



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 November 2012

15828/12

**CORDROGUE 77
COWEB 171**

NOTE

from: Hungarian Regional Chair of the Dublin Group
(Co-Chair: Austria)

to: Dublin Group

No. prev. doc.: 9311/12 CORDROGUE 22 COWEB 62

Subject: Regional report on Western Balkans

Place and date of meetings of the Mini-Dublin groups

In the second half of 2012 Mini-DG meetings took place in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tirana (pending), and Zagreb.

1. ALBANIA

Pending

2. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Update: 18.10.2012

Evaluation of the progress achieved since March 2012

The budget for 2012 was approved under enormous **pressure from the International Community** in May, giving some hope for the normal work of state institutions. But after the budget approval the SDP initiated to remove SDA ministers from government opening with it's request an escalating and never-ending political debate both on state level and in the FBiH.

The budget of authorities for fight with drug issues is sufficient, basically they received what they planned, but there is now a transition to a **5-year planning period**, which would require more strategic thinking.

Overall, BiH made only **little progress** in the fight against drug trafficking and in reducing drug demand, though the latter still remaining at a comparatively low level. International drug trafficking routes pass through BiH or along its borders. BiH itself is a depot and redistribution site for drugs as well. Narcotic cultivation and production is still limited. There is no one "known big drug laboratory" discovered in the country, but there might be a number of small "kitchen laboratories".

Seizures of drugs (heroin, cocaine, skunk) at the borders increased, as well as the reported cases of drug-related crime. Number of processed drug-related cases slightly decreased.

Drug **consumption is on the rise**, though it is still on relatively low level in comparison to other countries in Europe. There are between 5.000 to 8.000 drug users. The price of marihuana decreased, of skunk remains at the former level. For 3-5 KM (1,5-2,5 EUR) a number of designer drug tablets are available in most cities.

The FBiH adopted an **action plan for fight against drug for the period 2012-2013, the RS activities are implemented by an inter-institutional commission.**

The new ICMPD mission within the project “**EU Support to Law Enforcement**”, started in October 2012 with **11 long-term experts** is expected to give help to the local authorities also in drug issues, as one the 10 component of its program is “Establishment of appropriate structures for the management of temporarily seized and confiscated assets and support for the establishment of the office for Drugs”.

Notwithstanding a number of successfully conducted joint anti-drugs operations, the coordination between different enforcement agencies remained on a case-by-case basis. The deficient systematic and formal exchange of information, in particular of intelligence, is a significant gap for disrupting organized criminal networks, including drug trafficking. Activities by law enforcement agencies in fighting against drug abuse continued but without major breakthroughs.

Institutionalized cooperation between all law enforcement agencies and sustainable strategic guidance is still lacking. Similarly, an effective judicial follow-up and deterrent criminal policy is still missing.

3. CROATIA

1. General situation

The so-called “**Balkan Route**” is the most important route for drug smuggling from Eastern to Western Europe.

A new challenge for the Croatian police forces is the so called “**Balkan Cartel**” that presents a threat not only to Croatia but to Europe as well. The “Balkan Cartel“ is involved in a large number of cases of drugs **smuggling to Croatia and Europe**. Strongest bases of the cartel were identified in the **Netherlands (Amsterdam, Rotterdam), in Belgium (Antwerp), in Germany (Frankfurt, Offenbach) in Italy (Milano) and in Spain (Barcelona)**.

1.2. Statistical data of the drug related crimes

cocaine: 4 kg 394 g

heroin: 33 kg 155 g

hashish: 2 kg 712 g

amphetamine: 23 kg 40 g

ecstasy: 3 149 tablets

LSD: 778 doses

Leaves of hemp drug type (marijuana): 395 kg 981 g

1.3. Origin of the drugs on the Croatian market, trafficking routes:

Marijuana on the Croatian market originates from Albania and is smuggled by organized criminal groups through Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina into Croatia and further on towards Western Europe (so-called “Balkan Route”).

