



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 22 October 2013
(OR. en)**

14992/13

**CORDROGUE 101
COAFR 323**

NOTE

From:	Spanish regional Chair of the Dublin Group
To:	Dublin Group
No. prev. doc.:	15355/12
Subject:	Regional report for North Africa

1. ALGERIA

Since 2000, Algeria has been presenting large seizure figures for cannabis resin.

Developments observed during the first half of 2013, compared with the same period in the previous year, indicate an increase of **9.1%** for substances seized by the Algerian Security Forces, Customs staff, and Army units deployed in Algeria's border zones.

For example, during the first half of this year **77,920 kg** have been seized, compared with **71,482 kg** in the first half of 2012.

Most of the drugs seized have been in the *wilaya* (province) of Tlemcen, on the border with Morocco, and northeastern Algeria, a developing area in which the transportation of large quantities of drugs coexists with traditional methods using beasts of burden or people on foot carrying backpacks, as well as cars carrying loads of less than 200 kg.

The Tlemcen route has become consolidated as the preferred method of introducing drugs into Algeria, showing that drug trafficking is moving north, a situation whose origin has been linked to instability in northern Mali and the consequent strengthening of border controls in those wilayas, where, in any case, cannabis trafficking continues. In the interior of Algeria, the wilaya of Ouargla has shown a growing number of seizures of large quantities of cannabis resin in transit.

After cannabis, the second most important seizures are of psychotropics, with a **55.05%** increase over the first half of 2012. Between January and June of 2013, **583,185** psychotropic tablets were seized.

The presence of cocaine and heroin has dropped notably in the first half of 2013, compared with 2012. The amount of cocaine seized during this period in 2013 has been 217 g, compared with **15,679 g** in 2012.

The amount of heroin seized during this period in 2013 was **6.8 g**, compared with **5,216 g** in 2012.

According to data published in May by the President of the Algerian Youth Safeguarding Association (ASJ), the current figures indicate that in Algeria there are approximately **300,000** drug addicts between the ages of 15 and 30, among whom **3%** are women.

1.1. Algerian laws

Algeria forms part of the Euro-Mediterranean MedNET cooperation network (Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe) created in 2006¹, comprising Spain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia, which was created to establish North-South cooperation plans and activities within the framework of the fight against drugs.

Within this scenario, the following laws and regulations have been put forward:

- Act 04-18 of 25 December 2004, concerning prevention and repression of consumption and illicit trafficking of narcotics.
- Act 05-01 of 6 February 2005, concerning preventing and combating money laundering and terrorist financing. Complemented on 13/2/2012.

- Act 06-01 of 20 February 2006, concerning preventing and combating corruption. Complemented on 20 August of 2011.
- Order 12-02 of 13 February 2012 which amended and completed Act 5-01 of 6 February 2005 concerning preventing and combating money laundering and terrorist financing (JORADP no. 8 of 15 February).

1st Amsterdam Conference in May 2006, initiative presented at the Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group, 27 and 28 November 2006.

1.2. Evaluation

Given all of the above, it can be stated that:

- Cannabis resin seizures on Algerian territory during the first half of 2013 have risen compared with the same period of the previous year, presumably because of the steady sealing off of the border with Morocco resulting from the deployment of the security forces involved in combating drugs and smuggling, as well as the support of the Army.
- In the context indicated in the previous point, the routes used by drug trafficking networks are the same as those linked to human trafficking and organised crime, presumably due to the latter's work supporting the former.
- The scenario indicated in the previous point has evolved into a trend of a consolidation of the concept of narco-terrorism, understood as a permanent and secure source of financing for the armed groups active in the Sahel region. In this scenario, having established the relationship existing between terrorism and organised crime, it is noteworthy that Algeria has strengthened its legislation to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- As in previous periods, the identification of Spain, France, Greece and Italy as drug destination countries makes it important to analyse more deeply the currency trafficking generated by this illegal activity, in its return to the active networks.

