

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:

Project Aircob" is not implemented nor supported by Finland.

EU Counsel Law Enforcement working party (LEWP) network "Airpol" instead. Airpol is a network for EU airport LE teams.

Customs is part of the Counsel of Europe POMPIDOU group. One of the working group is dealing with airport cooperation.

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:

Project Aircob" is not implemented nor supported by Finland.

EU Counsel Law Enforcement working party (LEWP) network "Airpol" instead. Airpol is a network for EU airport LE teams.

In the Baltic Sea Region, national customs authorities at the airports maintain a constant network to tackle drugs trafficking.

Customs is part of the POMPIDOU group. One of the working group is dealing with airport cooperation.

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:

Risk assessments carried out by joint Police, Customs and Border Guard Intelligence centre at the airport.

PNR legislation is in force and active. Finland has established a national Passenger Information Unit (PIU).

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:

Customs coordinate with drug source countries and transit States when possible (f.ex cooperation agreement signed) as well as UNODC/WCO container control programme. We have place couple of trainers for the programme as well.

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:

Customs is coordinating with other countries when necessary

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:

Especially within the EU there is a possibility to create Joint Investigation Teams for example

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:

Finland has since December 2014 had two different definitions for the new psychoactive substances in the national Narcotics Act (373/2008). NPS or their positional isomers can be scheduled to be controlled as narcotics, similarly to the substances controlled by the UN conventions, or as psychoactive substances banned from the consumer market with different restrictions. The new definition makes swift responses possible in order to reflect the rapid changes in the NPS market. To this date around 50 NPS which have been risk assessed and effectively scheduled as narcotics and 456 NPS has been individually listed and classified as psychoactive substances banned from the consumer market. NPS enter Finland mainly via internet and mail import and this issue these legislative efforts have effectively addressed.

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:

Finland continues to be an important part of the early warning network of the European Union lead by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). For several years already there has been around 100 different NPS effectively identified from our market even from very small shipments of incoming mail. Approximately one third of the NPS identified each year has been identified for the first time in Finland. The data obtained and reported by the national forensic network has been collected effectively and this has proven to be extremely informative. The prevalence of the NPS use is studied by national population surveys but even more effectively by waste-water analyses in 14 cities in different parts of Finland. Data from different sources give an important overview of the situation.

Finland has also actively participated in the efforts to share relevant information, expertise and data on new psychoactive substances with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and also the International Narcotics Control Board. The collaboration has taken place by data sharing and by taking part e.g. to the third expert consultation on new psychoactive substances held by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization in May 2016.

Finland also took part to the exercise on collecting toxicological data on NPS conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in partnership with the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists in June 2016. Finland also gives annual financial support of 26 000 Euros to UNODC laboratory section.

A national network of frontline workers has also been established in Finland. Health and social care professionals, different authorities and various NGOs including the user organization share expertise regularly in this network. Finland still welcomes all the efforts and sharing of expertise of the Member States in networking between different partners involved and also in gathering more experience in clinical practices with the NPS. We are willing to share expertise and contribute to exercises and operations of relevance whenever the resources allow.

NPS is also a part of EU Policy Cycle against criminal threats, priority area synthetic drugs. Various operative actions has taken place annually.

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:

Several MoUs signed with postal and courier services.

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:

National FIU is part of police and constant information is shared with other national LEAs.

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:

Investigation of laundering of proceeds is an overarching theme in all investigations related to drugs trafficking and other forms of serious and organized crime.

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: