

Issue I

Airport Communication Project

Recommendation 1

Governments are encouraged to continue their financial and technical support to the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) so as to support the establishment of new operational joint airport interdiction task force units and the ongoing professional development of established operations.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Recommendation 2

Where they have not already done so, airport-based law enforcement agencies should be encouraged to open a dialogue with the joint airport interdiction task force units, formed under the AIRCOP initiative, to commence information sharing and to build professional networks that will in turn support more effective operational responses against trafficking.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Recommendation 3

Governments are encouraged to support initiatives that facilitate close operational cooperation in the sharing of information between authorities (such as advanced passenger information, passenger name records, and advanced cargo information), in accordance with applicable privacy requirements, to enable effective and timely risk assessment of passengers and airfreight.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Bulgaria is participating in many operations with INTERPOL. They are organized with the joint cooperation of the Member States of the General Secretariat of INTERPOL. The joint actions are mostly focused on tracing and identification of criminal acts including firearms, narcotic substances and organized crime groups by identifying particular hotspots as well as risk indicators in relation to weapons and drug trafficking.

Issue II

Container Control Programme

Recommendation 4

Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to work more closely with drug source countries and transit States through capacity-building programmes such as the UNODC/World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Recommendation 5

Governments should be encouraged to assist other countries in investigating drug seizures made in containerized freight destined for Europe, so as to secure the conviction of those who organize those shipments and the dismantlement of the organized crime networks that profit from their operation.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Recommendation 6

Governments should be encouraged to support source countries by making law enforcement experts and relevant technical equipment available to them to improve the technical skills and professional knowledge of their border law enforcement agencies in assessing the threat from organized criminal groups involved in illicit drug trafficking through their territories and designing measures to counter them.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Issue III

Handling synthetic drug production and responding to changing trends in drug use, new psychoactive substances and precursors

Recommendation 7

Governments are encouraged to urgently address the necessary control measures regarding the status of new psychoactive substances, which are sometimes marketed as “legal highs”, so as to remove ambiguity in the minds of consumers.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Bulgaria has established a mechanism for monitoring the market of new psychoactive substances (NPS) and they are included as fast as possible into the prohibition list (List No. 1 of the Ordinance for classifying plants and substances as drugs to the Law on Control over Narcotic Substances and Precursors). The list contains also NPS recommended by partner agencies and European institutions (EMCDDA). Since 2007, Bulgaria is implementing directly the EU regulations in the field of precursors. Considering the dynamics of the NPS market and the related unprecedented public health risk, Bulgaria is extensively participating in the discussions over the European Commission proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 as regards information exchange, early warning system and risk assessment procedure on new psychoactive substances and Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA of 25 October 2004 laying down minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking, as regards the definition of drug .

National experts from various fields participated this year in the 60th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to the United Nations in Vienna.

Recommendation 8

Governments are encouraged to urgently undertake research regarding the harmful effects of new psychoactive substances on human health, and to take steps to improve the knowledge of their law enforcement authorities about the manufacture and supply of such substances, including the involvement of organized criminal groups in their trafficking and distribution.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

In order to expand the knowledge about NPS, our experts attend different courses, seminars and events related to this topic, organized by CEPOL and EMCDDA to get acquainted with new trends, means of production and trafficking. In reference to the measures that increase the knowledge among the most vulnerable to the NPS groups - students in school, there are periodically held events where the NPS and the harmful effects of their use is presented.

Recommendation 9

Given the important role the Internet plays in promoting the sale of new psychoactive substances, and given the use made of international postal and courier services to deliver them, Governments are encouraged to support their law enforcement agencies in establishing close partnerships with the services concerned to develop new and effective strategies to intercept such substances, including by encouraging the development and use of relevant technical equipment.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Because of the need to solve particular cases, including persons who are involved in the manufacture and distribution of narcotic substances on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, contacts with security officials of postal and courier services were established. Due to the established close partnership, there is a prompt exchange of information when there are guidelines about persons who are using a certain courier service for drug distribution. The Ministry of Interior is also working with the Customs Agency and courier services to detect packages containing NPS. Special investigative techniques such as "controlled deliveries" are used when needed.

Issue IV

Measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows

Recommendation 10

Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement agencies to share information with their national financial intelligence units at the early stages of investigations.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Recommendation 11

Governments are encouraged to establish inter-agency joint investigation teams to investigate the laundering of proceeds of drug trafficking.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Recommendation 12

Governments are encouraged to support UNODC in the implementation of capacity-building to combat money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from drug trafficking.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments: