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**NOTE**

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| From:           | Spanish Regional Chair of the Dublin Group |
| To:             | Dublin Group                               |
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**ALGERIA**

The statistics given in section 1 (General Situation) of the May 2017 mini Dublin Group report need to be updated, since the National Anti-Drugs and Drug Addiction Office at the Algerian Ministry of Justice (ONLDT) has published statistics for the first half of 2017. The updated section follows; the rest of the report is as originally drafted in May, with the exception of the first evaluation.

## 1. GENERAL SITUATION

Since 2000, there have been a large number of seizures of **cannabis resin** in Algeria.

*The official statistics, provided by the National Anti-Drugs and Drug Addiction Office at the Algerian Ministry of Justice, confirm that during the **first six months of 2017**<sup>1</sup> there was a **56.63 % drop** in the quantity of cannabis resin seized by the Algerian security forces (the GN and DGSN) and customs officials in comparison with the same period in 2016. These statistical data can do no more than confirm trends, since it is impossible to compare them with the statistics of every one of the security forces involved in the fight against drug trafficking, but it should be borne in mind that they only include seizures which have given rise to judicial proceedings, and therefore will always be lower than the real figures.*

*During the reference period, **30 168.814 kg** of cannabis resin was seized, **81.13 %** of which was seized in the country's **western region**. The region with the highest level of drug seizures was the **wilaya of Tlemcen**, which is in north-western Algeria on the border with Morocco, the world's biggest cannabis producer. The region with the next-highest level of seizures is the south of Algeria (16.35 %), where surveillance is much more complicated.*

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<sup>1</sup> In February 2017, the newspaper El Watan published statistics for the whole of 2016, which did not indicate any significant change in the trend recorded over the first 11 months of the year; the most recent official statistics published by the ONLDT, however, cover the first 11 months of 2016 and the first two months of 2017, while official statistics for 2016 as a whole have not been received.

The **Tlemcen route** is the favoured one for bringing drugs into Algeria, although the border remains closed and security there has been strengthened by the Algerian authorities in response to the rise in drug trafficking in that part of the country. Within Algeria, the roads linking **Ghardaïa** with **Ouargla** and Ouargla with **El-Oued** have been seeing a rise in seizures of large quantities of cannabis resin in transit.

The **routes identified** in Algeria by the enforcement authorities involved in fighting the drugs trade run from the west of the country to the borders with Tunisia and Libya.

The strong pressure within the country, including a considerable strengthening of security at the borders and across the road network, has led traffickers to bring drugs into Algeria from Morocco **by sea**, as can be seen from the seizures made by the Algerian coast guard and national gendarmerie. Such seizures are always of small packages of approximately 30 kg.

*After cannabis, **psychotropic drugs** form the second largest group by volume of seizures, **down by 4.63 %** compared with the reference period in 2016. By region, the west (31.11 %) and east (27.04 %) are the most affected. These psychotropic substances are brought in via a trafficking network active in Europe (and in particular in the locality where they are legally produced) which has branches in West Africa, so that these drugs can enter Algeria through organised criminal subsidiaries in the south of the country.*

*The amount of **cocaine and heroin in the country decreased** considerably in the first six months of 2017 as compared to the same period in 2016. The total amount of **cocaine** seized in the period referred to was **3 312.688 g, a decrease of 93.49 %**.*

The total amount of **heroin** seized during the reference period in 2017 was **589.555 g**, a decrease of **55.77 %**.

It is estimated that there are over **300 000 drug addicts in Algeria**<sup>2</sup>, and the number is growing each year. It is therefore becoming increasingly common for some of the drugs entering the country to be destined for domestic consumption.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

In recent years the Algerian authorities have strengthened their mechanisms for combating drug trafficking and smuggling in general by means of legislation. They continue to emphasise the close link between drug-trafficking networks and terrorism in the region and that the former is one of the main sources of funding for the latter; terrorism, arms trafficking, money laundering, corruption and smuggling are all closely connected. At the same time, Algeria appears to be a **transit** zone for sending drugs to the **Middle East and Europe**, though in recent years the number of people consuming drugs in Algeria has risen and there are criminal networks and routes supplying drugs for the country's internal market.