New trend of smuggling Skunk (marijuana growled in controlled environment with higher percentage of THC) to Croatia was detected **via southern part of Balkan route. 550 kg of skunk seized at the borders with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.**

2.6. Drug-related treatment: demand and availability

Despite the reduction in the number of addicts, it can be concluded that Croatia's **treatment system is stable and functions well**, as evidenced by the fact that the drug users are offered a number of different programs and they tend to remain in treatment longer.

2.8. Responses to health correlates and consequences

Similar to previous years, the **Croatian Red Cross and civil society organisations Let, Help, Terra and the Institute** conducted the activities of distributing injecting paraphernalia and condoms, collecting infectious waste, cleaning up the environment from discarded paraphernalia, distributing educational material, counselling and informing the addicts about harmful effects of drugs, risk of overdose, as well as the ways of protection against blood - borne and sexually transmitted diseases. In 2011, 3 939 users were included in the harm reduction programmes.

A very important role in reducing the harm caused by drug abuse is played by the **Centres for Free and Anonymous HIV Testing and Counselling**, substitution pharmacotherapy programmes and prevention and therapy of drug-related infectious diseases.

2.10. Drug-related crime, prevention of drug-related crime and prisons

According to the statistical data of the Ministry of Interior, during 2011 **7 767 criminal offences of narcotic drugs abuse** (0.2% less than in 2010) were reported, which makes **10.3% of the overall crime in the Republic of Croatia**. Due to narcotic drug abuse, 5 715 persons were reported, which is by 5.4% more compared to the previous reporting period (5 019). According to the Act on Combating Drug Abuse, in 2011 there were 2 195 (2010: 2 313) reported misdemeanour charges against a total of 2 295 persons (2010: 2 364).

3. International Cooperation /3.2. Policing the Western Balkans

The Austrian Ministry of Interior carries out the project “Drug Policing the Western Balkans” combating organized drug crime along the Balkan Route.

Primary activities are:

- **to set up contact network along the Balkan Route**
- **to conduct joint targeted operations and investigations**
- **to set up Joint Investigation Teams (JIT).**

3.4. Concrete results of the international cooperation and operations

23 March, Zagreb: The amount of 0.9 kg heroin and 0.1 kg cocaine was found and seized, 5 people were arrested.

2 May, Caribbean’s: Operation “JADERA” OKD PNUSKOK – cooperated with DEA, France, Netherlands, Italy, Dominican Republic – seized 174 kg of cocaine, arrested 9 people (smuggling of cocaine from South America to Europe and Croatia).

18 May, Zagreb: 8 people were arrested, the value of 18.000 Euro (1 kg heroin, 1 kg cocaine, 1.6 kg marijuana) drugs were seized.

23 May, Pula: The amount of 5 kg marijuana was seized, 3 people arrested.

24 May, Zagreb: Operation “STONE” against Albanian smugglers ended with arresting 9 people and seizing 1.3 kg of cocaine.

26 June, Valencia, Spain: In cooperation with Spanish police Guardia Civil (Operation “DOGA”) the amount 10 kg hashish and 0.5 kg cocaine (hashish smuggled from Morocco to Europe, cocaine from South America to Europe) was seized, 2 Croatian citizens, 2 Spanish citizens and 1 Bosnian were arrested.

30 July, Zagreb: The amount of 52 kg heroin was seized in a bus coming from Albania to Italy, during the procedure of moving the drug to a car.

31 July: 2 Croatian citizens were arrested in Croatia as a result of investigation in Operation “DAGO”.

5. Mini-Dublin Group recommendations

Since Croatia has developed a **good structure for combating drug abuse, strategic planning, and the implementation of the measures and has had good results**. The country has been recognized as a partner whose system is an example of **good practice**, and whose experience is a good foundation for cooperation with other countries in the region, but also with other European Union countries.

By setting up the Department of the National Drugs Information Unit and International Co-operation at the Office on Combating Narcotic Drugs Abuse, an **operative cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)** continues. Croatia aims to **improve the way of solving the problems** associated with drugs use and abuse via active cooperation with relevant international organizations, bilateral and regional cooperation and by using available EU funds.

