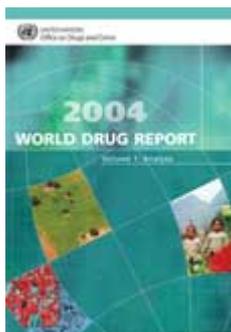




2004 World Drug Report

Latest trends, analysis and statistics



UNODC introduces its first two volume edition of the World Drug Report on 25 June in conjunction with the International Day against Drug Abuse. The first volume covers market trends and pro-

vides in-depth trend analysis, and the second volume compiles detailed statistics on all of the drug markets. Together they provide the most complete picture yet of the international drug problem.

An estimated 3 % of the global population, or 185 million people consume illicit drugs annually. Among this population are people from almost every country on earth and from every walk of life. Countless more people, around the world, are involved in the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, and still more are touched by the devastating social and economic costs of this trade. These people live in both developed and developing countries, are rich and poor, healthy and unhealthy, citizens and refugees. Illicit drugs are a truly global phenomenon. Partially a consequence of this pervasiveness, and partially a consequence of the illicit and hidden nature of this trade, reliable analysis and statistics on the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs are rare.

In co-operation with Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has endeavoured to fill the gaps. In this first edition of the new two volume World Drug Report, UNODC presents more quantitative data than ever before in an effort to increase the amount of factual evidence available in a field which is so notoriously difficult to quantify. This year, the

analysis of trends, some going back ten years or more, is presented in Volume 1. Detailed statistics are presented in Volume 2. Taken together these volumes will provide the most complete picture yet on today's illicit drug situation.

★ Antonio Maria Costa "Drug abuse remains at an unacceptable level"

Statistics

- Over the 10-year period the quantities of illicit drugs seized have increased as a whole, with the strongest increase for ATS.
- The conversion of the quantities of drugs seized into unit equivalents (a typical dose taken by drug users to experience a 'high') reflects a strong increase in overall seizures from 14 billion doses in 1990 to 26 billion in 2000 with signs of stabilization in 2001/2002. Seizures in unit terms are the highest on the American continent (10.4 billion doses), followed by Europe (7.4 billion), Asia (5.5), Africa (2.4) and Oceania (0.08).
- On a per capita basis, however, the ranking changes to: the Americas (12.1 units or doses seized per capita), Europe (10.2), Africa (2.9), Oceania (2.6) and Asia (1.5).
- Global illicit production of opium (from which heroin is processed) has remained stable, at around 4,000 to 5,000 metric tonnes since the early 1990s, but has become increasingly concentrated in Afghanistan.
- Coca cultivation (cocaine is extracted from the leaves of the coca bush) has decreased by 30 per cent from 1999 to 2003.
- Following the increased seizures of laboratories since the mid-1990s, in developed countries ATS consumption seems to have peaked in the past two years.

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Submission to the European Union's future drugs policy

With 250 signatory municipalities in 27 countries to the ECAD (European Cities Against Drugs) Stockholm Resolution, ECAD is Europe's leading organisation promoting a drug free Europe. ECAD represents millions of European citizens who are very concerned about the fact that drug trafficking, drug dealing and drug abuse cause enormous problems in Europe.

Nations and their citizens are affected by the consequences of the drug trade, which today poses serious threats to any democratic society due to the enormous amount of money involved in the drug business and, consequently, serious risks for corruption, narco-terrorism and organised crime, including money laundering.

ECAD member cities work to develop initiatives and efforts against drug abuse supporting the United Nations Conventions Against Drugs, which oppose legalisation and promote policies to eradicate drug abuse world-wide.

Too often we take it for granted that every citizen in our societies - politicians, members of various authorities, including law enforcement agencies - want to prevent use of drugs. However, this is no longer necessarily true. A growing movement in some European countries is now discussing how to reduce drug-related harm or how to manage the risks involved with the use of drugs and some even propose decriminalisation and/or legalisation of certain drugs.

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Submission to the European Union's future drugs policy

From Page 1

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ECAD believes in and works for a drug-free Europe. Use of cannabis, amphetamines, heroin, cocaine and other narcotic drugs is not a basic part of our culture and the use of such substances must be fought with decisive and comprehensive measures.

