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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Thematic debate on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session

Complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

Report by the South-East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)**

Summary

Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 49/1 “Collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session” and 50/12 “Measures to meet the goal of establishing by 2009 the progress achieved in implementing the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session”, intergovernmental organizations active in the field of international drug control were invited to submit regionally consolidated comparative analyses of the current situation and trends in various areas of drug control in their fields of action with that prevailing in the period 1998-2000. Organizations were also invited to present the actions and changes that had taken

* E/CN.7/2008/1.

** The text of the report is reproduced as it was received by the Secretariat.



place in their regions or fields of action in relation to the implementation of the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, and related action plans, adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, 8 to 10 June 1998 (A/RES/S-20/2, A/RES/S-20/3 and A/RES/S-20/4).

Several organizations provided information in response to the above request. In addition, UNODC also received unprocessed data from a number of organizations.¹ Where relevant, this information was used to complement the data provided by Member States through the Biennial Reports Questionnaire (BRQ) and reflected in the fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2008/2 and Addenda 1 to 6).

The following report by SECI contains a compilation of data on trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants in South-Eastern Europe.

¹ ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD); Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF); South-American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD); South-Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme (SCAD) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Trafficking of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants in South-Eastern Europe-SECI

The illicit ATS drug trade in Southeastern Europe is affected by numerous factors, including consumer demand, sources of supply, the organizational strengths and adaptability of local criminal groups, and the ability of law enforcement and interdiction assets to disrupt or dismantle drug distribution systems.

Origin. Most of the ecstasy available in the region is provided from Western European sources of supply. Romania and Slovenia indicate the Netherlands as their primary source, whereas Turkey indicates not only the Netherlands, but also Germany and Belgium as sources countries.

Clandestine laboratories located in Eastern Europe remain the primary sources for amphetamine production, due in great part to limited controls on and availability of precursor materials. For Southeastern Europe, laboratory seizures indicate Bulgaria, Turkey, and Serbia and Montenegro as primary source areas. Additionally, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were reported to be sources for amphetamines available in Moldova.

Regional Abuse Patterns. Most regional law enforcement agencies identify ATS as drugs of great concern, based upon the volume of trafficking through their areas of responsibilities, wide-spread availability on the domestic markets and rising potential abuse, even though there are no specific indicators of violence associated with its trade.

ATS have become the drugs of choice among the illicit drug user population within certain countries in the region. For instance, Croatia is experiencing a dramatic increase in the availability of ecstasy and amphetamine.²

ATS remain the drugs of choice for the younger population in Southeastern Europe due to the fact that they are relatively cheap and accepted in various social environments as non-addictive and benign.

Trafficking Patterns. ATS drugs are supplied by the local trafficking groups based in the region, some with ties to major criminal groups in Western Europe.

The southern part of the region remains the most vulnerable area of Southeast Europe for ATS drug trafficking, as high quantities of ATS move across its borders. For example, the Bulgarian customs authorities identified 10 cases of amphetamine smuggling in 2003, amounting to 394.745 kilograms,³ revealing an increase in the movement of ATS between points of entry over the last year, as well as a trend toward smaller drug loads.

The most common method of transporting ATS drugs in the region is overland, via cargo and passenger vehicles, and by air. As demonstrated by Operation Containment II, cargo-carrying trucks, automobiles and tourist buses by far continued to be used to transport bulk heroin and cocaine through the Balkan Peninsula to Western Europe, while large amounts of synthetic drugs were smuggled by all means of transport from Western Europe to Southeastern Europe. Commercial

² Croatia's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

³ Bulgaria's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

airlines were especially mentioned as a means of smuggling ATS drugs to Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.

The criminal groups are composed of nationals of the regional countries who operate from both sides of the borders, but also aliens residing within their territories and citizens from West European countries (such as Dutch, German, Austrian, Spanish) or Arabic countries (such as Lebanese, Syrians, Iranians).⁴

Certain countries in the region have experienced dramatic increase in ATS laboratory seizures. The increase in laboratory seizures does not reflect necessarily a concerted effort by major Western and Central European traffickers to shift production from sites in Western Europe to Southeastern Europe, but may reflect the increasing effort by local entrepreneurs, operating on the periphery of the ATS market, to exploit the expanding demand for the drug in the area and to satisfy personal use.