1.3. Recommendations

- Increase cooperation on training, operations, and prevention regarding the consumption of drugs and narcotics, as well as strengthening cooperative actions to treat drug addiction.
- Propose adapting Algeria's regulations and Criminal Prosecution Act¹² to the coordination mechanisms for carrying out controlled deliveries in order to determine the structure of the active networks at their starting, transit, and final destination points for drugs, thus making it possible to develop comprehensive actions.
- At the international level, strengthen mechanisms for coordinating anti-drug operations in the Mediterranean, with a special emphasis on money laundering, the regulations on which have recently been amended.

2. EGYPT

Pursuant to the requirements stated in circular 1175 by the Directorate-General, on 5 August a meeting of the local Dublin Group in Egypt, chaired by the Deputy Chief of Mission of this Embassy, Alfredo Martínez, and by the Attaché for Home Affairs, José Cassinello, was held at this Chancellery. Attending the meeting, for the Egyptian authorities, was Brigadier Helmy Abdel Aziz, Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Anti-Narcotic General Authority (ANGA), under the aegis of the Ministry of the Interior of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

2.1. General situation

The climate of political instability and insecurity affecting Egypt since the revolution began in January 2011 has determined decisively the context in which the ANGA carries out its work. In any case, international observers point out that, from the operational point of view, ANGA's work has not been deeply affected.

Brigadier Abdel Aziz listed the main drug seizure operations carried out in Egypt in the past year, referring to the following narcotics, in order of importance:

¹ Criminal Procedures Code

2.1.1. Hashish

It is the most widely-used drug in Egypt. Inside Egypt, very limited quantities of hashish are produced, in the Sinai Peninsula. This drug has a two-pronged origin: Moroccan hashish—the most important quantitatively—comes from North Africa, and is introduced across the porous border with Libya. Lebanese hashish reaches the local market, in small amounts, through the border with the Gaza Strip and through the Mediterranean coastline. In 2012, seizures totalled 12,296 kg, and nearly all of them took place in the Mersa Matruh region, on the northwestern border with Libya.

2.1.2. Marijuana

It is a very widely-used drug, including for cultural reasons, in southern Egypt. Actions have focused on two goals: eradicating crops in the very mountainous region of the southern Sinai, and seizing imported marijuana, especially at the Suez Canal ports. Last year, ANGA's cooperation with the Armed Forces and the relevant authorities led to the seizure of 77,112 kg of marijuana.

2.1.3. Psychotropic substances

A particular presence of tramadol, and trafficking in very large quantities of it, has been detected. This drug is imported especially through the ports of Ein Sokhna and Damietta and the international airports of Cairo and Alexandria. India is the source of production. A total of 435 million tablets have been seized, and in 2013, in the largest anti-narcotics operation carried out successfully in Egypt, more than 40,34 million tablets and 328,000 capsules of liquid tramadol were seized. The operation was conducted throughout the national territory, leading to more than 30 arrests and an abundance of seizures of money and assets.

2.1.4. Heroin

Egypt is a consumer, not a producer, country. Heroin comes from either the Golden Triangle or from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. It enters through the eastern border, especially through the Suez Canal ports. Last year, 96 kg were seized.

2.1.5. *Opium*

There are opium plantations during the winter both in the Sinai and in the Upper Nile. In any case, consumption is limited to certain areas in Upper Egypt. Most of the opium doses are imported from Southeast Asia, and last year 49 kg were seized.

2.1.6. *Cocaine*

Given its high cost, cocaine use is limited to the wealthiest population groups, and flows particularly to tourist destinations where foreign use is concentrated. Last year, 40 kg were seized in diverse operations.

2.2. Institutional framework

Last year there was only one significant legislative reform: faced with increased trafficking and use of psychotropic substances, especially tramadol, the stipulated prison sentences were stiffened—even exceeding 20 years in prison—for those convicted of trafficking in these substances. To this purpose, the Anti-Narcotics Act has been amended. It is worth noting that internal debate has continued on the bill for treating addictions, which is likely to be submitted for parliamentary approval when the political circumstances allow.

