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**Current situation with respect to regional and
subregional cooperation****Country Report by Denmark*****

The drug situation in Denmark is considered to be relatively steady, and during the last 10 years there have been no remarkable changes, all things considered. The common types of drugs, including amphetamine, cannabis and cocaine, are still dominating the illegal drug market, and the same perpetrators are still active on the market. But the traffickers' routes and modus operandi are continuously adjusted as soon as they are revealed by the police or the customs authorities. During the last couple of years, however, there have been no dramatic changes relating to routes and modus operandi.

The accessibility of the most common types of drugs also seems to be almost unchanged. Likewise the drug prices have not changed considerably in recent years, and consequently the supply and the demand have been more or less consistent. Throughout many years, by far the most drug-related deaths are caused by a mixture of abuse or abuse solely of heroin, morphine or methadone. However, it is suspected that new types of new psychoactive drugs (NPS), especially fentanyl, may have contributed to drug-related deaths.

Illegal production of drugs in Denmark is estimated to take place only to a limited extent and primarily in the so-called kitchen-type laboratories. Through the years precursors have only been seized a few times, and those cases turned out to be transit seizure of drugs destined to the Netherlands.

The illegal drug market in Denmark is relatively conservative. The market is ruled and regulated sternly by criminals and organizations residing in Denmark. During many years the outlaw motorcycle gangs have been the primary perpetrators on the market, and they have often agreed how to divide the areas. Since 2000, many groups, primarily of other ethnic origin than Danish, have forced themselves into the lucrative market and through negotiations reached profitable terms. It should be emphasized in this context that all kinds of trade with and possession of drugs are illegal in Denmark.

* Although English, French, Russian and Spanish are the working languages of the subsidiary body, the document is only available in English due to late submission.

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Seizures of amphetamine decreased significantly in 2015, but increased significantly in 2016 to the highest amount in 17 years. The amphetamine being smuggled into Denmark is expected to be produced in the Netherlands and to a lesser extent in Poland and Lithuania.

“Ecstasy” tablets are popular among young people, especially among participants in concerts and parties. “Ecstasy” is the drug with the largest annual fluctuation, often depending on whether there have been other isolated seizures of large quantities. Since 2010, the interest in highly concentrated MDMA in the form of powder has increased, and since 2013, the MDMA powder has been mentioned separately in the statistics.

Cannabis resin has always been the most common type of drug in Denmark. Among the cannabis products the greatest demand is for cannabis resin, unlike several other countries where there has been a change from resin to marijuana. Denmark experiences a growing tendency among criminals to grow illegal indoor cannabis. The cannabis is sold in Denmark as marijuana, but most likely also abroad. Like other types of drugs hashish and cannabis are illegal — also for medical use. It is estimated that the majority of hashish smuggled into Denmark is produced in Morocco.

From January 2018 medical cannabis can for an experimental period of four years be prescribed by physicians. The medical cannabis is controlled and will only be sold from pharmacies. Growing of cannabis for personal medical use will continue to be illegal.

The quantity of seized heroin has decreased during the last couple of years, and in 2016 the quantity was barely 15 kilograms. The users are primarily heroin addicts who inject the heroin. Smoking of heroin only happens on a very limited scale. As mentioned below, new types of fentanyl may have replaced a part of the heroin market. Unlike other drug types the smuggling and trade of heroin are not carried out by criminal organizations. Often individuals or families are organizing the traffic. The heroin is smuggled from Southwest Asia via the Balkan route to Europe.

Cocaine is primarily smuggled via Spain, the Netherlands and the Balkans. However, during the last couple of years the tendency of trafficking directly from South and Central America has been growing, either carried out by ships in containers among legal goods or by passenger planes carried in suitcases or bags. In 2013, a record quantity of 681 kilograms was seized. Investigations showed, however, that the cocaine was meant for another country and by a mistake ended up in Denmark. In 2015 another large amount of cocaine was seized in a container. Investigation revealed, like in 2013, that the cocaine should have been removed from the container in Antwerp in Belgium, a so-called “rib off”, before the container was transported to Denmark. The quantity of seized cocaine in 2016 was almost 119 kilograms of cocaine which more likely reflects the cocaine marked in Denmark.

Total amount of drugs seized in Denmark 2000-2016

	Amphetamine	"Ecstasy"	MDMA	Cannabis resin	Heroin	Cocaine
<i>Year total</i>	<i>Kilograms</i>	<i>Tablets</i>	<i>Kilograms</i>	<i>Kilograms</i>	<i>Kilograms</i>	<i>Kilograms</i>
2014	291.59	54,690	9.98	2,210.74	12.93	89.73
2013	339.79	7,706	12.82	3,292.39	13.68	680.97
2012	301.52	72,654	-	1,333.94	40.58	42.08
2011	240.29	16,042	-	2,325.73	36.62	42.94
2010	193.97	45,360	-	2,317.63	39.04	54.16
2009	103.84	53,929	-	1,219.84	22.39	72.42
2008	119.83	17,631	-	2,914.46	43.94	56.09
2007	70.44	82,390	-	876.51	48.08	91.75
2006	79.44	22,712	-	1,035.39	28.87	76.22
2005	195.02	44,195	-	1,406.22	26.96	56.95
2004	63.05	38,094	-	1,757.74	37.52	32.26
2003	65.89	62,475	-	3,829.09	16.28	104.04
2002	34.91	25,738	-	2,635.24	62.50	14.15
2001	160.62	150,080	-	1,762.74	25.13	25.62
2000	57.14	21,608	-	2,914.42	32.08	35.91

New psychoactive substances (NPS) are a challenge on a global level, as they appear on the market more rapidly than they can be prohibited by law. In 2008 the Danish National Police registered seizures of NPS in Denmark for the first time. Since 2008 Denmark has seized many different types of NPS primarily purchased via foreign websites and forwarded to the receiver in postal packets. By far the largest part of NPS is, therefore, seized at the International Post Centre at Copenhagen Airport in connection with a customs examination. To this day, the popularity of the NPS has increased gradually, though the seized amount, compared with the common types of drugs, is still relatively limited. It is expected that fentanyl can be a replacement for heroin or as an additive to mix with heroin.

In order to meet the problem with the hastily increasing number of new types of NPS, Denmark introduced a generic legislation in 2012, as 10 complete groups of drug were prohibited by legislation. This means that types of NPS are often already prohibited when they appear in Denmark. Furthermore, Denmark is part of the Early Warning System under the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). In order to handle the obligations to the EMCDDA Denmark has established a national project monitoring NPS and other new drug types. The project is a cooperation between the Danish National Police, the National Health Service, the Tax and Customs Administration and the Forensic Institutes. The project contributes to achieving an overview of the drug area and also to exchanging information with EMCDDA and other countries with a view to combat drugs.

The NPS area is highly profiled, and in cooperation with the other Nordic countries Denmark has carried out operations against the NPS trafficking. Due to this cooperation Denmark has obtained a more detailed knowledge of the Internet facilitated trade, and Denmark has — as a preventive measure — advised the public through the media that trading via the Internet is not without risk. The Danish National Police is continuously monitoring the Internet and so far websites offering drugs related to Denmark or Danish criminals are very limited.

In Denmark both a national and several local special police departments are monitoring and analysing organized crime, including drugs, money-laundering and the criminal perpetrators within this field. The Danish National Police exchanges information with Europol and third part countries with a view to knowledge sharing and joint participation on projects. The Danish National Police has together with the Tax and Customs Administration established joint units to be used in connection with border controls. These units are also cooperating with Denmark's neighbouring countries, especially Germany and Sweden, in the efforts to combat the drug trafficking to the Nordic countries.