For example, Turkey reported that some amphetamine laboratories were successfully dismantled in 2003 in a law enforcement effort to combat local organizations dealing with captagon production and distribution to countries in the Middle East (Operations Kilit and Erciyes).⁵

A recent investigation involved Slovenian nationals trafficking large amounts of marijuana cultivated in Bosnia and Herzegovina through Slovenia to the Netherlands. This criminal organization was also transporting precursor chemicals utilized in the manufacture of ecstasy to the Netherlands and then transporting the ecstasy back to Slovenia. This investigation demonstrated the increasing abuse of ecstasy in Slovenia and the availability and trafficking of precursor chemicals along the Balkan Route.⁶

Seizures. Seizure levels demonstrate a high availability of ATS drugs in the region. A regional overview of the seizure statistics by country is presented below:

⁴ Hungary, Romania and Turkey's contributions to the Amphetamines Report.

⁵ Turkey's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

⁶ U.S. Department of State – 2003 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report.

Country	Amphetamine		Ecstasy		Methamphetamine	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Albania*						
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.151 kg	0.036 kg	1,192 tabs	1,943 tabs		
Bulgaria**	211.987 kg	614.139 kg				
Croatia	28.026 kg	3.814 kg	110,632 tabs	29,840 tabs		
FYR of Macedonia	7.003 kg 18,124 tabs	0.002 kg	217 tabs	9,646 tabs		
Greece	0.489 kg 1,789 tabs	1 tab	28,780 tabs	47,386 tabs		65.1 gr
Hungary	0.036 kg 313 tabs	0.043 kg 891 tabs 66 ampoules				
Moldova***		0.348 kg				
Romania	0.999kg	3.300kg	19,568 tabs	70,089 tabs		
Serbia and Montenegro		0.060 kg 96,816 doses		76,302 tabs		
Slovenia	0.03 kg 256 tabs	0.04 kg 218 tabs	7,877 tabs	2,831 tabs	390 tabs	23 gr 155 tabs
Turkey	7,307,215 tabs	4,195,481 tabs	94,027 tabs	450,593 tabs		
Ukraine		0.048 kg		0.0168 kg		
REGIONAL TOTAL	248.721 kg 7,327,697 tabs	621.83 kg 96,816 doses 4,195,481 tabs	262,293 tabs	688,630 tabs	390 tabs	0.88 kg 155 tabs

* No ATS drug seizures reported.

** Bulgaria is the only country reporting ATS drug precursors – 9,200 kg and 23,520 tablets of ephedrine in 2003.

*** Moldova reported both amphetamine and methamphetamine seizures total as “amphetamines”.

Although the underlying data may not be complete, both amphetamine and ecstasy regional seizures appear to have increased from 2002 to 2003; seizures are clearly higher in southern countries of the region. Methamphetamine seizures, however, remain at low levels throughout the region.

Another indicator of the extent to which regionally based criminal groups supply ATS comes from the seizure data collected through Operation Containment I and II, the Southeast European drug interdiction effort coordinated by SECI Center. Operation Containment seizure statistics show that 250,000 tablets of amphetamine and 690 tablets of ecstasy were seized from vehicles and trains region-wide in 2002 and 73 kilograms of amphetamine, 6,838 tablets of ecstasy and a laboratory in 2003.

The following country submissions illustrate specific trends and characteristics of the ATS drugs market in Southeast Europe:

Bosnia and Herzegovina⁷

Smuggling and distribution criminal networks are comprised mainly of Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian and Albanian nationals. Couriers are usually paid EUR 500-1250 to smuggle in ATS drugs, both tablets and powder, by cars and buses, concealed in hidden compartments. Ecstasy tablets have been marked with smiley, crocodile, question mark and heart symbols. The ATS wholesale price per ecstasy tablet is EUR 5, being retailed for EUR 10. Drugs are distributed to persons between 15-54 years, in locations such as clubs, homes, vehicles, parks, and concert or party

⁷ Bosnia and Herzegovina's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

sites. Users are young people aged 21-27, with a prevalence of consumption of at least once a week. 1192 tablets of ecstasy and 0.151 kilograms of amphetamine were seized in 2002, and 1943 ecstasy tablets and 0.036 kilograms of amphetamine in 2003.

Bulgaria⁸

The illegal production of amphetamines in Bulgaria is organized and controlled by international criminal groups under the leadership of Arabic nationals (Syrians, Saudi Arabians and Lebanese) supported by Serbian, Bulgarian and Turkish criminals. The vast majority of the Bulgarians involved are so-called "laboratory workers". Over the last two years, six clandestine amphetamine laboratories were dismantled, as well as 700 litres of precursors and essential chemicals.

