

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ROMANIA
Statement on the occasion
of the 59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, 14-22 March 2016

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Executive Director, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to stand here today and to address to such an important moment and subject for the international drug policy, and to speak on behalf of the Romanian Delegation, in our national capacity.

We reiterate our commitment on enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances and incidents involving such substances and we stressed that it is necessary to take further steps to strengthen international cooperation in the exchange of information regarding the identification of new psychoactive substances, the methods used for their distribution, the "modus operandi" of criminal and other organizations involved in the production, processing and international distribution of such substances, including supply routes, and the use of the Internet to facilitate those activities.

During the last years the global policy on drugs concerning NPS evolved from a reactive way of proceeding to a more involvement of the national authorities, regional and international bodies at all levels. We were able to adapt our response to the challenging posed by those substances, to react to the risks imposed at the welfare and health of persons and to adjust the legal instruments in order to reduce the amount of the substances available on the market.

We consider that all the actors involved in the process of implementation of the drug policy are equally obliged to contribute actively in developing and putting in action of the prevention strategies, programmes and measures focusing on families, schools and other relevant social settings, aimed at protecting children and young people from the potential risk associated with the illicit sale and purchase of

internationally or nationally controlled substances and of new psychoactive substances via the Internet, including via social media and other social networks.

We are facing now a new trend on illicit sale and purchase of NPS through internet, which could raise new challenges and risks for nations and from whom can benefit the networks of organized crime and terrorism. We observed the rapid evolution of a new market - darknet, a virtual place of selling or brokering transactions involving not just illicit drugs and NPS, but also cyber-arms, weapons, counterfeit currency, stolen credit card details, forged documents, unlicensed pharmaceuticals, steroids, other illicit goods as well as the sale of legal products. This part of the Internet is inaccessible to standard Web browsers and has essentially become a shopping district for addicts around the world. According to the 2015 Global Drug Survey a growing number of people are buying illegal drugs online through clandestine marketplaces that trade in bitcoins, as a new kind of financial network that allows transactions to happen directly on the Internet.

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In order to face these risks is now more important like never to establish, in accordance with national legislation, relations with private sector entities whose services may be misused for the illicit sale and purchase of internationally or nationally controlled substances and of new psychoactive substances via the Internet, such as Internet service providers, postal and courier services and financial services as it is the case of banking, credit card and electronic payment services, and request their support in investigating such operations.

We are fully confident that in line with the UN Drug Control Conventions together we can find solutions in the near future to better address to this new evolution of the NPS market and to limit the possibilities of organized crime networks to refinance their illegal activities or to laundering money using the rights and the constraints free environment provided by Internet.

I thank you for your attention.