Algeria is part of the MedNET Euro-Mediterranean cooperation network (Pompidou Group, Council of Europe), which was set up in 2006 with the aim of developing north-south cooperation plans and activities in order to combat drugs. Other members include France, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.

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<sup>2</sup> On 12 March 2017, the newspaper L'Expression reported that according to the President of the National Foundation for the Promotion of Health and the Development of Research (FOREM), Mustapha Khiati, in 2016 the number of drug addicts (regular users) recorded in Algeria reached 600 000; the number of occasional users may, however, be three times as high.

In this respect, the **complexity of the Algerian institutions** involved in combating drugs must be taken into account. On the one hand, control of the borders (border wilayas) is handled mainly by the units of the ANP, including the gendarmerie and its border guard, which are all part of the Ministry of National Defence, as well as the customs service under the Algerian Finance Ministry. Most of the organised crime and smuggling activities affecting Algeria originate in these extensive border areas. In the country's interior, operations are primarily handled by the DGSN and GN through their judicial police units.

### *Algerian legislation*

In the situation described, the following laws have been passed:

- Law No 04-18 of 25 December 2004 on the prevention and suppression of the consumption and unlawful trafficking of drugs.
- Law No 05-01 of 6 February 2005 on the prevention and combating of money laundering and of the funding of terrorism. Supplemented on 13 February 2012.
- Law No 06-01 of 20 February 2006, on the prevention and combating of corruption. Supplemented on 20 August 2011.
- Ordinance No 12-02 of 13 February 2012 amending and supplementing Law No 5-01 of 6 February 2005 on the prevention and combating of money laundering and of the funding of terrorism.

### 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In the case of **Spain**, cooperation with the Algerian authorities is organised in the framework of the protocols for cooperation between the Directorates-General of the Police and of the Guardia Civil with the National Security Directorate-General (DGSN - Interior Ministry) and the National Gendarmerie Directorate-General and the National Coastguard Service of Algeria (these last being Defence Ministry bodies).

The protocols address activities related to training and operational information exchange among the signatory bodies.

As regards **Portugal**, the Portuguese judicial police under the Ministry of Justice responsible for investigations into international drug trafficking is currently working on a bilateral cooperation initiative with the DGSN/Directorate of the Judicial Police (DPJ). A visit by the DPJ/DGSN to the headquarters of the Portuguese Judicial Police is planned for the second half of this year, to launch closer cooperation in this area.

With regard to **the Netherlands**, there is good cooperation between the ports of Amsterdam and Algiers; this goes beyond the economic sphere and also addresses security issues at the level of the port authorities. The customs authorities of the two countries are starting to cooperate on security-related matters.

For its part, **France** carries out a large volume of exchanges with the Algerian authorities as part of cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking.

The **United States** carries out cooperation activities under the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme (ICITAP), implemented by the DEA with the DGSN and the National Gendarmerie on the Algerian side.

Since 2011, **Canada** has co-chaired the GCTF's Capacity-building in the West Africa Region Working Group. This has led to increased cooperation between Canada and Algeria, primarily between the intelligence services.

#### 4. EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

##### *Evaluation*

In the light of the above, it can be stated that:

- *Seizures of cannabis resin on Algerian territory fell considerably in the first six months of 2017 compared to the same period in the previous year, presumably owing to the gradual sealing of the border with Morocco through the increased deployment of personnel by the security forces engaged in combating drugs and smuggling, and support from army units.*
- The international cooperation situation described in the previous point has evolved with the consolidation of narco-terrorism as a concept, it being a permanent and secure source of financing for armed groups operating in the Sahel region. Now that there is a clear link between terrorism and organised crime, Algeria has strengthened its legislation on combating money laundering and the funding of terrorism.
- As in previous periods, the fact that Europe has been identified as a destination for drugs transiting the country – given their proximity to Algeria, the countries in question are essentially Spain, France, Greece and Italy – means that closer analysis is needed of the foreign currency trafficking generated by this illegal activity and of the way in which such money is returning to the networks involved. In the case of Algeria, the existence of the informal market makes it easier to launder this currency.

