

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:

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:

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:

Lithuanian police developed a national information system, known as PNR - Passenger Name Record system. The initial testing of the system was performed, a special subdivision on information about the passengers was established, granting the authorisation to manage PNR data. Officers of the above mentioned subdivision were acquainted with the functionality of the system and the main procedures of managing PNR data, they also commenced the cooperation with air carriers, in order to create legal, organisational and technical preconditions for submitting the passenger data to Passenger Name Record System.

Container Control Programme

Recommendation 4

Any action taken YES NO

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.

Comments:

Lithuanian law enforcement agencies actively cooperate with international institutions combating illicit trafficking in drugs (Interpol, Europol and the like) by exchanging criminal intelligence information or by providing and receiving the provided support in accordance with the demand of the states. When implementing specific investigations of the cases related to illicit trafficking in drugs, cooperation is initiated with Eurojust or directly with the respectful institutions of the foreign states on the bases of bilateral or multilateral agreements and treaties.

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:

The national criminal police institution - Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau - efficiently cooperates with international institutions, combating illicit trafficking in drugs, such as Interpol and Europol, by exchanging criminal intelligence and other related information concerning illicit trafficking in drugs within the country and beyond its borders. Moreover, when implementing criminal intelligence or pre-trial investigation actions Lithuanian law enforcement agencies cooperate with foreign law enforcement agencies in accordance with inter-institutional and international agreements.

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:

Lithuanian police actively participates at international projects (twinning and EMPACT projects, Eastern Partnership Cooperation programme, etc.), in the course of which Lithuanian law enforcement agency officers share their good practice, related to combating organised crime, especially to illicit trafficking in drugs, with the foreign institutions.

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

Recommendation 7

Any action taken YES NO

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.

Comments:

Since 11 November 2010 both general and individual control is applied to new psychoactive substances in Lithuania, i.e. groups of narcotic or psychotropic derivatives are incorporated into the registers of controlled substances. Furthermore, the early warning system is implemented in Lithuania, when the information about the appearing new psychoactive substances is transferred to Europol and EMCDDA, while the latter spread the warning about the new psychoactive substances to member states.

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 2015 Lithuanian police prepared and successfully implemented a project co-funded by the European Commission "Improving police officers' competences in fighting synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances". In the course of the project officers from the criminal and public police were acquainted with the variety of new psychoactive substances, the threats posed by those substances and response to them. Furthermore, the methodological material on the threats of new psychoactive substances was prepared for the police officers.

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:

In 2015 under the framework of EMPACT Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau together with Customs Criminal Service carried out international operation, in the course of which they checked the consignments transported via sea and air routes, in order to identify possible cases of transportation of new psychoactive substances (NPS) and to ensure criminal prosecution of the perpetrators. In 2015 Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau also participated at the operation "Postman" organised by United Nations International narcotics Control Board (UN INCB). The objective of this operation was to monitor the sent and received consignments, containing new psychoactive substances, which are not controlled in a certain state.

Measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows

Recommendation 10

Any action taken YES NO

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

Comments:

In the course of implementing the investigations Lithuanian law enforcement agencies can address Financial Crime Investigation Service at any stage of the investigation, since this institution is directly responsible for investigations of financial offences and prevention of money laundering. Besides, the national criminal police institution - Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau - also has a special subdivision, which is responsible for investigation of financial offences. When there are reasonable suspicions concerning financial offences, especially in cases related to illicit trafficking in drugs, the above mentioned institutions engage in active cooperation and exchange of criminal intelligence information.

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:

When investigating the criminal cases concerning illicit trafficking of drugs, which fall under the competence of several law enforcement agencies, inter-institutional (including officers from police, customs, Financial Crime Investigation Service) investigation groups can be composed at any stage of the investigation. Such joint investigation groups then proceed the implementation of various investigative actions in accordance with their respective competences.

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:

Prevention of money laundering and investigations related to property obtained by criminal means, engaging into illicit trafficking in drugs are especially focused on in Lithuania. The investigations of such nature are carried out by Financial Crime Investigation Service as well as separate specialised subdivisions. Active cooperation takes place with international organisations such as Europol.