A number of cities and countries have been successful in their combat against drugs by combining restrictive policies with a wide range of preventive measures and by offering drug abusers various forms of care and treatment. It is indeed possible to introduce changes to reduce the spread of drugs. In doing so, it is most important to actively encourage young people to reject all drugs.

ECAD does not believe in making a distinction between so-called 'hard' and 'soft' drugs. All drugs are dangerous. Consequently, the use of cannabis should be opposed with much the same vigour as other drugs.

ECAD supports the existing UN Conventions on Drugs, the Political Declaration and the Guiding Principles of Demand Reduction approved at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in New York in June 1998, as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and urge intensified national and international co-operation to fight drugs. The United Nations should be given power to control flagrant breaches of conventions and international agreements wherever they emerge. If some countries allow drugs to be made freely available, they undermine the possibilities of other countries and cities to curb the spread of drugs.

European Cities Against Drugs are

In favour of real freedom from drugs, not the manipulative 'freedom' experienced through drugs

In favour of societal actions to decrease unemployment, racism and social injustice

In favour of abstinence-oriented measures to wean drug users off drugs

In favour of developing care and treatment for drug users

In favour of pro-active and assertive prevention measures

In favour of international co-operation

Against legalisation of illicit drugs

The present development in some European Union Member States is a cause for concern as distribution of heroin, injection rooms, massive and badly controlled distribution of methadone and buprenorphine, to mention but a few 'initiatives', are labelled 'harm reduction' measures whereas, as a matter of fact, they should rather be labelled 'harm production' measures.

In several of the annual reports from the Vienna-based UN agency INCB (International Narcotics Control Board), the Board has expressed great concern about such measures. In its latest Annual Report, issued March 3 2004, INCB cautions on so-called 'harm reduction' measures in drug control and "calls on Governments which intend to include 'harm reduction' measures into their demand reduction strategy, to carefully analyse the overall impact of such measures. These may sometimes be positive for an individual or for a local community while having far-reaching negative consequences at the national and international levels."

The Vienna-based INCB which monitors the implementation of

international drug control treaties has already, in previous Annual Reports, clarified its views on a range of 'harm reduction' measures - actions which are taken with the intention of reducing the negative consequences of drug abuse. In its Report for 1993, the Board already "acknowledged the importance of certain aspects of harm reduction as a tertiary prevention strategy for demand reduction programmes." In its Report for 2000, "the Board reiterated that harm reduction programmes could play a part in a comprehensive drug demand reduction strategy. The Board drew attention to the fact that harm reduction programmes could not be considered substitutes for demand reduction programmes."

In the 2004 Report, the Board reiterates specific statements and recommendations concerning the following "harm reduction" related measures:

Needle/syringe exchange or distribution programmes

"Governments need to adopt measures that may decrease the sharing of hypodermic needles among injecting drug abusers in order to limit the spread of HIV/AIDS. At the same time, the Board has been stressing that any prophylactic measures should not promote and/or facilitate drug abuse."

Substitution and maintenance treatment

The implementation of substitution and maintenance treatments "does not constitute any breach of treaty provisions, whatever substance may be used for such treatment in line with established national sound medical practice."

Drug injection rooms (facilities where injecting drug abusers can inject drugs they have acquired illicitly)

"The Board has stated on a number of occasions, including its recent Annual Reports, that the operation of such facilities remains a source of grave concern. The Board reiterates that they violate the provisions of the international drug control conventions."

"The Board reiterates that article 4 of the 1961 Convention obliges States to ensure that the production, manufacture, import, export, distribution of, trade in, use and possession of drugs is to be limited exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. Therefore, from a legal point of view, such facilities violate the international drug control conventions."

Apart from the fact that the present development re trafficking and abuse of drugs pose serious threats to any democratic society, ECAD wants to express grave concern about three issues,

1) The ability of the European Union to deal with the challenges of trafficking and abuse of drugs in connection with the enlargement of the European Union. This concern was shared by the head of the EU drugs agency, Georges Estievenart, who told AFP in an interview in April this year that, "Faced with the real challenge of enlargement, the European Union still only has diffuse, fragmented and weak competences, which are still under-utilised in the absence of sufficient political will." ... "The situation in the bloc is not good. The new members are showing worrying signs of catching up with methods of western consumption. The situation in Russia, in Ukraine and Belarus is explosive", Estievenart said.

