and accessibility for controlled medicines. <http://www.idpc.net/sites/default/files/library/WHO-Guidelines.pdf>

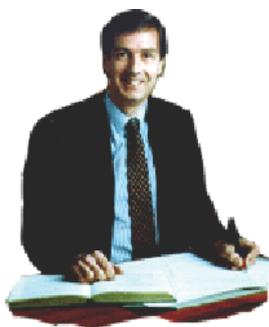
#### EMCDDA

Harm reduction guidelines in Europe. A listing of national harm reduction guidelines in Europe, along with some international standards and guidelines. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/best-practice/standards/harm-reduction>

#### Global Commission on Drug Policy Report

Commission members have agreed on four core principles that should guide national and international drug policies and strategies, and have made eleven recommendations for action. <http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/Report>

If your country or organisation has not appeared in this edition of DrugWorld and you have an item, report or conference that you wish to be considered for future publication, please forward with the appropriate hyperlink details to [paul@paul-cook.net](mailto:paul@paul-cook.net)



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](mailto:paul@paul-cook.net)

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