2.3. International cooperation

ANGA views international cooperation as very positive, especially in the Mediterranean framework and with the Arab world. However, even though certain joint operations have been carried out with Italy and the United States, ANGA recognises that the difficult internal situation in Egypt—which is producing budget cuts and internal lack of coordination—requires increased international cooperation, through the following channels: information exchange; exchange of visits; increased training for its agents; and transfer of cutting-edge technology to enable the technical improvement of controls at ports and airports.

2.4. Recommendations

In addition to possible attention to the requests outlined in the above section, UNODC recommends insisting on a container control policy, through specific technical assistance programmes.

Likewise, several countries participating in the meeting underlined the need to jumpstart and motivate Egyptian authorities to intensify and continue with investigations, without merely settling for the seizures and arrests made. Mention was also made of the advisability of keeping these authorities informed and coordinating efforts regarding the Sahel, where most of the drug trafficking networks distributing narcotics across Egypt's eastern border have become established.

Finally, emphasis was placed on taking into account—with regard to relations with these authorities—the country's special political and social circumstances since the revolution of 25 January 2011.

3. LIBYA

The countries that have participated, apart from Spain (that held the Chair), in that meeting were as follows:

- Austria
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Hungary
- Netherlands
- Poland
- European Union

It is also pointed out that, apart from the participants referred to in the Cordrogue 24 (7641/06) paper, the Libyan authorities were invited to participate. Despite this, no Libyan representative was in attendance.

Progression of the meeting

The meeting covered three aspects of a general nature, namely: General situation of the country in relation to combating drugs; institutional framework and recommendations.

3.1. General situation

The circumstances related to the situation of the fight against drugs in Libya with reference to the preceding meeting of the Dublin Minigroup have not changed significantly. In other words, as pointed out in previous reports, the lack of technical resources, as well as operational and administrative procedures, in combating drugs imply that the situation has not improved compared to previous years.

One of the major obstacles is the scant information available as to the real situation that is unknown due to the absence of official data providing a vision of the current circumstances, as well as possible trends of this criminal activity. The information is usually obtained from open information sources or from the international community. In this sense, and in relation to operations related to this type of crime, the following seizures carried out in Libyan territorial waters are known:

- Towards the beginning of the year, a ship was found and captured originating from Morocco and with destination the Libyan town of Misurata, with 5,000 kg of cannabis aboard. At this same Port, an undetermined amount of ecstasy and cocaine were seized.
- In February, the Libyan Coastguard captured 30,000 kg of hashish.
- In April, 23,000 kg of cannabis were seized on a ship originating from a Libyan port. Apparently, the operation was carried out by the Egyptian Coastguard.

Other operations against drugs have been carried out by the Revolutionary Brigades belonging to the Supreme Security Committee that, in theory, reports to the Ministry for Interior Affairs. Within this framework, the Government has promoted the creation of special units (Wahada Khassa) within the Revolutionary Brigades belonging to the Supreme Security Committee to combat drugs. Among these operations, one could mention the seizure of *6,500 litres of alcohol* and 3,000 pills. Likewise, in the Port of Khoms, during the month of February, an operation has been carried out resulting in the seizure of 11,000 pills of LSD hidden in vehicles.

As indicated in previous reports, Libya is not a producing country. Rather, it is considered by the Libyan authorities as a transit country and as a victim of its geographical situation, being used by traffickers as a platform or transit country for drugs with destination elsewhere.

The type of drugs which are considered the most serious are Heroin, Cocaine, Ecstasy and Hashish. The latter, as indicated in September 2012 by the UN representative (UNODC), is a very popular drug for consumption among the Libyan population. Nevertheless, trustworthy data confirming this observation is missing.

