

European Update

EMCDDA

Europe has responded to rising concern over the use of four new drugs by formally requesting a scientific investigation into the health and social risks of the substances. The Council requests the EMCDDA Scientific Committee to conduct formal risk assessments of the four new substances — 25I-NBOMe, AH-7921, MDPV and methoxetamine — after harmful effects related to the drugs were reported by the Member States and picked up by the EU Early-warning system.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2014/1>

EMCDDA

The EMCDDA–Europol Joint Report on new psychoactive substance methoxetamine (2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(ethylamino)cyclohexanone). After assessing the available evidence, the EMCDDA and Europol concluded that sufficient information had been accumulated to merit the production of a Joint Report on methoxetamine.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-report/methoxetamine>

EMCDDA

The EMCDDA–Europol Joint Report on new psychoactive substance MDPV (3,4-methylenedioxypropylamine). After assessing the available evidence, the EMCDDA and Europol concluded that sufficient information had been accumulated to merit the production of a Joint Report on MDPV.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-report/MDPV>

France

The French drug safety agency has approved commercial sales of a medicine derived from cannabis for the first time in France. France's Health Ministry said that sales of Sativex, produced by Britain's GW Pharmaceuticals, will be allowed for the treatment of muscle spasms associated with multiple sclerosis.

<http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/2014/01/09/france-oks-sales-medicine-derived-from-cannabis/rKVMszXejhhmbO1hEp19ol/story.html>

Germany

Police in Germany say they have seized a large haul of cocaine after smugglers apparently made a mis-

take that sent the drug to supermarkets. Workers at five stores in and around Berlin were surprised to find cocaine packed into crates of bananas — a total of 140 kilograms (309 pounds).

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/01/07/cocaine-haul-ends-up-in-german-supermarkets-after-smugglers-make-logistical/>

Germany

Physical doping and brain doping apparently often go hand in hand. A study from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) and Eberhard Karls University revealed that people who engage in physical doping often also take drugs for brain doping. The study was the first of its kind to survey simultaneously the two categories of doping and brain doping.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/271153.php>

Ireland

Support growing slowly for legalisation of cannabis in Ireland. At the moment, people who use marijuana to relieve medical conditions face criminalisation, a €2,750 fine and up to 12 months in prison for a second offence.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/support-growing-slowly-for-legalisation-of-cannabis-in-ireland-1.1659318>

Sweden

A Swedish district court has handed a 25-year-old man a seven-month jail sentence for smuggling cannabis from the Danish capital Copenhagen to the southern Swedish city of Malmö. The man was arrested when officials found 1.2 kilos of cannabis inside socks in the bag he was carrying.

<http://www.icenews.is/2014/01/09/man-sentenced-for-smuggling-cannabis-from-denmark-to-sweden/>

United Kingdom

Researchers from the University of Nottingham have found drugs that act like cannabis in the brain and spinal cord might help quell pain associated with the form of arthritis that can cause major disability and decreased quality of life.

<http://www.emaxhealth.com/1020/cannabis-derivative-could-help-osteoarthritis-pain>

World Update

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan delivered to Zambia counterfeit medicine in the framework of the fight against deadly diseases, writes, UN expert, Director of the Laboratory for Molecular and Cellular Dynamics at Boston University Muhammad H. Zaman in the Project Syndicate analytical site.

<http://www.panorama.am/en/society/2014/01/18/m-zaman/>

China

2013 December 29, police from multiple jurisdictions of Guangdong launched a joint operation to raid Lufeng City Boshe Village, the province's "No. 1 Village" heavily involved in the production of drugs, eliminating 18 mega meth-cooking and distributing crime organizations headed by a Lufeng drug kingpin, arresting 182 suspects, seizing nearly 3 tons of methamphetamine and 23 tons of meth-cooking raw materials. Pictorial essay.

<http://www.chinasmack.com/2014/stories/3000-police-raid-chinese-meth-cooking-village-in-crackdown.html>

Colombia

Colombian officials say tests reveal a seized shipment of asphalt turned out to be expertly disguised cocaine. Gen. Ricardo Restrepo said that officials are still trying to determine how the cocaine was mixed with the asphalt. He said the process required "very expert" knowledge.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_american/colombian-police-find-cocaine-hidden-in-asphalt/2014/01/18/f07a2076-8070-11e3-97d3-b9925ce2c57b_story.html

Dominican Republic

A huge cocaine haul worth an estimated US \$37m has been seized from a go-fast boat in the Caribbean. A US Coast Guard helicopter was launched from the UK's Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight to intercept the suspected drug smugglers south of the Dominican Republic.

<http://www.marsecreview.com/2014/01/high-speed-sea-chase-nets-37m-cocaine-haul/>

Ghana

An Accra High Court has sentenced two persons including a Ghanaian, to a total of 35 years imprisonment for their roles in importing cocaine into the country late last year.

<http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2014/01/08/guianese-captain-gets-35-yrs-in-ghana-for-cocaine/>

Liberia

Liberia's Ministry of Health is launching a major crackdown on counterfeit drug sellers throughout the country, but Liberians say they have no choice but to buy such drugs, given their low cost and availability even in rural areas.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201401291315.html>

Mexico

Mexico's government has pledged to take control of Michoacán state after days of fighting between masked vigilantes and members of one of the country's most powerful drug cartels. Since late last year, the vigilante groups have moved deeper into territory controlled by the Knights Templar cartel and are now converging on Apatzingan, considered one of gang's main strongholds.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2014/jan/17/mexican-vigilantes-take-on-the-drug-cartels-in-pictures>

New Zealand

Some of the first legal highs to be sold under licence in New Zealand have been urgently pulled off shelves after users reported adverse health effects. The five brands were previously assessed by the Ministry of Health and in August were judged low risk enough to be sold to the public. But a spike of calls to the National Poisons Centre will lead to a recall of the AK47, Anarchy, Karma, Northern Lights Primo and Voodoo brands.

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?cid=1&objectid=11192431>

USA

The world's first luxury cannabis tour provider has launched in Colorado, offering unique tours of the state's most beautiful regions attractions, combined with an educational and recreational experience with the best legal cannabis in the US.

http://www.international.to/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34380:world-s-first-luxury-cannabis-tour-operator-launch-in-colorado&catid=321:ein-presswire&Itemid=469

Vietnam

A court in Vietnam has sentenced 30 people to death over heroin smuggling in what is said to be the largest such trial ever held in the country. The trial, over the smuggling of nearly two tonnes of heroin, began in January.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-25806353>

Zimbabwe

A 48 year old South African woman who was convicted of illegal possession of 2kgs of cocaine has been sentenced to 15 years in prison.

<http://www.newsdezimbabwe.co.uk/2014/01/south-african-cocaine-smuggler-jailed-in-hre.html>

Drug Webwatch

Seminar

Enhancing Cross-border Law Enforcement Cooperation to Reduce Drug Supply

Practical Experiences in EU Member States

Trier, 8 May 2014 – 9 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=bebf9da2f475a030a16d8ca72fd2e7a97002353300284110868381&_sprache=en&_bereich=artikel&_aktion=de



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

paul@paul-cook.net

If you found this newsletter useful then **click on the link** below and recommend DrugWorld to a friend or colleague.

Paul Cook

Send this newsletter to a colleague - click below

<http://www.drugworld.co.uk/recommend>



www.drugworld.co.uk