The most important follow up question may concern the actual situation related to “**South-European Drugs Initiative**” and “**Drug Policing the Western Balkans – Advanced 2009-2012**” projects and the parliamentary adoption of the new National Strategy on Combating Drugs Abuse for the period 2012 - 2017 and the Draft Action Plan on Combating Drugs Abuse for the period 2012 - 2014.

4. FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)

Update May 2012

nothing new

IV. Major bilateral and multilateral counter narcotic programs

- Technical Assistance of EAR to equip Mol Central Laboratory;
- Various bilateral contributions in the framework of the police reform program, like capacity building and police trainings; e.g. Police Training Academy in Skopje in 2009 within bilateral police training assistance by German BKA
- Project "**Establishment of program for prevention of drugs in the schools**"; supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands started in the municipalities of Skopje, Tetovo and Strumica. Materials for prevention like guidelines for the teachers, informative materials for different types of drugs are prepared within this project.
- Successful **bi- and multilateral anti-trafficking police-operations with Turkey, Germany and Austria** were noticed in the last months

VI. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs /

1) Emerging threats/trends

- Increase of trafficking could further enhance the position of the country as an **attractive route for the transit and "warehousing base" for trans-shipments towards Western Europe and within the Balkan region**. Intensified repression through special operations to disrupt these well-established criminal structures and to confiscate the bunkered drugs (first of all heroin) is strongly recommended.
- Illicit **trans-border activities** especially in the western part of the country (border to Kosovo) continue, including the smuggling of drugs
- First time discovered illegal production sites for synthetic drugs in Macedonia; focus on suppression measures is advised to law-enforcement agencies
- Increased trafficking will also increase the availability of drugs in the country itself, in particular less expensive drugs.

- In general the numbers of confiscated drugs appear to be quite low considering the high quantity of annual drug transit (20-25 tons of heroin)
- **Possible threats emanating from the migratory pressure on the region from South and Central-Asia, North Africa and the Middle East**
- Repercussions of the **economic crisis in Europe and the extensive black/grey market in the country** as a sustaining environment for both drug use and trafficking

5. Kosovo

Update: September 2012

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held in the premises of the European Union Office in Kosovo, Pristina on 19 September 2012 from 10:00 to 11:45 hours.

Participants: HU (Chair), AT, NL, NO, SW, SK, RO, FR, Kosovo Police, USDOJ-ICITAP, UNDP, EULEX, OSCE, EU Office in Kosovo.

1. General situation in Kosovo / 1.1. Domestic production of drugs

The representative of the Kosovo Police informed the delegations that Kosovo is not suitable for cannabis planting for several reasons. Among the reasons, the following were mentioned: inappropriate climate, small country territory and increasing population.

Kosovo is further regarded as a “**transit country**”.

1.2. Drug-related statistics/ Current market prices in Kosovo

Heroin: 1Kg between 17.000 and 22.000 EUR (0.6 g between 20-25 EUR)

Cocaine: 1Kg between 60.000 and 80.000 EUR (0.6 g between 70-90 EUR)

Marihuana: 1 Kg between 600 and 900 EUR (5 g between 20-25 EUR)

1.3. Trafficking routes

The Kosovo Police identified source of drugs from the **Burma-Thailand-Laos triangle**, and also from the **Afghanistan - Pakistan - Iran region**.

According to the statement, Kosovo is **less and less used as a transit country**, as a result of the following factors:

- Integration Processes in the Region
- Infrastructure
- Exports of Kosovo products in EU
- Diversity of law enforcement agencies

a) Heroin route

Ways identified by the representative of the Kosovo Police are:

- Towards Turkey - Bulgaria - Serbia - Kosovo
- Towards Turkey - Greece - Macedonia - Kosovo
- Towards Turkey - Greece - Albania - Kosovo

b) Methods of drug smuggling

Two new cases from 2012 were presented by the Kosovo Police. In July 2012 (*case No. 2012-DHTN-173*) **350 kg marihuana was captured after two months of investigation**. Five suspects were arrested.