Among the reasons mentioned for the transit of drugs through Libyan territory is the porosity of Libya's borders that sets an appropriate scenario for the entry and exit of this type of substances, apart from the scarce control on the part of the Libyan authorities. In addition, even though the cost of pills has increased from one dinar to five dinars, their cheapness could be behind the increased consumption thereof by Libya's youth.

Entry routes have not changed, the main entry points being on the border with Niger, coming from Central and Western Africa. In addition, traffic through the borders in Egypt and Tunisia may have increased significantly since controls by the Libyan authority there are scarce to date.

3.2. Institutional framework

The institution officially entrusted with combating drugs is the so-called Libyan National Narcotics Agency. Apart from this Agency, which belongs to the Ministry of the Interior, there are also police units that include in their mandate combating drugs, namely, the Agency Against Crime and, possibly, the new entity called Department of General Investigation, one of whose functions is to combat organised crime.

Also, the National Anti-drug Organisation (NADO) has been created, an NGO. In June, it organised a conference on drug control and prevention with the Libyan institutions. The aim of this conference is to develop a National Strategy in combating drugs.

Nevertheless, as mentioned before, the Revolutionary Brigades (Wahada Khassa) belonging to the Supreme Security Committee have carried out anti-drug operations.

3.3. Recommendations

In general, the recommendations made in the previous report of September 2012 remain unchanged, i.e.:

- To strengthen international cooperation through technical teaching and training programmes, directed at those taking part in the fight against drugs, also permitting to share experiences in the field of combating drugs.
- Improving channels for the sharing of information as a basic pillar for international cooperation, especially emphasising regional cooperation and that among Mediterranean countries. In this context, it would be desirable to have available more specific information on police operations, including the number of drug seizures and on anti-drug units.
- Expand the channels to finance the development of professional training programmes for the young.
- Develop Training Courses covering the fight against the traffic in human beings and money laundering.
- Establish transversal strategies in combating drugs with the participation of Agencies and Ministries such as Health and Education.
- Increase the number of Drug Consumption Prevention Programmes in Educational Centres.
- Develop programmes for the rehabilitation of drug addicts, using a multidisciplinary approach
- Establish permanent channels for international cooperation, especially amongst European countries.
- Create intelligence units capable of analysing the present situation and of ascertaining trends and possible future scenarios.

4. MAURITANIA

After the latest meeting of the Mini-Group on 29 April 2013, at which the previous version was approved, the Group decided that, given the lack of news on the narcotics situation in Mauritania, it was not necessary to hold another working meeting. Nevertheless, an updated report is presented below, based on an exchange of e-mails. This report was later approved by the participants.

4.1. General situation

Mauritania is still considered a transit country for cocaine (from America), and for hashish (from Morocco) to Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, as shown by the large drug seizures in recent years.

Mauritania has signed the principal international conventions on combating drug trafficking, including the Vienna Convention. There are legislative tools to combat illicit trafficking: the Act of 18 July of 1993 establishes severe sanctions, including the death penalty for repeat offenders. The Act of 27 July 2005 defines as a criminal offence the laundering of money obtained from illicit products.

4.2. Evolution of trafficking

Cocaine Trafficking: Mauritania is considered a country of transit for cocaine, as shown by the large seizures of the drug, on its way to Europe, in 2008 and 2009.

However, since then there have been no other notable seizures, probably due to the creation of security measures adopted on the counterterrorism front. These efforts have been strengthened by Operation Serval in Mali.

In any case, there is evidence that since 2008, cocaine is being shipped from South America, by air and by sea, into ports on the Gulf of Guinea (in Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and Togo). From there, it is sent to Mauritania by road or by ship directly from Guinea-Conakry, eastern Mali, or Senegal. The sea route is therefore the preferred means for delivering cocaine to Europe through the ports of Nouakchott, Nouadhibou or the surrounding areas, including the no-man's-land in the southeastern Western Sahara.

