Issue I

Role of the Internet in addressing drug trafficking and abuse

Recommendation 1

Governments are encouraged to develop, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), guidelines and standard operating procedures for handling digital evidence and investigations into Internet-related drug crimes and cryptocurrency seizures, as well as to identify modalities for sharing best practices and experiences in addressing those issues.

Any action taken ☑ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

Following a decision taken by the President of the Russian Federation on 23 February 2018 (Presidential Decree No. 85 of 23 February 2018 amending the State Anti-Drug Policy Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020, approved by Presidential Decree No. 690 of 9 June 2010 (paragraph 20.1)), and with a view to striking at the economic foundations of crime linked to trafficking in drugs and their precursors, the law enforcement agencies have been set the strategic task of ensuring that the proceeds from such trafficking are frozen and cannot be used to re-establish or expand the infrastructure required to take up illicit activities of that kind again.

The law enforcement agencies’ efforts must be aimed at shutting down information resources on the Internet that are used to distribute drugs and carry out associated transactions through electronic means of payment, including payment cards and money substitutes (subparagraph (g) of paragraph 20.2 of the State Anti-Drug Policy Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020, approved by Presidential Decree No. 690 of 9 June 2010).

In accordance with Resolution No. 32 of 7 July 2015 of the Plenum of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on judicial practice in cases involving the legalization of funds (money-laundering) or other property acquired by criminal means and the acquisition or sale of property wittingly obtained by criminal means, the conversion of virtual assets derived from a criminal act into money constitutes an offence under articles 174 and 174.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

Although the Russian Federation does not have any legislation in place to regulate the issuing and circulation of virtual assets, the local bodies of the Ministry of the Interior have developed procedures for detecting, documenting and investigating offences under article 174.1 of the Criminal Code in which the use of cryptoassets has been established.

The State Duma Committee on the Financial Market recently set up a working group, which counts representatives of the Ministry of the Interior among its members, to develop draft decisions on the future legislative regulation of digital technologies used in the financial sphere (including virtual assets), taking into account Recommendation 15 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

At the same time, the foundations for the future development of legislation and law enforcement practice for the digital economy have been laid in the Russian Federation by a draft federal act amending parts 1 and 2 and article 1124 of part 3 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation (Federal Act on Digital Rights), which was adopted by the State Duma at its third and final hearing in March 2019 and will enter into force on 1 October 2019.
The Ministry of the Interior is currently setting up an integrated system to provide information and analytical support for its work on drug trafficking. The system will facilitate intra institutional cooperation on the centralized and timely exchange of information on persons involved in drug trafficking and on the resources used by them (e.g. given name, patronymic and surname; online aliases; telephone numbers; IP addresses; International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers; e-payment credentials; details of financial instruments, including credentials for cryptowallets; concealment methods etc.), and also cooperation on criminal proceedings instituted against such persons.

In order to develop an algorithm for documenting offences in the above area, the Kikot Moscow University of the Ministry of the Interior has organized, together with the Directorate General for Drug Control of the Ministry of the Interior, the preparation of a set of guidelines entitled “Detecting and documenting sales of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances conducted by means of cryptocurrencies”.

The Ministry of the Interior’s Forensics Centre has sent the Ministry’s subdivisions an information letter that they can use in their practical work; it is headed “The potential of computer expertise in the provision of forensic support to the investigation and solving of criminal cases related to trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances”.¹

As a result of Resolution No. 1 of 26 February 2019 of the Plenum of the Supreme Court, which amends the Plenum’s Resolution No. 32 of 7 July 2015 on judicial practice in cases involving the legalization of funds (money-laundering) or other property acquired by criminal means and the acquisition or sale of property wittingly obtained by criminal means, amendments have been introduced in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force standards for combating money-laundering, specifically with regard to the use of electronic money (cryptocurrencies).

Federal Act No. 241-FZ of 29 June 2017 has amended Federal Act No. 149-FZ of 27 July 2006 (Federal Act on Information, Information Technologies and Information Protection), namely by introducing additional obligations for the organizers of information dissemination on the Internet and for instant messaging services.

Federal Act No. 276-FZ of 29 July 2017 has likewise amended Federal Act No. 149-FZ of 27 July 2006 (Federal Act on Information, Information Technologies and Information Protection), in this case by laying down measures for countering the use within the Russian Federation of information and telecommunications networks and information resources that facilitate access to information resources and information and telecommunications networks to which access is restricted on Russian territory.