Limited amounts of amphetamine-based drugs remain for distribution in Bulgaria. The main quantities of the illegally produced amphetamines in Bulgaria are destined to Middle East consumer markets. Comparisons of quantities seized at the border checkpoints with data on internal consumption shows that export production is several times higher than the domestic market. Domestic market dealers are mainly Bulgarian nationals, whose organization and hierarchy structure is quite similar to these used for soft drugs and heroin distribution.

Amphetamine is transported by cars, buses, vans, trains and air; methamphetamine by truck; ecstasy by van, captagon by car; and ephedrine by car and air cargo.

Croatia⁹

Croatia maintains strong precursor control mechanisms. Although there has been no domestic production recorded yet, the Croatian ATS drug market is on the rise, with a more aggressive targeting of the youth population. Both amphetamine and ecstasy tablets are smuggled into Croatia primarily from West European countries, but also from various sources in Eastern European markets. ATS are usually transported by passenger cars (concealment in gas tanks was reported). Wholesale amphetamine prices range between USD 7,500-9,200 per kilogram. Wholesale ecstasy prices range from USD 3.5-5 per tablet. Amphetamine is retailed for USD 16-25 per tablet and ecstasy for USD 6.5-12 per tablet.

Statistics reveal that 110,632 ecstasy tablets and 28.026 kilograms of amphetamine were seized in 2002, and 29,840 ecstasy tablets and 3.814 kilograms of amphetamines in 2003. Also, 1061 ATS cases out of 7585 total drug seizures were registered in 2002, which represented 14%. In 2003, ATS drug seizures represented 11% of 6366 year's total drug seizures. Future increase in synthetic drugs availability is projected in Croatia.

FYR of Macedonia¹⁰

The Macedonian police authorities detected three cases of amphetamine trafficking in the 2002-2003 period. In these cases, 3 Macedonian and 4 nationals of Serbia and Montenegro were arrested while trafficking amphetamine in both tablet and powder

⁸ Bulgaria's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

⁹ Croatia's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

¹⁰ FYR of Macedonia's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

form. In one of these cases, the amphetamine tablets originated in Bulgaria, transited Serbia and Montenegro, with FYR of Macedonia as the destination country. The amphetamine tablets were hidden in the suspects' luggage. Total seizures in FYR of Macedonia amounted to 217 ecstasy tablets, 7.003 kilograms and 18,124 tablets of amphetamine in 2002; and 0.2 grams of amphetamine, 223 tablets of methadone and 9,646 ecstasy tablets in 2003.

Greece¹¹

ATS drugs are most often smuggled into Greece by air couriers or overland in passenger cars. Drugs are usually concealed on the body in personal clothing or in luggage. There were 28,780 ecstasy and 1,789 amphetamine tablets and 0.489 kilograms of amphetamine seized in Greece in 2002. The ecstasy was brought into Greece from Bulgaria, Germany, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. However, the source of most of the ecstasy quantities seized in 2002 remained unknown. Also, 423 persons (369 Greek and 53 foreign nationals) were arrested for ATS drugs-related offences in the same year.

The ecstasy seizures increased in 2003, when 47,386 ecstasy tablets and 1 tablet of amphetamine were seized nation-wide. Also, the first ever methamphetamine seizure was made at the airport of Athens in 2003, by the Greek customs authorities. Methamphetamine totalling 65.1 grams was seized from two couriers of Philippines citizenship. The ATS drugs seized in 2003 were brought into Greece from Bulgaria, Albania, Ireland, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The sources of most of the ecstasy seized in 2003 also remained unknown. 354 persons were arrested in 2003 for ATS drug-related offences (283 Greeks and 63 foreign nationals).

Hungary¹²

According to the Hungarian customs authorities reporting, ATS drugs are smuggled into the country mainly by Hungarian nationals, with Romanian, Spanish, German, Bulgarian, Ukrainian and British nationals infrequently appearing as smugglers. Drugs appear to originate in the Netherlands, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro; most the seizures were made inland (10 in 2002 and 28 in 2003) and at the airports (3 each year). Some of the seizures occurred at the Hungarian-Austrian (4), Serbian (3), and Romanian (3) borders. Hidden cavities and luggage in the passenger cars and trains were most utilized for smuggling the drugs. In some cases, drugs were carried on the body (clothes).

18 seizures were made in 2002 (0.036 kilograms and 313 tablets of amphetamine) and 38 in 2003 (0.043 kilograms, 891 tablets and 66 ampoules of amphetamine).