## ***Recommendations***

- Increase cooperation on training, operations and prevention to address the use of drugs and psychotropic substances, and step up cooperation on treating addiction. In this cooperation, it is very important to include the Sahel region, of which Algeria is part, through the existing regional cooperation mechanisms.
- Propose amending Algeria's legislation (the code of criminal procedure) to accommodate coordination mechanisms for developing controlled deliveries, in order to identify the structure of the networks operating at the points of departure, transit and final destination of drugs, and thus enable comprehensive action to be taken.

Boost international coordination mechanisms for anti-drug operations in the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on money laundering.



## **EGYPT**

In accordance with instructions received in telegram No 1402 dated 1 September 2017, a meeting of the local mini Dublin Group chaired by the Embassy Secretary, Mr Arnau Formiguera, and the Home Affairs Attaché, Mr Trinitario Sánchez, was held in the Spanish Embassy on Sunday 1 October.

The Egyptian side was represented by the new team heading the International Cooperation Department in the Anti-Narcotics General Administration (ANGA), under the Ministry of the Interior: Brigadier Mohamed Salama, Head of the Department, Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmed Ezzat and Lieutenant Mohamed Ouda. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the embassies of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania and the UNODC.

Brigadier Mohamed Salama gave a presentation on seizures of drugs and psychotropic substances carried out this year (up to September) and the measures implemented by the Egyptian Government as regards prevention, detoxification and international cooperation.

### **1. DRUG TRAFFICKING ROUTES**

Egypt continues to be regarded as a transit country, and not a producer country. The following routes are used to bring drugs into Egypt:

COCAINE: (a) by sea from its place of production in Colombia, via Brazil and Venezuela to West Africa, and from there to Egypt; (b) by air via European countries.

**PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES:** the route for these substances leads from their places of production (China and India) to Dubai, from where they are distributed by sea to ports in Egypt.

**CANNABIS:** (a) by sea from Morocco to Libya and from there to Egypt by land, or else to Lebanon and from there to Egypt by air or sea; (b) by land from Morocco, via the south of Algeria and Libya, to Egypt.

**HEROIN AND OPIUM:** from Afghanistan by sea to the Arabian Sea and Red Sea or by land to Syria and from there to Egypt. Slides were shown illustrating the most significant operations and seizures of the drugs referred to above.

## **2. STATISTICS**

The tables provided by the Egyptian side during the meeting are attached: they show the types and quantities of drugs seized and the number of operations and arrests for drug trafficking carried out by the ANGA and the country's other police services. Unfortunately, the statistics provided cannot be compared with the same period last year; consequently, it is difficult to make a precise evaluation of them. The presentation included slides of drug seizures in ports and airports in Egypt, showing the different methods of concealment used by traffickers.

## **3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Brigadier Salama highlighted the visit to Egypt of a delegation from the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) from 11 to 14 June, which included several meetings with the ANGA and with bodies in other Ministries involved in this area, such as the Ministries of Health, Finance and Justice.

He also mentioned that the 27th meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, had been held in Egypt, from 18 to 22 June in Hurgada. During the meeting, Egypt proposed the establishment of an African Coordination Centre to be based in the country, for the exchange of communications and information between the countries.

#### **4. PREVENTION AND DETOXIFICATION**

The presentation ended with a description of the various actions taken by the Egyptian Government to prevent drug consumption, and its detoxification programmes.

#### **5. EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In the question and answer session, only two or three delegations asked for clarification concerning some of the data provided during the meeting.

As the Chair, I proposed and endorsed a commitment to closer prior consultation with the representative of the UNODC and our Egyptian counterparts as regards the agenda for the next meeting of the local mini Dublin Group, as provided for in the Group's rules of procedure. The aim is to add more qualitative aspects to the content of presentations (the characteristics of drug trafficking networks, trends detected on drug trafficking routes or changes in methods of distribution and money laundering), as well as comparative statistics.