 Recommendation 2

Governments are encouraged to allocate sufficient resources and build national capacities and capabilities in the field of online investigations, digital forensics and cryptocurrencies, as well as to cooperate with Internet service providers, in order to counter drug-related offences.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

Within the Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control, a directorate has been established to organize operational preventive measures for tackling the drug threat in relation to

¹ The information letter was reviewed at a meeting of Scientific-Practical Section No. 6 of the Forensics Centre on 26 April 2019, which recommended that it be sent to the investigative and forensic subdivisions of the Ministry of the Interior’s local bodies.
information technology and combating the laundering of the proceeds from drug trafficking. The new
directorate includes a department tasked with countering the drug threat on the Internet.

There are drug platforms operating in the Russian-language segment of the Internet that have been set
up, using “Tor” nodes, by providers registered in the United States of America, in Central and South-Eastern
European countries, and also in Ukraine.

In November 2018, information regarding 400 such resources was sent to the United States Drug
Enforcement Administration. We have so far not received from our American counterparts the contact
details of the individuals and organizations responsible for administrating those sites.

**Recommendation 3**

Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to set up specialized units to deal with the
use of the Internet and other technologies for drug trafficking, with a special focus on investigations into
the darknet and cryptocurrencies, to appoint focal points, as appropriate, and to ensure better integration
between those units and their counterpart cybercrime units, as well as to conduct joint operations to counter
the use of the Internet in the commission of drug-related crime.

Any action taken ☑ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

We are actively cooperating with the competent authorities of other countries on curbing the use of
Internet resources for the sale of narcotic drugs.

For example, during 2016–2018 assistance was provided to the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic
of Belarus in connection with the criminal proceedings instituted against 28 members of a criminal group
who had used the Internet resource “LegalRC.biz” to set up the online shops “Stalker”, “Mr.Donalds” and
“Ganza Project”. Following a series of concerted measures, eight members of this drug gang were arrested
in Belarus and the Russian Federation.

Our counter-narcotics units regularly take part in Operation Proxy, which is being conducted under the
aegis of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and aims to create a common mechanism for
cooperation in the area of information security that will protect the information space and information
resources of CSTO member States from criminal encroachments and attempts by criminals to use them for
their own ends – in particular, to destabilize the politico-military, economic and social situation in CSTO
member States.

In September 2018, as part of the pilot phase of Operation Lionfish, officials from the Ministry of the
Interior took part in a working meeting of representatives of the Europe region at the headquarters of the
South-East European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC) in Bucharest.

Moreover, pursuant to paragraph 2.1.1.3 of the Inter-State Programme of Joint Measures to Combat
Crime for 2019–2023, which was approved by a decision of 28 September 2018 of the Council of Heads of
State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and also in accordance with the “Schedule for the
implementation of integrated coordinated and/or joint operational preventive measures during 2019–2023”,
a series of measures are planned for detecting and combating offences related to the sale of narcotic drugs,
psychotropic substances or their analogues that are committed by means of the media or through electronic
or information and telecommunications networks (including the Internet). The first phase of implementation
of these measures ran from January to June 2019.
Recommendation 4

Governments should continue to use the Internet to conduct awareness-raising and drug abuse prevention campaigns, targeting, in particular, young people.

Any action taken ☑ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

In order to enhance the effectiveness of Internet-based efforts to prevent the non-medical use of drugs among children, adolescents and young people, the following measures have been implemented by the Ministry of the Interior:

- Up-to-date legislative, regulatory, statistical and reference information on the trafficking of drugs and on the prevention of their non-medical use has been published in the media and the Internet.

- A joint project has been conducted with the television channel OTR – specifically the programme “Za Delo!” (“Let’s get down to work!”) – to establish a drug control-related discussion platform dealing with the consequences of drug abuse. In connection with this project, two episodes of the programme were produced on the following themes: “The modern police: who protects the public order and how?” and “Spice’, ‘salts’ and death …”.

- The web page of the Directorate General for Drug Control on the Ministry of the Interior’s official website has been expanded to include new sections headed, inter alia, “News”, “For parents and children”, “For young people” and “Archive of anti-drug messages”.

- To provide information support for the work of the Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control and of the counter-narcotics units in the Ministry’s local bodies, official accounts have been set up for the Directorate General for Drug Control on the social networks Instagram and VKontakte. As at 8 July 2019, the Directorate General’s official accounts had 10,534 followers, \(^2\) and 2,773 items \(^3\) related to drug prevention had been posted on them.