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There is now 6,000 km of new borders delimiting the European Union to the east.

Because of the youthful population in the 10 new Members States of the European Union, the countries also appear vulnerable to an influx of synthetic drugs from Western Europe, which accounts for four-fifths of the world production of substances such as Ecstasy. In the Netherlands alone, police dismantled 43 synthetic drug laboratories in 2002.

Organised crime respects no borders, and organised crime is developing sophisticated tools, managed by the growing professionalism of mafias and the thinning divide between the underworld and business.

2) The medicalisation of the drug problem. There are clear tendencies to medicalise the drug problem and look for solutions such as substitution drugs. It is an easy 'fix' to provide heroin addicts with the drug of their choice, i.e. heroin. However, this does not solve any problems at all. The only thing that is achieved is that you make sure that the heroin addict is kept addicted to heroin. Furthermore, the fact that heroin is distributed to heroin addicts has resulted in calls from some cocaine addicts and their supporters (read doctors) to call for distribution of cocaine to cocaine addicts. However, this has nothing to do with science.

One of the worst examples of medicalisation is the call for snake oil medicinal experiments by advocates who promote the smoking of crude marijuana as treatment for a variety of ailments.

The widespread distribution of methadone and buprenorphine, as well as badly controlled syringe exchange programmes are other causes for concern.

3) 'Safe' use of drugs. There is no such thing as 'safe' use of drugs even if advocates of legalisation and/or promoters of systems resulting in easier access to drugs claim this to be a fact. Badly educated politicians and civil servants, and worst of all, easily manipulated teenagers might believe that this is true and fall prey to the idea that drug use is not a question about not using them but rather to learn how to use them in a 'safe' way. This together with intense marketing of illicit drugs via the Internet, calls for decriminalisation and/or legalisation from some poorly informed politicians, artists, police chiefs, doctors and others all pave the way for a generation of ignorant young people, showing a devastating ignorance about the consequences of drug trafficking, the drug trade, and how drug use affects the individual and society

In a situation where we are facing growing problems as a result of an increase in trafficking and abuse of drugs, it is most important that the European Union puts the drug issue on top of the agenda for the years to come.

Furthermore, authorities, law enforcement agencies and organisations, including ECAD experts, in favour of adherence to the UN Conventions on Drugs and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child must be invited to participate in the construction of the future drug policy of the European Union to make sure heroin distribution, injection rooms and other harm productive measures are left out and substituted for by pragmatic and innovative measures to wean drug users off drugs, to expand possibilities for drug free treatment options and to bring drug traffickers to the courts and seize their assets in a more effective way than today.

The European Union needs dedicated statesmen, who have the courage to show long-term political will to fight the drug problem by taking effective measures to decrease supply and demand for illicit drugs, and who are thinking more about the well-being and safety of the next generation rather than the next election.

ECAD is willing to participate in the work to develop a more constructive drug policy for the future and looks forward to an invitation to further discussions with a view to developing long-term and constructive co-operation.

Such discussions should include the following topics

Better European and world-wide co-ordination of the fight against drugs based on the contents of the UN Conventions on Drugs, the Guiding Principles of Demand Reduction approved at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in New York in June 1998, as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The possibility to close down the EMCDDA (the European Union Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction) and transfer its tasks to the Vienna-based UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and INCB (for proper monitoring). The drug problem is a global problem, which should be dealt with from a global perspective rather than a European perspective.

Best practices of prevention and treatment in line with the UN Convention on Drugs

Development of an international network to fight drugs in accordance with the UN Conventions on Drugs, the Guiding Principles of Demand Reduction approved at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in New York in June 1998, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Harm reduction and harm production - What's the difference?

The raison d'etre for programs for distribution of heroin.

The raison d'etre for Dutch so-called coffee shops.

How to deal with fifth columnists actively trying to undermine international and other conventions, treaties, and agreements in their official capacity as civil servants employed to uphold the contents of such conventions, treaties, and agreements.