Moldova¹³

An increase in amphetamine and methamphetamine availability was noticed over the past years in Moldova. Limited home-production was reported, mostly by Moldavian, Russian and Ukrainian nationals, in the form of simple "kitchen labs"

¹¹ Greece's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

¹² Hungary's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

¹³ Moldova's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

manufacturing methamphetamine priced at EUR 1-2 per millilitre. Amphetamine is smuggled into Moldova overland from the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and Romania and retails for USD 15-30 per gram. The ATS drugs are distributed on the street and at recreational places. Moldavian, Russian and Ukrainian nationals aged 18-35 years are mainly involved in amphetamine-trafficking networks. 40 persons (29 males and 11 female, 33 aged 17-30 years, 7 aged more than 30 years) were recorded by the police for amphetamine consumption with a frequency of 2-3 times a week. There were 78 criminal cases of methamphetamine trafficking and 27 cases of amphetamine trafficking registered in 2003. Also, 348 grams of amphetamines were seized.

Romania¹⁴

Most of the ATS drugs are brought into Romania from Holland mainly by couriers of Romanian, Dutch, German, Austrian and Hungarian citizenship, who are paid on average EUR 1 or USD 1 per smuggled tablet. Smuggling methods usually include carrying on the body, in personal luggage, onboard cars, buses or airplanes, or hidden in special places inside the passenger cars or buses.

Concealment methods include gift packages or boxes for stainless steel cooking instructions inside which drugs are covered with carbon paper. The boxes are handed over to international bus drivers to be delivered to the destination point. The route of trafficking is Holland-Germany-Hungary-Romania; some quantities are re-routed from Romania to destinations such as the United States or Canada.

On average, some 300,000 tablets and 5 kilograms of amphetamines are smuggled in Romania each transport. The drug presentation is amphetamine white powder and ecstasy tablets of various colours and designs, such as Mitsubishi, Mitsubishi 7, Rolex, elephant, heart, Tom and Jerry, M, Ying-Yang, Korona 2, iglu, leon, Studio 54, Superman, and smiley. The chemical structure of these drugs is 3,4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine; 2.5 dimethoxy – 4 bromamphetamine; and 3,4 methylenedioxyamphetamine.

Distributors are Romanians aged 20-42, Hungarians aged 27-38, Moldavians aged 30-40, Greeks aged 25-35 and Armenians aged 25-35. Approximately 30% of ATS drugs smuggled into Romania are used for domestic distribution to young people with appropriate financial resources on the street, in clubs and discothèques, at prices averaging USD 3.5-4 per dosage unit. Drugs are used by young people (18-30 years old), estimated at once a week, in clubs and discothèques.

11 ATS drug seizures were made in 2002, namely 19,568 ecstasy tablets and 999.82 grams of amphetamine. The seizures increased dramatically in 2003, with 70,089 ecstasy tablets and 3,300 grams of amphetamine being seized in 26 cases.

25 persons were arrested in 2002 (18 Romanians, 3 Hungarians, 1 Austrian, 1 Dutch, 2 Serbians), and 70 persons were arrested in 2003 (60 Romanians, 3 Germans, 5 Greeks, 1 Armenian, 1 Hungarian). Out of the total 95 persons arrested in 2002-2003 period, 9 were consumers and 25 were both consumers and traffickers.

¹⁴ Romania's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

Serbia and Montenegro

2,815 narcotics-related criminal cases were registered within Serbia and Montenegro in 2003. 76,302 ecstasy tablets and 60.05 grams and 96,816 doses of amphetamines were seized in 2003.¹⁵

Recently, the first ever ATS laboratory has been reported from Serbia and Montenegro to UNODC. That laboratory, one of Europe's largest, was dismantled at numerous locations in and around Belgrade.¹⁶

Slovenia¹⁷

The origin of the ATS drugs on the Slovenian market cannot be established exactly and there were no domestic production cases investigated. The drugs are smuggled into the country most likely from the Netherlands via Italy mainly by Slovenian, Italian and Croatian nationals. The prevalent means of transport is by car. Often Slovenia is a transit country with Croatia as the final destination. Retail prices are relatively stable, ranging between EUR 8-12 per ecstasy (MDMA) tablet and EUR 10-15 per amphetamine/methamphetamine gram. MDA and MDE were also detected. Ecstasy tablet logos seized were raised symbols such as Mercedes, Mitsubishi, crown, V8, diamond, euro, but there were also some cases of unmarked tablets.

