

## European Update

### EMCDDA

**Regional drug strategies across the world.** This paper offers a comparison of the drug strategies and plans adopted over the last five years by six intergovernmental organisations engaging 148 countries in four continents. It informs decision-makers, professionals and researchers working in the area of international drug policy about the way in which countries of the same region have decided to strategically approach drug-related security, social and health problems.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/emcdda-papers/regional-drug-strategies>

### EMCDDA

The EMCDDA uses five key epidemiological indicators to achieve its goal of providing factual, objective, reliable and comparable information on drugs and drug addiction at European level. These indicators have been developed by the Centre in close collaboration with the Reitox network, experts across Europe and with other international organisations competent in the field of drugs and drug addiction.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/key-indicators>

### EMCDDA

The EMCDDA Scientific Committee, meeting in Lisbon this week, elected its new Chair and Vice Chair for the next three years. Prof. Dr Gerhard Bühringer (Germany) was elected to the position of Chair and Dr Anne Line Breteville-Jensen (Norway) to the position of Vice Chair.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2014/fs5>

### UNODC

Report on the illicit drug trade through South-Eastern Europe. Data and analysis.

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/Illicit\\_DT\\_through\\_SEE\\_REPORT\\_2014\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/Illicit_DT_through_SEE_REPORT_2014_web.pdf)

### Germany

Cocaine-filled condoms addressed to the Vatican are seized by German customs. Package containing 40,000 euros of liquid cocaine was addressed to the Vatican postal office.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world->

[news/cocaine-filled-condoms-addressed-to-the-vatican-are-seized-by-german-customs-30118131.html](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/cocaine-filled-condoms-addressed-to-the-vatican-are-seized-by-german-customs-30118131.html)

### Greece

Two Bulgarian nationals have been handed over to the prosecuting authority in Thessaloniki on suspicion of participating in a drug trafficking ring. The drug trafficking network allegedly imported large quantities of cocaine from another European country and sold the drugs on the local market.

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/158974/2+Bulgarians+Arrested+in+Thessaloniki+in+Cocaine+Ring+Bust>

### Ireland

A man has appeared in court after liquid cocaine worth almost €115,000 was seized at Dublin airport.

Officers from customs service seized the 1.6 kilos of the drug as a result of routine profiling. Officers suspected a 64-year-old Bolivian man who had arrived on a flight from Rio had ingested cocaine.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/bolivian-man-arrested-in-liquid-cocaine-seizure-at-dublin-airport-626301.html>

### United Kingdom

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs invites members of the public to its open meeting on Friday 11 April 2014. There will be an opportunity for attendees to provide feedback to the ACMD and participate in a question and answer session.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/acmd-public-event-open-meeting-on-11-april-2014>

### United Kingdom

The BBC reported that the number of UK deaths linked to so-called legal highs has risen to at least 68 in 2012. The term "legal highs" is misleading; they are more precisely known as new psychoactive substances. Of those 68 deaths, 17 were linked to p-methoxyamphetamine (PMA) and three with p-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA). But PMA and PMMA have been controlled drugs in the UK since 1977. Full article in the Lancet at:

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)60479-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)60479-7/fulltext)

## World Update

### UNODC

South Asia March newsletter.

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/southasia/Newsletter/2014/UNODC\\_South\\_Asia\\_Newsletter\\_-\\_Issue\\_XXXIV.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/southasia/Newsletter/2014/UNODC_South_Asia_Newsletter_-_Issue_XXXIV.pdf)

### Australia

Opium poppies to be legalised in Victoria as demand for painkillers soars. Bill to decriminalise the narcotic crop passes parliament, potentially bringing \$100m in annual revenue to the state. Approved farmers will begin growing poppies under strict regulations as early as this year, creating an industry that Victoria's agriculture minister, Peter Walsh, said could contribute \$100m a year to the state's economy.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/18/opium-poppies-to-be-legalised-in-victoria-as-demand-for-painkillers-soars>

### Azerbaijan

Sale of counterfeit medicines in drugstores prevented in Azerbaijan. As a result of the measures implemented by the Ministry of National Security (MNS) and Ministry of Health, violation of the rules for the protection of human health has been revealed. <http://en.apa.az/news/208874>