Also in July 2012 (*case No. 2011-DKKO-055*) 257 kg 917g of marihuana was found in the tyres of a huge truck. The investigation begun in December 2011 and seven people were arrested.

2. Update on Kosovo's anti-drug strategy

Kosovo's National Strategy on fighting drugs for the period 2009-2012 is successfully closed. With the help of **OSCE and EULEX a new strategy is drafted for the period 2012-2017**, but it has not been approved until today. For the successful realization of the strategy, annual plans will be adopted. Contrary to the previous strategy, the new strategy has five main objectives instead of three.

National legislative background

- Kosovo Penal Code – more types of criminal activities were included
- Kosovo Penal Procedure Code (still under modification) – new articles regulate surveillance and international cooperation
- Law on Police
- Establishing Standard Operating Procedures according to EU standards

Institutional changes / Further information on ILECU activities

- Joint training between Kosovo institutions
- Exchange of information between the contact points
- Weekly, monthly, bi-annual reports
- Annual report
- Recommendations towards other institutions
- Creation of e-mail addresses for direct cooperation in Western Balkans (ilecu@kosovopolice.com)
- The establishment of International Law Enforcement Coordination Unit (**ILECU**) under ILECU II project. The unit has existing working cooperation with national organs, for example the Ministry of Education on the field of drug prevention, but also with authorities of EU member states. Through the coordination of incoming requests and the improved databases, the efficiency of the Unit has increased since establishment.

ILECU Activity- Readmissions& change of personal data and statistics (Since 3 August 2012):

- **133 cases**
- **122 closed cases (13 negative)**
- **11 opened**
-

3. International Cooperation / Ongoing operations, bilateral and multilateral projects, agreements and events

- Joint operations with Customs, Border Police and K9 (12)
- Joint operations with the KMAP (Kosovo Agency for Medical Products)
- Cooperation with EULEX (awareness campaign against the phenomenon of Drugs 2011)
- Cooperation with KFOR (awareness campaign against the phenomenon of Drugs 2011)
- Regular meetings with relevant agencies
- Meetings with NGOs
- Information exchange
- Joint investigations
- Regional Joint Exercise (“Balkans Spring”) - practical exercise on controlled deliveries (Germany, Slovenia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Kosovo)

4. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance / Challenges

- Political situation (especially in the Northern part of the country)
- Impossibility of the membership of Kosovo in regional and international organizations (SECI Centre, EUROPOL, INTERPOL)
- The impossibility of Kosovo to contribute in reports of the field of Organized Crime
- Controlling of the borders
- Illegal operators of the telecommunications
- Police cooperation with Serbia. According to the representative of the Kosovo Police, communications between these authorities on the phone are usually good, but official cooperation can only be carried out through Interpol.

5. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs for external assistance

The attending Nordic Police Liaison Officer (representing DK, SW, NO, FIN and IS) informed the delegations that he finds the **ILECU as a very good initiative, there is regular and good communication** with this Unit.

He identified problems not in Pristina, but in smaller towns across the country, where criminal situation is quite worse than in the capital.

Representative of AT described that drug dealers from Kosovo cannot buy that amount of heroin from Turkey as before, that is why there is **less heroin in Kosovo**. There is a slight increase in cocaine however. It is a problem also that no trustworthy information can be gained from the Northern part of Kosovo regarding the amount of drugs there.

The IT representative evaluated the technical capacity of the Kosovo Police as good. He identified however **the lack of strategy making as a problem**.

No other assistance needs were identified since the last meeting in March 2012.

6. MONTENEGRO

Last update: 26.09.2012

The Mini Dublin Group meeting was held in the premises of the Embassy of Hungary in Podgorica on the 26th of September, 2012 from 15:00 to 16:30 hours.

1. General situation in the country

In the course of the year 2012 activities and measures on preventing and combating narcotic drug trafficking and abuse were again primarily focused on revealing and identifying organized crime groups that function on national and international level, as well as reducing accessibility of narcotics on the illegal market. Drug smuggling and drug addiction are not job only for the Police Directorate but enhanced cooperation in the state administration is needed to curb these negative social phenomena.