The supply is continuous, drugs being distributed at music-related locations or events, such as discothèques, private parties, school trips, and rave parties. As a rule, dealers at large discothèques are the same ethnicity as the bouncers. In residential areas, dealers are of the same ethnicity that prevails among the residents. Users are mainly young people (students), as well as users of other drugs. Weekends are periods of intensive ATS use.

In 2002-2003 period, the following quantities of ATS drugs were seized by the Slovenian police: 484 tablets and 77 grams of amphetamine; 546 tablets and 23 grams of methamphetamine; 10,700 tablets and 400 grams of MDMA. Statistics on amphetamine-related crimes and offenders are not available separately. According to general drug statistics, 1715 persons were investigated in 1539 criminal offences in 2002, and 1167 persons in 1046 criminal offences in 2003. Drug consumption is not punishable under Slovenian legislation.

Turkey¹⁸

Turkey has become more affected by the smuggling of synthetic drugs over the past years, especially captagon and ecstasy. Currently Turkey faces minor levels of ATS prevalence among its youth. Turkey is a heavy transit country for ATS drugs originating from Europe and destined for Middle East markets (Arabic countries such as Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia), but also proves to be a source country for some captagon laboratories and criminal trafficking networks that were successfully dismantled by the police during 2002 and 2003.

¹⁵ Serbia and Montenegro's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

¹⁶ UN Office for Drugs and Crime – Ecstasy and Amphetamines, Global Survey 2003.

¹⁷ Slovenia's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

¹⁸ Turkey's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

Ecstasy is not locally produced, being smuggled into Turkey from the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium by criminal networks composed of Moldavians, British, Bulgarians, Armenians, Moroccans, Dutch, Swedish, Turkish and Ukrainians as couriers. The main trafficking routes are from Netherlands, Belgium and Germany to Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Iran. The price of ecstasy ranges from EUR 3-8 per tablet in Netherlands. EUR 8-13 in Belgium, and EUR 8-22 in Germany. The retail ecstasy price in Turkey is EUR 7-20 per tablet.

Captagon is brought from Eastern European countries, mainly Bulgaria, but there has also been local production over the last two years, managed by Turkish nationals. Captagon is smuggled out of the country by networks composed of Lebanese, Syrians, Iranians, Bulgarians, Dutch, but also Turkish nationals as couriers. The main trafficking routes are from Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova to Syria, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon. The price of captagon in Turkey is EUR 9-12 per tablet.

According to seizure data, both ecstasy and captagon are trafficked overland using TIR trucks, buses and passenger cars and by air, in quantities widely ranging from 900 to 126,000 tablets for ecstasy and from 2,700 to 89,000 for captagon. Chemical analysis of captagon products revealed substances such as ephedrine, quinine, n-formilamfetamine, caffeine and amphetamine derivatives.

Turkish, Iranians, Dutch and Armenians are ecstasy distributors, while Turkish, Syrians, Saudi Arabians and Lebanese are captagon distributors on Turkish territory. Drugs are sold in cafes, bars, dance clubs and discos, usually being used at the same locations by young people aged 18-30.

In 2002, 94,027 ecstasy and 7,307,215 captagon tablets were seized, with 433 persons arrested in ecstasy related cases and 128 persons in captagon cases. In 2003, 450,593 ecstasy and 4,195,481 captagon tablets were seized in 2003. Arrests included 715 persons in ecstasy related cases and 85 persons in captagon cases. There were 105 ATS drug users recorded by the police in 2002 and 157 in 2003.

Ukraine¹⁹

Most of the ATS drugs are smuggled into Ukraine from Central and Western Europe overland (by passenger cars) and through express mail services. Three cases were detected at the airports, where 2 females (aged 33 and 27) and 1 male (aged 38) were apprehended while trying to smuggle out of the Ukraine a quantity of 1.68 grams of ecstasy and 48 grams of amphetamine destined for Russia and Cyprus.

CONCLUSIONS

Seizure levels throughout the region demonstrate that amphetamines and ecstasy continue to be drugs of demand in the markets of Europe and Middle East, making Southeast European countries attractive to synthetic drug production and trafficking activities.

¹⁹ Ukraine's contribution to the Amphetamines Report.