- In cooperation with Bauman Moscow State Technical University, drug control-related hashtags have been developed. Over a hundred posts with these hashtags have been published on the social network Instagram, and over seventy on Facebook.

- As part of the development of new methods for drug prevention campaigns among Internet users, the pages of the official accounts of the Ministry of the Interior on the social networks Instagram, VKontakte, Odnoklassniki and Facebook, along with those of the official account of the Ministry’s Directorate General for Drug Control on the social network VKontakte, have been used to broadcast a number of films made in collaboration with the information and public relations departments of the Ministry’s local bodies and with the Federal State Institution “United Publishing House of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation”. Entitled To Live: The Confession of a Drug Addict (Moscow), How I Became A Different Person (Belgorod Oblast) and The Hard Way Back (Pskov Oblast), these films are based on interviews with former drug addicts who share their real life stories.

- A number of drug control-related projects have been conducted at the radio station “Militseiskaia Volna” (“Police Channel”):
  - The campaign “Art against drugs” featuring popular music performers who exhorts people not to use drugs. An associated video clip has been posted on the above-mentioned agencies’ social network accounts. At the time of writing, it had already been watched over 300,000 times.

\(^2\) Specifically, 5,893 followers on VKontakte and 4,641 followers on Instagram.

\(^3\) Specifically, 1,620 items on VKontakte and 1,153 items on Instagram.
Seven episodes on the radio channel “Militseiskaya Volna” featuring spokespersons from the Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control and psychiatrists from the Ministry of Health specializing in drug addiction.

- The software and equipment resources of the Ministry of the Interior’s official website, along with the official accounts of the Ministry’s Directorate General for Drug Control on the social networks VKontakte and Instagram, have been used to publish the materials developed by the victors and prize-winners from 2017, 2018 and 2019 of the annual nationwide competition “Let us save lives together”, which is about devising public service announcements on drug prevention and on promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

- The Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control has organized a number of prominent inter-agency events at the International Multimedia Press Centre of the international news agency Rossiya Segodnya – namely, round tables on the topics “The media and the fight against drugs: Increasing social responsibility” and “The fight against drugs: State, society and primary prevention”, and also a meeting to discuss ways of encouraging a healthy lifestyle and dealing with the problem of drug addiction among adolescents in the Russian Federation.

Recommendation 5

Governments are encouraged to engage in and promote cooperation at the regional and international levels in the area of the use of the Internet and modern technologies in the commission of drug-related crimes through, inter alia, platforms for research and joint training.

Any action taken □ YES □ NO

Comments:

International cooperation in this area is carried out within the framework of, inter alia, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (CARICC), and the Paris Pact initiative on blocking illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking in Afghanistan.

Cooperation under the Eurasian Group:

- At the initiative of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation, and in collaboration with the Federal Financial Monitoring Service, a typological study entitled “Specific features of cross-border schemes for drug-related transactions and for laundering of the proceeds from drug trafficking using modern payment systems” was conducted by the Eurasian Group in 2018. The findings from this study were presented at the Eurasian Group’s 30th Plenary meeting, held in Moscow in May 2019.

- In December 2018, as part of the programme of a joint international seminar organized in Novosibirsk by the Eurasian Group and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, the Ministry of the Interior shared its positive experience in combating the use of advanced technologies to launder the proceeds from drug trafficking.

- In May 2019, during a seminar on “Enhancing financial monitoring through the use of new technologies” that was organized as part of the Eurasian Group’s 30th Plenary week, a number of successful examples were presented of the Ministry of the Interior’s efforts to counter drug-related offences committed with the aid of information technology resources and virtual assets.
Cooperation under CARICC:


Cooperation under the Paris Pact:

- The Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control takes part in meetings of the Expert Working Group under the Paris Pact initiative on blocking illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking in Afghanistan.

- At the Expert Working Group meeting held in New Delhi in June 2019, the Ministry of the Interior made a number of recommendations. One of these referred to carrying out, within the framework of the Paris Pact and under UNODC coordination, an international study on “Current market-related and financial aspects of drug trafficking in Afghanistan”, which would consider, inter alia, the extent to which contactless methods are being used to sell Afghan opiates.

Cooperation within the framework of training activities:

- In view of the new challenges and threats that have been identified in relation to the financing of drug trafficking, the Ministry of the Interior devotes particular attention to staff development in the area of countering money-laundering and terrorist financing.

- Training courses for staff from the law enforcement, investigative and forensic units of the Ministry of the Interior’s local bodies were held at the International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring during the first half of 2019.

- Representatives of the Ministry of the Interior take part, together with officials from the counter-narcotics units of the Ministry’s local bodies, in round tables on current topics related to combating the laundering of the proceeds from drug trafficking that are organized as part of staff development programmes at the All-Russia Advanced Training Institute of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation.

- In April 2019, a representative of the Ministry of the Interior was involved in the training of senior officials from the Ministry’s local bodies on how to combat drug trafficking and the laundering of proceeds from such trafficking; the training was part of higher academic courses organized at the Ministry of the Interior’s Academy of Management.

- With a view to exchanging experience and enhancing their professional skills, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control took part in the training courses on “Investigation of illicit trafficking of new psychoactive substances facilitated by the darknet and virtual cryptocurrencies” (May 2017) and on “Digital forensics using open-source software and network investigations in combating drug-related and other crimes” (June 2018) that were organized by the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) at the International Training Centre on Migration and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Academy of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Belarus.

- As part of a round table on “Countering drug trafficking facilitated by information and communications technologies” that was held in April 2018 at the International Inter-Agency Training Centre for Operational Unit Officers (named after Lieutenant-General A. N. Sergeev) of the Ministry of the Interior’s All-Russia Advanced Training Institute, various aspects of the detection, disclosure and prosecution of offences related to Internet-facilitated drug trafficking were discussed.

- In May 2019, our country was represented at a conference organized by the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior under the European Union project “Combating suspects dealing in drugs on the Internet – prosecution and prevention”. 
• In May 2018, during the 59th Annual Readings on Criminology at the Ministry of the Interior’s Academy of Management, which focused on the theme of “Criminology in the light of an evolving information society”, organizational aspects of the fight against drug-related crime in the cybersphere were discussed.

• Another relevant event in May 2018 was the inter-agency scientific-practical conference on “Current directions in State policy for countering drug trafficking, preventing the non-medical use of drugs, and promoting the rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts”, which took place at the Professional Training Centre (named after Major V. A. Tinkov, Hero of the Russian Federation) of the Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Moscow Oblast. The conference included a thematic track (No. 5) on “Countering the use of the latest information and telecommunications technologies for the contactless distribution of narcotic drugs”.

• In September 2018, a delegation from the Ministry of the Interior paid an official visit to Lisbon to take part in consultations with Alexis Goosdeel, the Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The strengthening of cooperation between the Ministry and EMCDDA on drug control policy in the Russian Federation and the European Union was discussed at the meeting, as were issues related to countering drug trafficking facilitated by Internet resources, the detection and investigation of new psychoactive substances, and controlling the circulation of such substances. During these consultations, the Ministry’s representatives provided EMCDDA with a list of new psychoactive substances that have been placed under control in the Russian Federation in the years 2016–2018, and agreed to continue exchanging information on the regulation of the movement of such substances.

• In November 2018, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior took part in the international conference “Drug Policing – Focus on Western Balkans and DarkNet”, which was convened in Vienna by the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

• As part of the implementation of a joint action plan for cooperation over the period 2018–2020 on combating the drug threat, a bilateral meeting was held in February 2019 with representatives of the Narcotics Control Bureau of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, during which, amongst other things, there were discussions on how to counter the online drug trade (including business-to-business transactions) and information was exchanged on the latest technologies and methods that are available for detecting drug sales on the darknet.

• In April 2019, the first international scientific-practical conference on “Current topics in the response by the internal affairs bodies (police forces) of CIS member States to offences committed in the cybersphere” was held at the Kikot Moscow University of the Ministry of the Interior.
Issue II

Measures to counter the illicit manufacturing of, the diversion of and trafficking in precursors

Recommendation 1

Governments are encouraged to develop robust national legislation and regulatory mechanisms on precursor controls in order to better monitor and respond to flows of precursor chemicals.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

In the Russian Federation the exchange of information on the licit marketing of precursor chemicals is provided for by the following legislative and regulatory instruments:

- Decision No. 419 of 9 June 2010 of the Government of the Russian Federation on the submission of information on activities related to the marketing of precursors of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and on the registration of relevant operations
- Decision No. 640 of 18 August 2010 of the Government of the Russian Federation approving the rules for the production, processing, storage, sale, acquisition, use, transportation and destruction of precursors of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

Consequently, legal entities and sole traders engaged in activities related to the marketing of precursors are obliged to inform the competent national authorities of the planned volumes of precursors manufactured, processed and/or purchased to meet industrial needs, and also to send the internal affairs bodies of the Russian Federation reports on the production, sale, use, import and export of precursors.