The latest statistical data show that the **drug-related situation remained stable** throughout 2012 in Montenegro.

1.1 Production data

Montenegro still remains a transit country on the so called “**Balkan Route**”, and is not a country where drugs are produced.

1.2 Confiscation data, current market prices, drug related crime statistics

In 2012 the Police Directorate of Montenegro has so far uncovered 96 criminal cases involving 132 persons, and altogether **121 drug-related criminal actions** have been identified.

In the reporting period 218 single confiscations resulted in **338 kilograms of narcotic drugs found and confiscated**.

1.3 Trafficking routes (recent changes and the latest tendencies, if any)

In this respect there were **no related changes in 2012**.

Mainly due to short distances and borders difficult to be controlled, Montenegro is primarily a transit country, and to a much smaller extent a country of final destination for certain drugs like first of all marijuana, heroin and cocaine.

Cannabis - marijuana

Trafficking of cannabis products from Albania has lately become a significant regional security problem. Huge quantities of cannabis products – primarily “skunk” (modified version of Marihuana) – are **smuggled from Albania to Greece, Italy and ex-Yugoslav countries**. Since Montenegro is the **first transit point on the smuggling route to ex-Yugoslav countries**, smuggling of cannabis products is the dominating drug-related criminal activity in Montenegro.

Heroin

The main heroin smuggling route still leads **from Afghanistan via Turkey to Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, from where it goes on to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and to the countries of the European Union.**

Quantities seized in the country were originally meant for street distribution on the local illegal market. As mentioned earlier, **decline in heroin business is observable, the largest quantity seized by the Montenegrin authorities ever amounted to 26 kilograms ‘only’.** In the case of heroin it is quite characteristic to smuggle it in **smaller packages ranging from 2 to 5 kilos.** The typical smuggling pattern is two couriers per package, mostly real couples or friends in one car. During the summer period the Croatian seaside gains in relevance for heroin smuggling.

Cocaine

The analysed cases, concrete international investigations and operative cooperation as well as their results show involvement of Montenegrin citizens in organizing and performing of cocaine trafficking activities from South-American countries to illegal markets in the EU. The trafficking is usually carried out by **Montenegrin, Serb or Croat citizens employed by international maritime companies.** They transport a few to several ten kilograms of cocaine **from South-American ports to the EU.**

Synthetic drugs

Synthetic drugs do not play an important role in Montenegro. Just a few cases of consumption of synthetic drugs came up during the 2012 summer season in tourist centres at the Montenegrin coast, mainly in **discotheques.**

3. International cooperation and operations (on-going bilateral and multilateral projects, agreements, evens)

In 2012 **intensive international cooperation** has taken place with the relevant partners through operative information exchange, joint investigations and police actions aimed at identifying and processing organized criminal groups operating on national and international level.

Altogether **27 operative meetings** took place inside and outside the country with the participation of representatives from Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovenia, South-Africa, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Office in Rome, Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA) and Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC) in Bucharest.

In the cooperation with partners several significant police actions were realized:

- In the case dubbed 'VELIKI PRASAK' wide-scale exchange of information has been performed with the Dutch authorities and DEA in Rome. As a result, on the territory of the Netherlands 15 kg drugs have been confiscated and one Montenegrin citizen arrested.
- In August 2012 a marijuana transit route has been identified and eliminated on Mount Bijela Gora, Ulcinj region that resulted in the arrest of 3 persons and rooting out of a plant with 135 roots.
- After a seven-month-long cooperation with the State Prosecutor's Office Case 'Link' was finished with the prosecution of 9 persons charged with smuggling and selling of heroin and skunk in Montenegro.