Amphetamines

- Sources of amphetamine production appear to be located in the countries of Bulgaria, Turkey, Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Russia and the Ukraine. Lack of control on precursor chemicals contributes greatly to the ease of manufacture.
- Major trafficking networks are controlled by Middle Eastern nationals, such as Syrians, Saudi Arabians, and Lebanese, as well as Turkish nationals. Southeast European nationals provide support primarily in the role of laboratory workers, mid-level and retail distributors, and couriers.
- Although Southeast European countries experience local consumption, most of amphetamine products (tablets and powder) are destined for Middle East consumer markets. Trafficking routes, therefore, consist primarily of land routes from Serbia or Bulgaria or Turkey to Syria and the Middle East.
- The most detailed information available indicates an amphetamine laboratory is able to produce 2000-3000 tablets within a 24-hour period. Drug prices generally range as follows:
 - Production level: 1000 EUR per kilo amphetamine in powder form
2000 EUR per kilo amphetamine in tablet form
 - Wholesale: 2500-3000 EUR per kilo amphetamine in tablet form
 - Street: Ranges from 2-6 EUR to 10-15 EUR per amphet tablet
- Reporting indicates couriers are paid approximately 150 up to 1000 EUR per kilo.

Ecstasy

- Sources of ecstasy remain Western European countries, primarily the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.
- Major trafficking networks are controlled primarily by Western Europeans, with many Southeast European nationalities functioning in the role of couriers and retail distributors. Primary routes are overland from the Netherlands and Germany along the Balkan route to Eastern Europe and the Middle East. A growing concern is the increase in consumers within countries along the Balkan route. Ecstasy is also couriered by commercial air from Western Europe to international airports in the East.
- Prices of ecstasy vary according to the proximity to the source country:
 - Production site (Western Europe): 1-3 EUR per tablet
 - Retail (the Netherlands, Belgium): 8-13 EUR per tablet
 - Retail (Germany): 8-22 EUR per tablet
 - Retail (Southern Europe): 8-30 EUR per tablet

The “Balkan Route” has become a two-way trafficking route: Southwest heroin is smuggled from Middle Eastern countries and Turkey through Southeastern Europe to Western Europe; amphetamines are manufactured and smuggled from Southeastern Europe to consumer markets in the Middle East and Western Europe; and ecstasy is smuggled from Western Europe to Southeastern Europe and the Middle East.

Trafficking networks are becoming progressively poly-drug organizations. There are some indications that drugs may increasingly be bartered throughout Europe.

Supplies of ATS are not limited by the same natural factors that affect cocaine and heroin production, but only by stringent precursor chemical controls. Although the majority of ecstasy production takes place in Western Europe, the transferability of laboratories adds a dynamic to the ATS trade. Laboratories can be relocated to any nation in Southeastern Europe, as long as precursor chemicals can be obtained and transported.

ATS Trafficking in South East Europe 2005

The most significant seizures of amphetamine (Captagon) continued to be made in Bulgaria and Turkey. The bulk of ecstasy was seized in Turkey (1,748,796 pills). The most frequent citizenship of the persons investigated for amphetamine cases was Turkish and Bulgarian. As regards the means of transportation, the highest quantities of amphetamine-type stimulants were seized in passenger cars and TIR trucks.

Overall amphetamine and MDMA quantities seized during 2005 are presented below.

<i>ATS Seizures by Country</i>		
<i>Country</i>	<i>Amphetamine tabs/kg</i>	<i>MDMA tabs/kg</i>
Albania	0 / 0	0 / 0
Bulgaria	0 / 1,834.813	16,572 / 0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	701 / 4.709	3,385 / 0
Croatia	0 / 14.312	38,601 / 7.371
Greece	144 / 1.139	150,788 / 0.023
Hungary	0 / 8.70	124,250 / 0
Moldova	0 / 0.55	158 / 0.058
Romania	4 / 0.004	42,472 / 0
Serbia and Montenegro	1,013 / 1.058	7,839 / 0
Slovenia	235 / 0.133	1,309 / 0
Turkey	290,000 / 76.676	1,748,796 / 0
Total	292,097 / 1,942.094	2,134,170 / 7.475

The main routes for Captagon remained Bulgaria – Turkey, and Bulgaria – Serbia and Montenegro. Ecstasy trafficking from Western Europe, particularly from the Netherlands to the region, increased significantly in 2005, as demonstrated by the high level of ecstasy seizures in Turkey.

Precursor Trafficking in SEE in 2005

Only Bulgaria, Greece and Romania reported precursor seizures during 2005. Bulgaria showed total quantities of 145.820 kilograms, 218.170 litres and 277,842 tabs of precursors. Greece reported seizures of 15,354 pills and 8.752 kilograms of methadone and 1088 kilograms of ephedrine. Romania seized a total quantity of 1,378.35 kilograms and 456.4 litres of precursors.