Recommendation 2

Governments should provide additional capacity-building opportunities to their national law enforcement, forensic and regulatory authorities with a view to improving the identification and interdiction of precursor chemicals, in particular those substances that are not commonly used.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

In the Russian Federation there are systematic ongoing efforts to strengthen controls over the movement of precursors of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Thus, in the past the most prominent chemical in the licit trade of precursors used in the production of synthetic drugs was 1-phenyl-2-nitropropene. However, in September 2018 amendments to a decision of the Government of the Russian Federation entered into force, establishing stricter controls over the movement of that substance. As a result, 1-phenyl-2-nitropropene began to disappear from circulation. At the same time, a reduction in the output of clandestine laboratories that synthesize amphetamine has been observed.
On the other hand, towards the end of 2018 a substitute of 1-phenyl-2-nitropropene, namely benzyl nitroethane, began to be circulated. Appropriate controls are now being developed and efforts undertaken to identify the channels through which it is finding its way into shops that sell chemical reagents.

**Recommendation 3**

Governments should improve their use of existing tools, such as Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) and the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), developed by INCB to control precursor chemicals.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

Existing tools, such as PEN Online and PICS, are used quite effectively in the Russian Federation and enable the authorities to maintain adequate control over the movement of precursor chemicals.

In fulfilment of the Russian Federation’s obligations under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988), the Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control, over the twelve months of 2018, prepared 322 pre-export notifications of precursor shipments and transmitted these notifications to the competent authorities of other countries through the international PEN Online system. We have, in turn, received and reviewed 426 notifications from our foreign partners over the same period.

**Recommendation 4**

Governments are encouraged to undertake additional efforts to assess how precursor chemicals are diverted and trafficked at the national and regional levels.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

Systematic monitoring is carried out in the Russian Federation to counter the threat of precursor chemicals being diverted for illicit ends. That being said, a tendency can be observed towards the increasing manufacture of synthetic drugs from chemicals that have not been placed under control. Another emerging problem is related to how a number of substances that are not formally precursors as such are being brought into our country from abroad. In customs documents they are recorded under general designations, such as “aromatic ketones”.

Efforts are being undertaken to place such substances under control. Thus, by a decision of 28 March 2018 of the Government of the Russian Federation, control measures were introduced for seven precursors.

A document with instructions from the Deputy Minister of the Interior entitled “Curbing the proliferation of precursors and detecting drug laboratories” has been sent to the local bodies responsible for internal affairs.
**Recommendation 5**

Governments are encouraged to counter illicit financial flows related to the trafficking in and diversion of precursor chemicals.

Any action taken ☑ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

Countering illicit financial flows and money-laundering is an integral part of operational measures aimed at detecting and combating unlawful acts, including those linked to trafficking in precursors.

A specialized department has been established within the Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control to deal with such matters.

**Recommendation 6**

Governments on whose territories poppy cultivation is increasing should take measures to eliminate such cultivation, in order to reduce demand for and the flow of precursors.

Any action taken ☑ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

By decision 120/5, adopted at its 120th session (31 October–17 November 2017), the International Narcotics Control Board granted the request of the Russian Federation for permission to cultivate opium poppy for the production of poppy straw and the manufacture of narcotic medicinal preparations intended for internal consumption. Efforts are currently under way to establish a mechanism for the legislative and regulatory control of the marketing of opium poppy in the Russian Federation.
Effective measures for coordinating border management strategies

Recommendation 1

Governments are encouraged to consider linking the networks of border liaison offices and port control units, as well as to make better use of the existing mechanisms for regional and international cooperation, including functioning regional cooperation centres such as the Joint Planning Cell, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as the networks of police and drug liaison officers based in the countries of the region.

Any action taken ☑️ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

An international counter-narcotics operation called “Channel to Centre” was conducted from 26 February to 1 March 2019, with the operational headquarters based at CARICC.

The law enforcement, border control and customs agencies, security services, and financial intelligence units of CSTO member States participated in this operation.

Representatives of the competent authorities of the following States and international organizations took part as observers (the group of observers proved to be broader than on previous occasions): Afghanistan, China, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Mongolia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL, the Central Asia Drug Action Programme, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, the Committee of Heads of Law Enforcement Units of the Council of Heads of CIS Customs Services, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Office for the Coordination of the Fight Against Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crime on the Territory of CIS Member States, and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

The composition of the participants in this operation afforded an opportunity for strengthening direct contacts between cooperating bodies of CSTO member States and other States in the Eurasian region, and also for establishing effective cooperation with observer States.