The false rumour about INCB and injecting rooms

The rumour that is now circulating in Germany and elsewhere telling that the INCB (International Narcotics Control Board of the UN) has changed, or is about to change, its [opinion on drug consumption rooms \(injecting rooms\)](#) is completely false!

The INCB stays totally firm in its conviction that drug consumption rooms are "in violation of the international drug conventions" and that they are "in contravention of the international drug control conventions" (letter from INCB).

Read the article regarding the position of the Board regarding drug consumption rooms in Germany in ECAD newsletter Volume 6 Part II, 2004

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- The cannabis market – according to the World Drug Report – remains buoyant with the increasing consumption in South America, expanding markets in Western and Eastern Europe as well as in Africa.
- Although the ATS market is expanding, the rate of increase seems to be slowing down from the rapid increases that characterized it in the past ten years.

The World Drug Report 2004 provides a comprehensive picture of the global drug trends, presenting supply (production and trafficking) and demand statistics. The analysis chapter presents the four main illicit drug markets, with trend information re-

garding production, trafficking and abuse of opium/heroin; coca/cocaine; cannabis and ATS. The section on statistics provides figures for each country. The two-volume Report merges the former Global Illicit Drug Trends publication and the World Drug Report. The consolidation of the two reports, according to UNODC, was designed to increase the breadth of analytical coverage, while maintaining the annual frequency of statistical output.

★ “After the significant growth of drug abuse in the past half century, the spread of drugs in the world has slowed down. Less than one adult person out of 30

(five per cent of the world population aged 15 to 64) has used illicit drugs in the past 12 months. The number of people that consume tobacco is seven times larger, involving a staggering 30 per cent of the world population,” said Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of UNODC. “In many countries, drug control efforts increasingly limit the harm caused by drugs to a fraction of that caused by licit substances like tobacco and alcohol. Especially encouraging is the substantial decrease of deaths caused by drug abuse in Western Europe during the past few years – almost 20 per cent between 2000 and 2002,” Mr. Costa added.

New EMCDDA study asks “Is cannabis getting stronger?”

‘Is cannabis getting stronger?’ is the key question explored in the first-ever European review of cannabis potency released on 25 June by the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA).

★ ECAD RESEARCH

The report shows that effective potency of cannabis in nearly all EU countries has remained quite stable for many years, at around 6–8% THC. The only exception has been the Netherlands where, by 2001–2002, it had reached 16%, largely due to the increasing availability of intensively produced home-grown cannabis.

The EMCDDA says there is “no evidence of significant changes in THC levels of cannabis consumed in Europe as a whole”.

The report is available at www.emcdda.eu.int

“Drug treatment is more available, accessible and diverse” says EMCDDA

Although data are insufficient to draw clear-cut conclusions, and more cost analyses are required for an accurate picture of spending, preliminary research shows that within the EU, the average health-related expenditure for problem drug users is around € 2,000 per person per annum. A second economic analysis of the costs and consequences of treating drug use ⁽¹⁾ shows that for every € 1 invested in treatment, society saves € 10 or more in terms of health and social services and criminal justice resources. Such statistics have made policy-makers acknowledge the cost-effectiveness of treatment and invest more.

⁽¹⁾ Godfrey, C., Stewart, D., Gossop, M. (2004), ‘Economic analysis of costs and consequences of the treatment of drug misuse: two-year outcome data from the National Treatment Outcome Research Study (NTORS)’, *Addiction*, Vol.99, Issue 6, p. 697.

The report is available at www.emcdda.eu.int

*Our European societies have experimented and evaluated both tolerance and intolerance to illicit drug use and drug abuse. It is our reflection upon this which guides us towards non-use. This in regard to our **cities**’ well being.*



★ ECAD ECAD is Europe's leading organisation promoting a drug free Europe and representing millions of European citizens. Drug dealing and drug abuse cause enormous problems in Europe. Nations and their citizens are affected by the consequences of drug abuse. ECAD member cities work to develop initiatives and efforts against drug abuse supporting the United Nations Conventions which oppose legalisation and promote policies to eradicate drug abuse worldwide. Has your city joined ECAD?

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