

27 June 2017

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**Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe**

Vienna, 27-30 June 2017

Draft report*Rapporteur:* Kris Lapiere (Belgium)**Current situation with respect to regional and subregional
cooperation**

1. At its 1st meeting, held on 27 June 2017, the Meeting considered item 3 of the agenda, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it two reports prepared by the Secretariat, entitled “Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide” ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/2](#)) and “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe” ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/3](#)). In addition, country reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Armenia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/CRP.2-22](#)).
2. Representatives of the Secretariat introduced the item. Two audiovisual presentations provided an overview of illicit drug trafficking trends across the region and worldwide and informed about the support provided by UNODC through its Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe.
3. The Meeting discussed current drug trafficking trends in Europe and approaches to addressing and countering them, with reference to particular cases and important seizures made. The involvement of organized criminal groups in drug trafficking was also discussed. The need to focus the proceeds of crime related to drug trafficking was highlighted, as well as the linkages to other forms of crime.
4. Reference was made to seizures of heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine. Information was shared on the continued use of the Balkan route for heroin trafficking from Afghanistan. One delegation noted a decline in the use of the Northern route for the trafficking of Afghan opiates and an increased importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran as both a trafficking route and a manufacturing site for heroin.

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.



5. It was observed that synthetic drugs were a growing challenge, manufactured both within the region and trafficked into it. Organized crime groups were employing foreign nationals as couriers in an attempt to disguise their illegal activities. Trafficking groups were also making full use of new technologies to support their illegal operations, often using equipment more sophisticated than that available to law enforcement authorities. The negative effect of the production of synthetic drugs on the environment was highlighted in this regard.
 6. Participants discussed emerging challenges, in particular the rise of new psychoactive substances as well as the use of the Internet for drug trafficking purposes. With regard to new psychoactive substances (NPS), some delegations referred to the need for a unified approach to addressing NPS, both with regard to their legislative control as well as in the efforts to detecting these substances.
 7. Several speakers made reference to the use of the “darknet” on the Internet as a platform for promoting illicit drug sales and facilitating communication between trafficking groups. This new communication platform posed new but not insurmountable challenges to law enforcement.
 8. A number of interventions addressed the illicit proceeds of drug trafficking and called for more attention to be given to recovering these from criminal groups and applying strong anti-money-laundering measures. Concern was expressed about the destabilizing threat to the rule of law posed by such illicit proceeds, particularly when used to finance terrorist groups and their activities.
 9. Several speakers stressed the importance of a balanced approach in order to effectively address the world drug problem, covering demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation.
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