Cannabis Trafficking: It is also a country of transit for cannabis from Morocco (as shown by the 2.5 tons seized in January 2012 by the police, and another 3.74 tons seized in May of the same year) to all of West Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Specifically, cannabis resin comes, for the most part, from the Moroccan Rif Valley, and then shipped to Egypt and Libya (from northern Mali and northern Niger), as well as to countries on the Arabian Peninsula (through Chad and Sudan). . It moves through Mauritania on two main routes: one in the north of Mauritania and the Sahara, along the border with Algeria and the north of Mali and the north of Niger; the other to the south from Nouakchott, along a road known as the "Road of Hope", towards the border with Mali.

Nevertheless, security measures implemented by the Mauritanian authorities since President Abdelaziz took power (2009), within the context of counterterrorism operations, also benefit the fight against drugs, so that the transit of these goods is more difficult than before. These efforts have been considerably strengthened by the Operation Serval in Mali.

Its geographical position, its trade relations with the Canary Islands, and the poor border controls, and insufficient enforcement mechanisms provide favourable conditions for drug trafficking.

Nevertheless, no reliable statistics are being published.

Only the Central Office for Combating Illegal Trafficking in Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (OCLCTISS), which has been strongly supported by French bilateral cooperation since 2008 (Project LUCTISEM 1, 2, 3 and 4, the latter currently underway), reports the results of its activity to the Mini-Group (seizures, arrests, and cases brought before the courts).

In 2012, the OCLCTISS reported the following results:

- 180 cases processed
- Of 463 who faced prosecution, 335 were charged (including 310 Mauritanians)
- Seizures:
 - 47,580 kg of cannabis resin
 - 677,822 kg of marijuana
 - 7,630 Rivotril tablets
 - 21 vehicles
 - 9.75 million ouguiyas (approximately €24,390)
 - €3010
 - US\$6,135
 - 6000 bottles of alcohol, 42,668 cans of beer, 16,000 litres of homemade alcohol ("zum-zum")

In April 2013, 1,242 t of marijuana were discovered by the Mauritanian armed forces on the border with the Western Sahara. The investigation was entrusted to the police in Zuerat, and to date, there have been no arrests. In August, approximately 100 kg of marijuana were seized in Boutilimit.

4.3. Evolution of production

The country does not have a tradition of growing and processing drug crops.

Local use is limited to certain cannabis (Indian hemp) derivatives linked to traditional practices.

There is no evidence suggesting that there are laboratories producing synthetic drugs in Mauritania. However, in August 2013, a drug plant located in the Bsara district of Nouakchott, producing for the local market, was dismantled.

4.4. State of drug use

Nevertheless, there is undeniably a presence of drugs in transit (cocaine), which has sparked an increase in their use in some circles. Small-scale trafficking has begun. The Mauritians who are involved locally tend to be low-level intermediaries, not fully-fledged traffickers.

There has been a noticeable increase in drug use in the poorest neighbourhoods, where most foreigners live, such as the 5^{ème} or 6^{ème} in Nouakchott. This is where the traffickers have set up their logistical centres. Crime is high, especially at night, so several security forces (Police, National Guard or Gendarmerie) have set up a special surveillance unit.

4.5. State of international cooperation

Spanish cooperation

The Spanish Civil Guard is continuing its project to expand the National Gendarmerie's Police Dog Unit. In 2011, 12 more teams were trained to detect drugs and explosives. Four refresher courses were presented for these teams in 2012. In March 2013, a 20-day evaluation mission was carried out, during which the staff seconded to Mauritania verified that the police dog unit was still operating. Nevertheless, certain defects were detected and corrected.

French cooperation

The work being carried out by the security services of the French Embassy (SSI Nouakchott) has focused, since 2008 (LUCTISEM 1, 2, 3, and 4) on supporting restructuring and staff training at Mauritania's Central Office for Combating Illegal Trafficking in Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (OCLCTISS), financed by France (Inter-ministerial Mission to Combat Drugs and Addiction - MILDT).