As a result of the concerted actions taken, around 11.4 tons of drugs were seized, including more than 8.8 tons of opium, over 1.8 tons of cannabis resin, more than 221 kg of heroin, 147 kg of cannabis and over 209 kg of synthetic drugs.

The operation led to the detection of 1,220 drug-related crimes and to criminal proceedings being instituted in around 6,000 cases. Moreover, 811 persons were prosecuted for administrative offences related to drug trafficking.

The operation also led to the seizure of 355 firearms and some 4,500 rounds of ammunition.

The Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control organizes and implements – jointly with the Ministry’s local bodies and with units of the Federal Customs Service of Russia – measures aimed at blocking distribution channels for narcotic drugs and psychotropic and potent substances that are shipped
by post and by transport and logistics companies involved in the supply (in some cases, also smuggling) of
drugs. In this respect, it is worth noting that, as a rule, the consignors and consignees of parcels and
shipments containing drugs and controlled substances make use of forged documents. Moreover, there have
been cases where the consignor and the consignee were one and the same person.

On 10 January 2019, officials from the Ministry of the Interior and the drug smuggling division of
Moscow Oblast Customs arrested an individual (B.) who had organized the smuggling of 31.4 g (in the
form of 100 tablets) of the psychotropic substance modafinil from India by means of an international
package delivered at the post office on Kommunisticheskaya Street in the city of Lyubertsy in Moscow
Oblast. A search of his dwelling led to the seizure of a further 150 tablets (48 g) of modafinil.

On 14 February 2019, as part of a joint plan of the Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Customs
Service, officials from the Ministry, together with colleagues from the drug smuggling division of
Sheremetyevo Customs, arrested an individual (D.) on the premises of a courier services office of the
Directorate of Federal Postal Services in Moscow Oblast – specifically at a branch of the Federal State
Unitary Enterprise “Russian Post” in the town of Vnino in Moscow Oblast – as he was collecting an
international parcel shipped from China. The parcel was seized and found to contain a quantity of more
than 1 kg of the psychotropic substance 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P).

On 6 March 2019, officials from the management and drug smuggling division of the Moscow
Customs Department (under the Federal Customs Service) arrested an individual (M.) at a post office of the
Federal State Unitary Enterprise “Russian Post” on Kirovogradskaya Street in Moscow, on charges of
organizing the smuggling of drugs from India by means of international mail shipments. The packages
seized in connection with his arrest were found to contain 148.2 g of methcathinone.

Recommendation 2

Governments are encouraged to improve and strengthen cooperation at the national level between law
enforcement and other relevant agencies involved in border control.

Any action taken □ YES □ NO

Comments:

As part of efforts to enhance and strengthen cooperation at the national level between the Ministry of
the Interior and the Federal Customs Service, and also with a view to combating the smuggling of drugs
into Russian territory, operational search and examination measures were applied to flights arriving at the
Zhukovsky and Domodedovo international airports from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. In total,
such operations were conducted for over 90 flights: they involved examining the hold baggage, hand
luggage and outer clothing of more than 2,000 passengers. No drugs were detected during the passenger
search.

Additionally, a range of operational search and examination measures were applied to passengers
arriving from Latin American countries after stopovers at the international airports of Munich, Istanbul and
Frankfurt. The passengers were examined, inter alia, using the “Kontur” frame detector manufactured by
the company NELK. No drugs were found in general, and specifically no drugs concealed in body cavities.
**Recommendation 3**
Governments are encouraged to monitor more closely all movement of goods, not to be limited only to import, but also transit and export.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

**Recommendation 4**
In order to increase knowledge about goods and supply chains and to ensure proper control measures, Governments are encouraged to actively promote cooperation between law enforcement and other relevant agencies and the private sector.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

Efforts are currently being undertaken to enhance Russian legislation in the area of countering the misuse of postal services for the smuggling of drugs, in particular by applying stricter controls to transport and logistics companies that are involved in mail delivery. In order to ensure reliable identification of the users of postal services, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media – in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Customs Service and the Federal Security Service – has prepared a draft ministerial order amending Order No. 234 of 31 July 2014 of the Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation on approval of the rules for the provision of postal services. The proposed amendments will enable the operators of postal services to ask customers wishing to send something by registered mail for proof of identity, and also to record and store details of the sender’s identity document.