### Colombia

Colombia's anti-narcotic police Saturday seized two tonnes of cocaine that allegedly belonged to the criminal gang Los Urabenos at the port of Santa Marta on the country's northern Caribbean coast. The cocaine, valued at \$56 million, were about to be shipped to the US via Central America, authorities said. The Colombian police have seized more than 25 tonnes of cocaine this year so far.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/two-tonne-cocaine-seized-in-colombia-114033000049\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/two-tonne-cocaine-seized-in-colombia-114033000049_1.html)

### India

A youth was arrested in New Delhi with 8 kg of heroin valued over Rs.25 crore in the international market, police said. During interrogation, he revealed he has an MBA from a Hyderabad institute and took to delivering drugs after suffering heavy loss in his earlier business of stone-crushing.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-heroin-valued-at-over-rs-25-crore-recovered-in-delhi-one-nabbed-1973383>

### Mexico

Mexican security forces say they have killed one of the leaders of the Knights Templar drug cartel. Enrique Plancarte, known as Kike, was shot dead during an operation in the central state of Queretaro. The death of Plancarte is being seen as another coup for the government of Enrique Pena Nieto in the fight against the drug cartels.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-26844963>

### Morocco

At least 75 kg of cocaine was seized in Morocco after two people were arrested at the Casablanca airport. The cocaine was seized from two sub-Saharan nationals. The cocaine was hidden in car spare parts, bags and decoration item.

[http://www.ianslive.in/index.php?param=news/Cocaine\\_seized\\_in\\_Morocco-415858/LatestNews/31](http://www.ianslive.in/index.php?param=news/Cocaine_seized_in_Morocco-415858/LatestNews/31)

### Peru

Police in Lima, Peru seized 1300 pounds of powdered cocaine with a reported value of up to \$18M in U.S. market. Peru recently passed Columbia to become the world's largest producer of the drug.

<http://www.usatoday.com/videos/news/world/2014/03/28/7027303/>

### Porto Rico

Federal authorities have seized \$50 million worth of cocaine after intercepting a boat off Puerto Rico's north coast. 1.7 metric tons (3,700 pounds) of cocaine were found aboard a boat.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_american/50m-worth-of-cocaine-seized-near-puerto-rico/2014/04/02/92f713da-ba79-11e3-80de-2ff8801f27af\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_american/50m-worth-of-cocaine-seized-near-puerto-rico/2014/04/02/92f713da-ba79-11e3-80de-2ff8801f27af_story.html)

### Uruguay

In about a month, Uruguay's revolutionary new cannabis law will go into effect. In addition to allowing citizens to grow, buy and sell weed, the government will also set forth on its mission to grow its own fields of marijuana, which will then be harvested, taxed and sold in neighborhood pharmacies.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/uruguay-canada-sell-us-your-best-quality-cannabis-n57656>

### Uruguay

Legalising cannabis: Uruguay's president Jose Mujica asks world for support. Interview: President of Uruguay insists drug use will not increase as his country is poised to become the first to legalise and control the marijuana trade.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/south-america/uruguay/10732869/Legalising-cannabis-Urugays-president-Jose-Mujica-asks-world-for-support.html>

## Drug Webwatch

### Dear Friends and Colleagues

This is the 90th edition of DrugWorld Update and also marks the tenth anniversary since newsletter number 1. In the early years I only posted on a quarterly basis and then subsequently on a monthly basis. In that time I have enjoyed editing the newsletter and I hope that you have found it useful in keeping up to date with drug related issues around the world.

The original idea was formed as a means of keeping in contact with numerous colleagues and friends from the many countries that I have been privileged to work in, on drug issues, during the last fifteen years. Many of you are still in regular contact via e.mail.

From a small list of friends the number of subscribers is now in excess of 1,000 from over 70 countries around the world. These figures far exceeded my original expectations.

However, I believe that the time has come for me to step aside from publishing the monthly newsletter to concentrate on other matters. I do intend to keep the DrugWorld website online and will update the news items on a daily basis.

Thank you all for supporting the newsletters over the years

Regards

Paul Cook



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



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