In 2011 and 2012, two new MILDT subsidies, of €50,000 and €71,375, made it possible to prolong this effort (handcuffs, radio installations, geolocation, special vehicle [SOUM] and donation of three quads), and in the area of staff training, personnel at the OCLCTISS were given three weeks of training.

In addition, French Cooperation has supported the creation of a "museum" at the OCLCTISS installations, with exhibits including examples of places where drugs are hidden (foosball game with a double bottom, gas tanks cut open and filled with Indian hemp, tires, double-bottomed ice bucket). These exhibits make it possible to preserve a history of the techniques used by traffickers, aimed at staff training and awareness-raising.

In 2013, for the first time, the Mauritanian Gendarmerie's investigation unit received special support in the area of combating drug trafficking (equipment/training with €75,000 - MILDT credits).

Lastly, a new project, new Project dubbed "FSP ALCAO" (Support for Combating Cocaine Trafficking in West Africa) was officially launched at a seminar from 16-17 October 2012 in Guinea-Conakry.

This project aims to support the participation of coastal West African countries (Mauritania, Benin Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau , Senegal , Togo and Côte d'Ivoire) in combating cocaine trafficking proceeding from Andean countries.

The project has three components:

- - Capacity-building in the fight against cocaine trafficking in West Africa
- - Capacity-building for the services specialised in combating cocaine trafficking
- - Improving international and regional cooperation in the fight against cocaine trafficking

French Cooperation, in the course of the first half of 2013, has carried out in Nouakchott two training sessions and one donation of equipment (€21,000).

During the second half of 2013, one week of training by two experts in analysing money laundering and the financing of terrorism and drug trafficking will be given to 30 officers of the police, customs, justice systems and CANIF.

Lastly, the JUSSEC (Justice and Security in the Sahel) programme in the field of counterterrorism and organised crime has been carrying out operational capacity-building for the police on these issues.

EU cooperation

The EU continues to support Mauritania's comprehensive border control system, which contributes to the fight against drug trafficking.

In 2013, it is to support the Mauritanian Gendarmerie at the 22 border stations that are under its authority (of the 45 existing, and which must be crossed in order to enter the country). This effort has the aim of integrating the Gendarmerie's database into the same database registering the entrances and exits of individuals set up by the Mauritanian National Police; building some border crossing points, providing computer equipment and capacity-building for the police in charge of this mission.

There is also a project in collaboration with the Civil Guard (Spain), pending approval for the creation of a joint police station in Selibaby (Mauritania) in which would be represented the forces responsible for the comprehensive management of the borders of Mali, Senegal and Mauritania: the police, gendarmerie and customs.

Senegalese officials are developing a strategy for migration and beefing up border controls in coordination with the Mauritanian authorities in order to achieve better results in combating all kinds of trafficking, including drugs.

Within the framework of the "West Sahel" programme, co-financed by the European Union and Spain, the police responsible for patrolling Auerate, on the northeastern border, have been trained and equipped during early 2013. The courses are designed as ongoing training, so that one or two of the trainers stay with the police. The idea is that the Spanish trainers be able to immediately evaluate the knowledge acquired and the correct use of the technical means involved. Mistakes are corrected immediately.

In all the courses, there are sessions on drugs trafficking, simulation tools, etc.

United States cooperation

The United States supports the Mauritanian Police and Gendarmerie through training programmes, including border control courses, and by providing equipment (trucks, night vision goggles, GPS, radio transmitters, etc.). The United States supported the Mauritanian authorities in their implementation of community policing and a free emergency telephone number.

United Nations cooperation

In 2011, Mauritania was represented at a regional seminar, organised by the UNODC, on organised crime within the framework of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan against Illicit Drug Trafficking. The UNODC is also working to implement its technical assistance in the fight against money laundering, and the organisation of courses in this area is planned, in close cooperation with CANIF. A UNODC mission was carried out to this effect in November 2012.