Current activities being performed

- **Action 'Zvijezda'** covering a criminal group specialized in smuggling of heroin from Kosovo and selling it in Montenegro. So far 4 kg of heroin
- and 2 kg of skunk have been confiscated and 3 individuals have been arrested while another 13 persons might be involved.
- **Action 'Boomerang'** involving 13 persons, members of an international criminal group dealing with cocaine and synthetic drugs.
- **Case 'Braca'** involving 7 persons who are thought to smuggle heroin
- **Action 'Crystal'** launched against an international organized crime group specialized in cocaine smuggling. This is being realized in cooperation with DEA and SOCA as well as the authorities of the Netherlands.
- **Cases 'Atika' and 'Grom'** involving 12 individuals from Montenegro specialized in criminal activities related to heroin, skunk and pharmaceutical products.
- Taking part in the elaboration of **OCTA 2013**.

4. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

In order to improve the situation and reach enhanced results in fight against drugs necessary actions for the forthcoming period are:

- Intensifying **inter-agency, regional and international co-operation** in order to reach operative information and data concerning organized criminal groups.
- **Further education and training of police officers** both in Montenegro and abroad.
- **Improving the officers' financial situation** in conformity with complexity and importance of the role in fight against drugs.
- Solving concrete financial and technical questions and creating **conditions for more efficient work** in conformity with European policies.
- To secure necessary defence and financial instruments as well as instruments for work with operative contacts, collecting of information and realization of other operative methods.
- To improve **methodology of work and create precise procedures** in all segments of work.
- Initiate changes in certain decisions of ZKP that represent restrictive factors in realization of tasks, and that do not allow enough time for quality work and make it impossible to collect evidence and other information.

Discussion

Views have been changed on the *efficiency of the new investigation method introduced by the new Criminal Proceeding Code* where the state prosecutor is basically in charge of the drug-related investigation and/or interrogation and she/he can delegate this right to police officers exceptionally. Here some systematic loopholes and contradictions in the current practice have been identified. *The representative of EUDEL offered the EU instrument TAIEX* through which national experts from EU MS with identical/similar job division and criminology techniques would come and brief their Montenegrin counterparts on their own experience, share the know-how and, if need arises, offer possible solutions. Similarly, *inconsistencies and gaps in the financing of the overtime and weekend work have been identified as problematic and disincentive for the Montenegrin police officers* in performing their duties.

7. SERBIA

Last update: 25th September 2012

The follow-up meeting of the Mini Dublin Group in 2012 took place on the 25th September chaired by Hungary, co-chaired by Austria at the Embassy of Hungary in Belgrade. Altogether 20 Mini Dublin member countries, UNODC and the Delegation of the EU Commission accepted our invitation, so in total 26 participants attended the meeting. As traditionally the guest speaker was Mr. Ivan Brandic (Head of Department for Drug Smuggling Suppression, Service for Combating Organised Crime)

1.1 Production data

Heroin –The drug usually smuggled in by either smaller groups or individuals. From the security point of view these people are first time offenders and have no possibility to set up an organised criminal group. Their motivation usually is their poor financial conditions. **They do not know neither the market, nor the people who were involved in this illegal activity earlier.** What creates an opportunity for them is that more serious organised criminal groups have reoriented toward cocaine smuggling.

Cocaine – the **decreasing trend of cocaine smuggling to Serbia as a final destination country continued.** There were some smaller individual cases registered. Number of smuggling cases by means of express mail service and registered parcels from South – America has been reduced. Besides that there is a continuation of the trend of Serbian citizens' involvement in cocaine smuggling **directly from South America to Western European countries.** There are several cases of **information exchange when cocaine was seized in The Netherlands (265 kg) and Australia (15 kg).** Serbian police proceeds with international cooperation when it comes to their citizens involved in international chains of cocaine smuggling from South – America.

Marihuana - skunk or “super” marihuana is **still the most popular drug in Serbia both among users and for production.** Serbian citizens who are mostly unknown by police from the past for this field of crime are involved in production.

There were registered cases of the smuggling of marihuana and skunk from Albanian territory via Kosovo to Serbia. Couriers who are not Serbian citizens and who are tasked with transporting this drug to final destination countries are also involved in this illegal activity.