**Recommendation 5**
Governments are encouraged to strengthen the capacities of the relevant agencies to collect, collate, analyse and share criminal intelligence, with a focus on the activities of organized criminal groups, including those involved in drug trafficking.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

In 2018, a series of operational search activities (including some based on the controlled delivery technique) were conducted in cooperation with the counter-narcotics units of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in order to thwart attempts to smuggle drugs into Russian territory. Around 25 kg of heroin in illicit circulation was seized.

Official visits are regularly organized to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan for the purpose of holding working meetings with representatives of those countries’ counter-narcotics agencies, drawing up plans for joint operational search activities, and setting up mobile operational units to conduct those activities.
Within the CIS framework, efforts continue to develop a set of common regulations specifying how international controlled deliveries should be conducted. These efforts include, inter alia, the establishment of legislative mechanisms for cooperation in combating crime and also new forms of practical assistance related to operational search activities. In November 2018, a meeting of experts from the internal affairs bodies (police forces) of CIS member States was held to complete the draft version of the regulations.

As part of its efforts to counter trafficking in synthetic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, and poisonous and potent substances, the Ministry of the Interior has made arrangements for cooperation with relevant units of the Federal Customs Service and the Federal Security Service, and it regularly makes use of those arrangements.

Inter-agency cooperation on countering the smuggling of drugs and psychotropic substances is currently being promoted actively, with such cooperation taking place both as part of individual search operations and within the framework of joint plans.
Issue IV

Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and young people to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking

Recommendation 1

Governments are encouraged to enhance cooperation among the education, health and law enforcement sectors at the national level with regard to prevention interventions that target young people.

Any action taken ☑ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

In order to ensure that the federal executive authorities’ actions to prevent the non-medical use of drugs are well coordinated, the inter-agency working group of the State Anti-Drug Committee every year draws up an “Inter-agency plan for the organization of preventive work to counter the non-medical use of drugs”. The overriding goal of the plan is to stop the prevalence of drug addiction among minors from increasing further. The measures taken include enhancement of the legislative and regulatory basis of drug prevention work, and of the organizational and methodological support provided for such work; improvement of the mechanisms for preventing drug abuse at different stages; and the organization of federal-level networking events for children and young people aimed at fostering a culture of active rejection of drugs among a wide range of target groups.

The inter-agency plan envisages a total of 36 measures for 2019, including 19 that involve carrying out targeted preventive work among adolescents and young people to counter the non-medical use of drugs; enhancing the mechanisms for early detection of the non-medical use of drugs in those age groups; and encouraging the younger generation to develop a set of inner values that prompt them to eschew drugs and strive for a healthy lifestyle.

As part of the implementation of the provisions of the State Anti-Drug Policy Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020, approved by Presidential Decree No. 690 of 9 June 2010, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Health, supported by the Ministry of Education and Science (now the Ministry of Education) and the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs, have jointly organized an integrated, two-stage inter-agency operation that is officially named “Children of Russia – 2019” (hereafter “the operation”).

The main goals of the operation are to prevent drug addiction among minors and youngsters; to uncover instances in which the latter have become involved in criminal activities linked to trafficking in drugs (or their analogues and precursors), plants (or parts thereof) containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, and potentially dangerous new psychoactive substances; and, in general, to raise public awareness of the consequences of drug abuse and of criminal liability for participation in drug trafficking.

The first stage of the operation, which took place from 17 to 26 April 2019, involved over 56,000 officials from the internal affairs bodies and more than 54,000 representatives of the federal executive authorities responsible for public health and education, along with officials tasked with implementation of the State youth policy.

Checks were conducted at over 33,800 transport infrastructure facilities (railway stations, airports, and sea and river ports) and at over 4,600 establishments where children and young people are present all the
time. Additionally, over 32,700 police raids were systematically carried out on entertainment venues (discos, nightclubs, bars) and commercial areas. There were also some 61,000 systematic searches in residential areas.

In the course of this first stage, 5,493 young citizens (including 860 minors) were taken to facilities of the public health services for medical examination. It was duly confirmed that 1,212 of them were in a state of narcotic intoxication.

As a result of the organizational and practical measures taken by the internal affairs bodies, 1,999 drug-related crimes were detected, of which 56 concerned minors, 964 had to do with the sale of drugs, 9 were cases of inducing other people to use drugs, and 8 were instances of involving a minor in the commission of a crime. Moreover, 1,751 administrative offences were recorded.