Lastly, UNODC is supporting the Government of Mauritania, as part of a 3-4 year programme, in drafting a comprehensive national programme to combat illicit drug trafficking, organised crime and terrorist financing, improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and the police, as well as contributing to reduction of demand for drugs and to AIDS prevention.

German cooperation

Since February 2013, GIZ has been implementing, on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Relations, an institutional strengthening project with the National Police (RCPN). This project, the implementation of which will end in December 2015, forms part of the RCPN programme ongoing since 2008 in several African countries, the purpose of which is to improve national security by structural capacity-building in the national police of the targeted countries.

In Mauritania, the project focuses on three main lines of action supporting border posts, management of training at the Directorate-General for National Security (DGSN) and support for the Technical and Scientific Police (PTS).

The GIZ project, drafted in close collaboration with the relevant DGSN departments, combines organisational support and capacity-building for police management. It is bolstered with a material support component, including the construction and renovation of educational institutions, as well as provision of equipment to the police forces.

Thus, in the context of support activities at border posts planned for 2013-2014, the GIZ intends to build three of them, and provide specialised equipment for six. Add to this capacity-building and support for the creation of a unit of specialised trainers under the aegis of the Directorate for Training (DFRST), responsible, under the supervision of international experts, for training staff assigned to border posts.

4.6. Operational recommendations

The Mini-Group Dublin members see a problem in the programme design. The authorities do not ensure the monitoring of those cases detected, and there is no subsequent analysis of the drugs seized. To this is added a major deficit in prosecution. The Prosecutor General should play an important role in controlling and coordinating the police, gendarmerie, and tax agency. The judges, investigators and financial supervision services, as well as the health and pharmacological services, require specialised training.

Mauritania still has serious needs in every area, from staffing to logistical support. The request for material means for surveillance, communications, investigation and toxicological analysis can be seen in both the Mauritanian Police and the Gendarmerie. Training activities are absolute priorities, beginning with the trainers themselves.

Other specific recommendations are as follows:

- Continue awareness-raising among the Mauritanian authorities regarding the need for more effective involvement in the fight against money laundering linked to this trafficking.
- Promote and support the creation of a national database on drug trafficking, with information provided by the police, the tax agency, and the army.

- Support the development of a national policy combating drug trafficking on this basis.
- Improve and optimise the material means available to the competent Mauritanian security forces.
- Ensure continuity in the educational field through the creation of a permanent centre with qualified, professional trainers. Focus on trainer training. Prioritise the specialisation of agents from the time they join the force.
- Promote a framework of regional cooperation, promote the work of the West Africa Liaison Officers' platform headquartered in Dakar, facilitate the assessment of the National INTERPOL Office and improve its capacities as a means of increasing international collaboration.
- Capacity-building for effective border control, and, in this area, promoting the implementation of the Stability Instrument.
- Mauritania has no comprehensive vision of narcotics trafficking at the local or international level. Under these conditions, it is difficult to define a strategy to combat this phenomenon. The OCLCTISS lacks sufficient capacity to guarantee the centralisation of information in this area. The Mauritanian Gendarmerie and Customs do not always communicate drug cases to each other. In fact, the Narcotics Office has no real knowledge of the scale of drug trafficking.

Besides the actions noted, a special effort should be made in the ports of Nouadhibou and Nouakchott. In fact, they have little or no control, and constitute a major weak spot in the fight against drug trafficking.

5. MOROCCO

By and large there are not great changes compared with previous reports. On a general note participants stressed the lack of unified and reliable statistics and figures. This fact prevents from gauging the real extent of the situation as well as of new developments and the appropriate analysis, elaboration and implementation of measures and actions to be taken.