# Some statistics on narcotic drug seizures in the Arab Republic of Egypt from 1/1/2017 to 23/9/2017



| Statement                 | 1/1/2017 -- 23/9/2017   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Number of cases           | 30074                   |
| Number of accused persons | 33801                   |
| Marijuana                 | 193550 kg               |
| Cannabis in feddans       | 217 fedan + 2769 shrubs |
| poppy in feddans          | 253 fedan + 588 shrubs  |
| Cannabis seeds            | 271,70 kg               |
| poppy seeds               | 61,17 kg                |
| Khat                      | 18 kg                   |
| Hashish                   | 19196 kg                |
| Heroin                    | 528,031 kg              |
| Opium                     | 90,462 kg               |
| Cocaine                   | 9,883 kg                |
| Voodoo                    | 65,589 kg               |
| Maxton fort in C.C        | 120 cc                  |
| codaine                   | 100 g                   |
| voodoo                    | 65,589 kg               |



|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Ice</b>                     | <b>1, 234 kg</b>   |
| <b>MDMA</b>                    | <b>1, 36 kg</b>  |
| <b>Amphetamine</b>             | <b>260 g</b>   |
| <b>Speed</b>                   | <b>100 g</b>   |
| <b>Strox</b>                   | <b>6, 229 kg</b>   |
| <b>Captagon tablets</b>        | <b>4, 826, 487 tablets</b>                                   |
| <b>L.S.D</b>                   | <b>292 stamp</b>   |
| <b>Ecstasy</b>                 | <b>2741 tablets</b>  |
| <b>Subutex</b>                 | <b>1710 tablets</b>  |
| <b>Tramadol</b>                | <b>167, 776, 635 tablet + 300, 500 kg of tramadol powder</b> |
| <b>Drug tablets</b>            | <b>242, 355 kg + 408, 642 cc + 30 stamps</b>                 |
| <b>Psychotropic substances</b> | <b>178, 042 tablets + 6492 ambul + 11,110 kg</b>             |

## MOROCCO

On 21 September 2017, the mini Dublin Group met at the Spanish Embassy in Rabat to examine the latest data on drug trafficking and consumption in Morocco, and to exchange points of view on international cooperation in Morocco in that field.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the embassies of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United States and the EU Delegation in Rabat.

The meeting covered the following points, in accordance with the agenda:

### 1. GENERAL SITUATION

As usual, the meeting began with a presentation by the Spanish Embassy's Home Affairs Counsellor (national police force), who provided attendees with figures on drug trafficking in the country for 2016, showing reductions in drug seizures of 15.09 % for hashish, 27.78 % for cocaine and 3.56 % for heroin. On the other hand, a substantial rise (58.89 %) in confiscations of cannabis plants was reported, suggesting - as already noted at the previous meeting in April - that hashish consumption was being replaced in large part by marijuana consumption. Also notable was the big rise in seizures of certain synthetic drugs such as MDMA (175.52 %) and speed (97.16 %).

## SPAIN

The Home Affairs Counsellor said no major developments had occurred since April. Hashish trafficking was slightly down and there had been no large-scale operations since the Group's previous meeting. Cocaine trafficking remained at a middling level; some domestic consumption of psychotropic drugs was starting to be seen in Morocco.

As regards the fall in seizures of hashish arriving from Morocco on the Spanish coast, it could be a result of the observed increase in indoor cultivation of marijuana in some parts of Spain, which between January and July 2017 had led to around 570 arrests. Among those arrested there had been a notable rise in people from Asia, mostly Chinese, who had been a negligible proportion until 2015. A close link was also noted between indoor marijuana cultivation in Spain and irregular migration and trafficking in human beings (emigrants held for months in buildings dedicated to production, which could be detected by the heavier electricity consumption).

The Home Affairs Attaché (Guardia Civil) stressed that so far this year there had only been one operation related to trafficking in hashish via the Eastern Mediterranean route, using cargo-type vessels, in which 18 000 kg were seized in international waters in the Alboran Sea. As to the remainder of the numerous police interventions against trafficking in hashish from Morocco, it was confirmed that they continued to use the same modus operandi, familiar to all present, and that the amounts involved varied from 200 to 1 400 kg.

On operations relating to cocaine trafficking, mention was made of the particular importance being acquired by the port of Tanger-Med to the detriment of those of Algeciras and Valencia. An operation was described in which 200 kg of cocaine was seized; it had been hidden in a container from the United States that had arrived at Tanger-Med prior to transshipment to another vessel which left it in the Port of Valencia (the final destination of the drug).