Criminal proceedings were brought against 1,681 persons for drug-related crimes and offences, while administrative proceedings were instituted against 15,804 persons.

Over 255 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in illicit circulation were seized, including more than 112 kg of cannabis, 52 kg of cannabis resin, over 7 kg of heroin, 48 kg of synthetic drugs, and over 3 kg of potent substances.

Additionally, officials of the internal affairs bodies detected 1,575 Internet resources containing information on the illicit sale of drugs, on how to select people willing to take part in their contactless distribution (which involves putting the drugs in special hiding places), on the cultivation of narcotic plants, and on the manufacture and promotion of drugs for non-medical uses. Details of the relevant websites have been forwarded to the Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology and Mass Media so that they can be further identified and blocked.

The work done by the law enforcement agencies, federal executive authorities and community-based organizations in the course of the operation attracted broad media coverage, with more than 7,300 items published and 2,923 press conferences organized.

The second stage of the operation is scheduled to take place from 11 to 20 November 2019.

Recommendation 2

Governments are encouraged to enhance the knowledge and build the capacity of teachers and other relevant professionals, including through training courses, in the area of drug use prevention.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

The Ministry of the Interior’s Directorate General for Drug Control organizes the following events for specialists from the counter-narcotics commissions in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation so that they can expand their professional skills:

- (Since 2017) seminars and meetings, facilitated by videoconferencing, that bring together the heads of the drug control units from the Ministry of the Interior’s local bodies and the heads of counter-narcotics commissions in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.
- (Since 2019) advanced training courses under the programme “Organizational and legislative support for the work of the counter-narcotics commissions in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.”
Recommendation 3

Governments are encouraged to further enhance their drug use prevention programmes that target preschool and primary school children, as well as young people.

Any action taken ☒ YES ☐ NO

Comments:

Every year, the Ministry of the Interior implements a range of measures in the area of drug use prevention (also covering the prevention of associated offences and antisocial behaviour) that are, inter alia, directed at school-age children and young people. These measures include the organization of the following:

- The annual nationwide campaigns “Tell us where people are dealing in death” and “The army recruit”
- A number of drug prevention events structured around the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- “Let us save lives together”: a nationwide competition to find the best public service announcements on drug prevention and promotion of a healthy lifestyle
- A nationwide Internet lesson on the theme of drug prevention for students, leaders of youth movements, volunteers and representatives of community-based organizations
- The “All-Russia Counter-Drugs and Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Month”

In order to provide methodological support for the work of the counter-narcotics units of the Ministry of the Interior’s local bodies, guidance material has been developed on:

- How to organize and conduct preventive work among students at general education schools and at institutions of primary, secondary and higher vocational education
- How to organize cooperation with the military authorities on preventive work among military personnel and those who have been called up for service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation

Arrangements have been made for cooperation between the internal affairs bodies and the Russian Cossacks on the conduct of: spiritual, moral and military-patriotic educational work among adolescents and young people; raid-like operations to identify areas where narcotic plants are growing in the wild and to inspect sites of mass leisure where large numbers of young people congregate; and preventive work in Cossack educational organizations and summer camps.

A series of measures have been implemented with a view to encourage volunteering in the area of drug prevention. As part of an annual forum campaign, discussion platforms have been set up to exchange experience in preventive work related to different types of addiction, in the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, and in the enhancement of youth partnership mechanisms aimed at reducing demand for drugs.

In the course of the aforementioned “Children of Russia” operation, the Ministry of the Interior’s local bodies – in cooperation with representatives of educational institutions and local government, and with community-based associations and organizations – have implemented around 275,000 preventive measures among children and young people (in particular, at public health and educational institutions) aimed at
combating the spread of drug abuse. Additionally, over 122,000 information and outreach events (interactive lectures, training seminars, prevention-related talks) have been held for minors and their parents with a view to raising awareness of the law and fostering healthy behaviour patterns along with a sense of responsibility towards one’s own health and that of people around one.

Over 25,500 preventive medical examinations have been performed in order to ensure the early detection of drug abuse among students at educational establishments. Around 44,000 individual drug prevention sessions have been conducted with minors who are in a socially vulnerable situation. More than 36,000 events have been organized to promote a healthy lifestyle, encourage young people to get into volunteering, and foster civic engagement among young people: these include cultural and group sports events, and also creative competitions with a drug prevention theme (Spartakiads, marathons, festivals, adventure games).