5.1. General situation

On the basis of data provided by one of the participants a new trend in cocaine trafficking could be identified. Most significantly since the previous report, is the steep increase in seizure of cocaine busts with Moroccan citizens involved. Different methods of transport of cocaine have been detected: drug mules (swallowed or carrying it) in commercial flights departing from Latin American airports, low altitude flights departing from secondary airports. Apart from transit through Morocco increase in local use may partially explain this recent development.

As for Cannabis Morocco would continue to be the first world producer with an estimate of some 4000 / 7000 tonnes per year. Although surface for cannabis cultivation has been reduced in recent years, production as such continues to increase steadily. Introduction of new varieties of plants and improvement of production methods could explain this situation. Destruction of drug by traffickers as they get arrested seem to be an emerging trend as well.

Political instability in Egypt, Libya or Syria coupled with effective police work in Southern Europe are leading to the establishment of new routes.

5.2. Institutional framework

There have been no significant changes in legislation. Sporadic claims from some lesser political actors to legalise production appear in the press but can hardly be considered as representing a state of opinion.

5.3. International cooperation

No new agreements have been concluded on this subject. There is currently a high degree of police cooperation based on existing agreements and arrangements. This active cooperation was highly valued by participating states so much so, since the teams in the Moroccan police force specifically in the field of fight against drug trafficking are quite reduced in numbers. Money laundering has been identified as a field for further action in terms of cooperation. Controlled deliveries were also mentioned under this item.

5.4. Recommendations

- Need to elaborate reliable statistics. In this respect encourage local authorities to set up a national arrangement that produces national unified statistics on drug seizures and related issues. These figures could be an appropriate basis for international reports such as those drawn by UNODC.
- Encourage full participation of local authorities in AIRCOP. Given the higher standards and level of preparation of Moroccan authorities compared with other countries in the region, it could be envisaged for Morocco a role of leadership in this field. This may reassure local authorities into full participation.
- Support to local authorities in building capacities in the fight against money laundering.
- Encourage participation of Moroccan authorities in EUROPOL. Inclusion of this issue in the EU – Morocco Mobility Agreement.

6. TUNISIA

6.1. General situation

6.1.1. *Production and trafficking*

As has been maintained to date, Tunisia is not a narcotics producer; however, it is a transit zone for moderate quantities of drugs, mainly cannabis heading towards Libya. It is not known whether drug consumption is very widespread in the Tunisian population, due to the lack of reliable public statistics, although unofficial figures from the end of 2012 indicate that there could be up to 350,000 consumers in Tunisia, most of them less than 35 years old.

To date, no official figures have been obtained for the first half of 2013 regarding the number of police interventions involving narcotics trafficking, although it is known that in the first three months of this year there were 1396 police actions regarding alleged drug trafficking offences.

According to open sources, it is known that in the first half of 2013 the Tunisian security forces seized at least 215 kg of hashish in different operations.

6.1.2. *Consumption*

In accordance with the available figures, the most widely consumed drug in Tunisia is cannabis. No figures are available regarding cocaine trafficking and consumption for the first half of 2013, although unofficial figures have been collected which indicate that one of the largest prison communities is related to drug trafficking offences.

6.2. Legal and institutional framework

No changes are known regarding the regulatory framework of combating illicit narcotics trafficking, or that of preventing addiction to these substances.

6.3. International cooperation

No information is available regarding international cooperation activities involving the fight against illicit narcotics trafficking or drug addiction.

6.4. Recommendations

The recommendations that can be listed for fighting illicit narcotics trafficking and drug addiction are as follows:

- For the public administration to conduct statistical studies, and transparently disseminate their results.
 - Creation of national strategy and a national authority, having an intersectorial nature, for the fight against drugs trafficking and the prevention of drug addiction.
 - Promote international cooperation with agencies and organisations dedicated to preventing drug addiction and combating illicit trafficking in narcotics.
 - Promote the participation in international seminars of members of Tunisian state security forces charged with combating illicit narcotics trafficking, as well as opening these police units to direct international cooperation with services engaged in similar activities.
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