As for trafficking in medicines, the example was given of another operation, in which a criminal organisation was broken up that had specialised in acquiring an anti-epileptic drug called Rivotril (active ingredient clonazepam), using falsified prescriptions. This medicine, mixed with hashish or alcohol, is used to make a drug known as 'karbuki', which is very popular among the poorer sections of the population in Morocco, as it is cheap.

## ITALY

The Italian Embassy's Security Attaché agreed with the view that hashish seizures were falling, and noted that this could be caused by the current situation in Al Hoceima, and more specifically by a perceived cautious attitude on the part of the Moroccan authorities, who were thought to want to avoid worsening the social climate in the region (he pointed out in this context that Ketama was still the top hashish-producing region in the world). He also reiterated the concern he had expressed at the meeting in April about the Moroccan authorities' refusal to authorise the police and the Royal Gendarmerie to tap telephones to dismantle drug-trafficking networks.

He spoke at length on this point, saying that he had the impression that the Moroccan authorities restricted themselves to one-off operations with a short-term impact on drug trafficking, but did not aim to eradicate criminal organisations.



As regards hashish trafficking via the Eastern Mediterranean route, he explained that because of an operation carried out in Nador, in which 12 tonnes of hashish which it had been intended to transport by land were seized, a possible change of method could be detected, taking into account that the situation in Mali and Mauritania seemed somewhat calmer, which would make it possible once more to open a route via the Sahel towards Libya.

## UNITED STATES

The representative of the Embassy of the United States (DEA) said that a hashish-trafficking route had been detected, from Morocco via Cadiz to Boston, New York and Vancouver. He emphasised that the reason for this new route was the lack of hashish in the USA (where only marijuana, mainly from Mexico, was available).

He also said that a circular route had been detected that apparently took shipments of hashish from Morocco to the eastern Caribbean and to Brazil, where it would be traded for cocaine. This approach appeared to have significant benefits for the traffickers, in terms of cost reductions and preventing the detection of trafficking-linked money flows.

There was also an increasingly clear integration of the networks working from Morocco with the Asian markets, via the African route. He said that he too had noted that the situation in Al Hoceima was affected by the behaviour of the Moroccan security forces in the region.

## FRANCE

The representatives of the French Embassy (Customs Attaché and Home Affairs Attaché) agreed that there had been a drop in seizures since 2012, and that the Rif situation seemed to have led to a tolerant approach aimed at avoiding inflaming the social and political situation.

They described the problems faced by the port of Tanger-Ville, whose scanner had been damaged for months, and pointed out that the Algeciras dockers' strike had contributed to giving Tanger-Med a key role in the trafficking of drugs between Morocco and Europe.

They stressed that the Brazil-Casablanca cocaine route was still very active and that a new heroin consumption market was probably opening up in the country in the wake of cocaine.

They agreed with the view of the Italian attaché that the approach of the Moroccan authorities was to respond to specific operations rather than to try to dismantle networks.

## BELGIUM

For the hashish trade, levels of seizures had not changed much compared to the year before.

There had been major operations, however, in the trafficking of synthetic drugs, specifically ecstasy coming from Belgium and the Netherlands and intended for Morocco. One operation that stood out was a seizure of 200 000 tablets in Nador.

The trafficking of cocaine into Belgium did not generally use Moroccan ports en route; instead the crime organisations would take the cocaine directly to the ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp.

Finally, the Home Affairs Counsellor of the Belgian Embassy said that significant laundering of Belgian money linked to the drugs trade had been detected in Morocco, much of it through the purchase of real estate.

## **2. LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS**

There had been no changes in legislation to supplement those already in place with regard to the production, trafficking and consumption of drugs in Morocco, nor were any expected in the short to medium term.

## **3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

This subject had already been addressed in the first item on the agenda; it was pointed out again that the Moroccan authorities were somewhat overwhelmed as regards the production and trafficking of drugs in the Rif area, bearing in mind the situation in Al Hoceima over recent months.

It was also pointed out that the same authorities often imposed barriers on the authorising of telephone tapping and on investigations that might expose the traceability of flows of money.

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