Synthetic drugs – synthetic drugs production in Serbia is **increasing**. There are more and more seizures indicating that this type of drug is produced in Serbia. The police have several registered cases where organised criminal groups from Serbia smuggle drugs toward Western – Europe which was not the case earlier. The quality of the synthetic drug produced in **illegal laboratories** in Serbia was quite high and satisfies the market even beyond the borders of the country. The reason for it lies in the fact that people whose basic vocation is from the area of chemistry are involved in the production. The other reason is the development of **Internet and mass media communication that provide a possibility to amateurs, as well, to familiarize themselves in a very simple and quick way with processes of drug production**, supply and sale.

1.2 Confiscation data, current market prices, drug related crime statistics

The Mini – Dublin group was not updated on the current market prices in Serbia. As on our spring meeting was said the prices were:

Skunk -	1200 -1500 EUR/kg
Methamphetamine	1700 - 2100 EUR/kg
Heroin- in Kosovo	13 500 EUR/kg but if it is taken to Serbia the price is 17 000 EUR/kg

2. Short update on the country's anti-drug strategy, institutional changes, new legislative measures, developments

Also strategic documents have been adopted and actions have been taken by the Serbian Ministry of Interior so as to better cover drug smuggling problems, such as:

- **National Commission for Drugs** has been established and has begun its activity. The Ministry of Interior is represented in the commission.
- Working group for **writing a manual** in accordance with the rules of action in cases of detection and entrance into clandestine laboratories, unique for all police units.

- Twinning Project “**Implementation of the Strategy for Combating Drugs**”. Training on supply and demand reduction component. Targeted sector: member of police and the Ministry of Health. Partners are Czech Republic and Germany. Signing of contract scheduled for autumn 2012.
 - Equipment seized on the course of dismantling illegal laboratories, with the approval of the competent judiciary services, has been installed at police school and now used for training purposes.
- 3. International cooperation & operations (on-going bilateral and multilateral projects, agreements and events)**
1. An OCG involved in **producing methamphetamine** was dismantled in New Belgrade. The group consisted of 8 members, all Serbian nationals who were arrested. The police in several separated actions seized 2 kg of methamphetamine together with smaller amount of fire arms, ammunitions and explosives, a number of counterfeit foreign documents and a small amount of counterfeit money. Peculiarity of this investigation was that for the first time at the territory of the Republic of Serbia was found a **clandestine laboratory for the production of methamphetamine**.
 2. An **organised criminal group consisted of Serbian nationals were active in smuggling synthetic drug amphetamine – sulphate from The Netherlands to Serbia has been investigated**. The same group is involved in production and smuggling of marihuana also from The Netherlands to Serbia. The group smuggled drugs in an organised way by using truck drivers. The drug was shipped to Austria, Hungary and Serbia.
 3. An **organised criminal group with individuals, all Serbian nationals**, from Belgrade has been targeted by the competent Serbian law enforcement agency. The criminals, at several locations in Belgrade, equipped a number of dwelling premises where created artificial conditions for cultivating, harvesting, drying, packaging and preparing for further sale of “skunk”. The leader of the group rented 3 properties in a row house in Belgrade then interconnected them in the basement by breaking the walls so as to set up an illegal cannabis laboratory. In the course of the police raid on the laboratory the authorities found 266,4 kg of “skunk” prepared for sale, as well as a number of stuffed cigarettes, several rooms with **cannabis plants of different stage of growing and special containers for the production of marihuana seedlings**. **Altogether** 4970 seedling of marihuana in early stage of growth was seized.

Beside the marihuana there were also weapons, explosives, ammunition for different type of armaments, bullet proof vest and 20 000 EUR in cash was seized. **This group sold the drug in Italy, Austria, Germany and Great Britain.** The price per kilogram ranged from 5 000 up to 7 000 EUR.

All above police operations confirm trends that the production of “skunk”, smuggling of synthetic drug from Western – Europe and synthetic drug production in Serbia are on the increase.

Recommendations

- 1) The new Serbian government, which has committed itself publicly to **step up the efforts to fight organised crime, should intensify its activities** regarding the work of the Commissions on the Destruction of Drugs and on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, respectively.
 - 2) **Serbian police should engage in an operative cooperation with Eulex**, notably regarding heroin smuggling between Kosovo and Serbia.
-