



Busy spring in ECAD



During the Fair "Sweden Against Drugs"

The Conference at the European Parliament, "International Dimensions for European Drug Policy" organised by ECAD in co-operation with Mrs. Charlotte Cederschiöld, MEP from Sweden and Global Institute on Drug Policy has received a wide response from the ECAD members, different institutions and organisations in Europe and overseas.

Participation of the American "Drug Czar" John Walters has been covered by press not only in Brussels but also in Washington. The speech of the Swedish Minister for Public Health, Morgan Johansson, has also been requested by many. Unfortunately, we cannot keep our promise and publish his speech on Internet. The minister had stepped almost fully aside from his notes and spoke freely. We welcome you to acquaint yourself with other addresses and handouts which are available on www.ecad.net under "Conference papers".

Spring 2005 is marked by many events in ECAD. It is not only our conference at the European Parliament, which of course has had a high priority and should be seen as an important milestone for continuation of our work with European institutions. We have also been co-organisers of the third meeting for the judicial authorities from the countries around the Baltic Sea. Please read a report from the meeting on page 4, this issue. Preparations for the ECAD 12th Mayors' Conference are going full speed. This year's conference is hosted by the city of Oslo and will take place May 26-27. The President of

Iceland will honour us with his presence. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that ECAD conference is a part of celebration of the 100th anniversary of the peaceful dissolution of the Swedish/Norwegian union. It is important that you book your hotel well in advance!

In the beginning of April, representatives of 6 ECAD member cities met in Reykjavik in order to prepare a large-scale prevention project that will be presented during the conference in Oslo. The project is based on the experiences gained during five successful years of the program "Drug-Free Iceland".

At the same time in London, Jim Corr, the President of ECAD, participated in a press-conference organised by the FEI, International Federation for Equestrian Sports. The reason is that ECAD is a partner of San Patrignano community which is a host for this year's European Jumping Championship. The event will be held in the equestrian facilities of the San Patrignano community (Rimini - Italy) July 21-24. This gives us a great opportunity to present our organisation and visions. For the first time in the sport's history a significant event like this will take place in a rehabilitation centre for former drug addicts! You can find detailed information on our web site.

ECAD has also been co-organiser and participant of the National Fair "Sweden Against Drugs" that took place in the ECAD member city of Västerås. The fair that takes place every other year is a main drug-political event in Sweden, a manifestation of restrictive drug policies within control, treatment and prevention. According to a recent research, conducted by the National Drug Policy Co-ordinator, 90% of the Swedish population supports the restrictive anti-drug policies and considers it important for the society to take measures against drugs. ECAD sees this as a good ground for our work in Sweden.

Afghan heroin – closer than you realise

By Christer Brännerud, International Project Co-ordinator, UNODC, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

(Christer Brännerud is a Swedish police officer with a long experience of international work, including 7 years of service at the Interpol Headquarters in Lyon, France)

We know where the opium-poppy plantations are situated. We know when crops are harvested. We know where heroin laboratories are, their capacity and differences in heroin quality.

We know where the stocks are and who is responsible for them. We know the smugglers' routes from Afghanistan.

But why is nothing being done about all of this? Why are the opium-poppy fields not being eradicated, stocks not bombed and these responsible not arrested? The situation is more complex than just that. Most of the farmers grow opium-poppy because it brings the absolutely best income. If one wants to really "do something about it", one needs to do a bit more than just to send a couple of F15 fighter planes. One cannot "bomb out" a social pattern with a hundred year old tradition. If one opium field would be eradicated, cultivation would simply move to some other part of Central Asia, and new responsible would take the place of those arrested.

These problems need to be seen in a broader perspective, and the root of the problem needs to be attacked, namely demand. How does our own illicit drug market look like today?

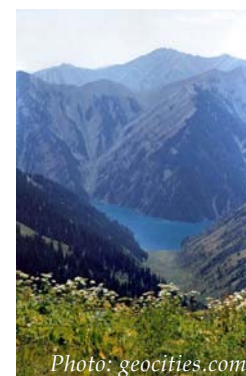


Photo: geocities.com

See page 2-3

Afghan heroin – closer than you realise

From page 1

How many heroin abusers do we have in Europe? Is their number increasing or decreasing? How easy is it to get hold of heroin? At what level are street-prices? Have they gone up or down? How does prevention look like? Is a clear message being conveyed to the youngsters about the consequences of drug misuse? Do we create threatening pictures, analyse drug dealers, the economic profits of drug smuggling? The old saying "put your own house in order" before attacking others is relevant.

The heroin produced in Afghanistan is exported almost exclusively to the European market (including Russia) while the USA get their heroin from Latin America and Mexico. That is why Europe should take a more apparent role in the drug preventive activities, like those carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Tajikistan.

Let's go back to Central Asia. Of the five Central Asian countries - Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan - Tajikistan is the most effective country in regard to seizures of heroin and opium. This country has a 1,400 km long border with Afghanistan and the government recognises drug transit and drug-related corruption as a threat to the state. I used to say that Tajikistan sees the problem with both eyes, Uzbekistan with one eye, and Turkmenistan keeps its eyes shut. All three border with Afghanistan. Tajikistan has been co-operating with UNODC since 1998 and has, with some international support, established a Drug Control Agency (DCA). Since the official start in 1999, the Agency has become a leading anti-drug institution in the region. Despite being modestly staffed with only 350 officers, the Agency seizes drugs in quantities measured in tons. Seizures are made in close co-operation with the Russian frontier troops. The DCA is in the process to establish an intelligent service. The structure of the Agency includes an investigation department, field units, search and undercover units, special forces for actions in dangerous situations, dogs, a forensic laboratory and an analytic unit which has been equipped with a modern database named "Tais Ontos".

I work for the UNODC in Tajikistan in order to lead one of the biggest drug-projects in the Central Asia, my task is to develop DCA. The project prioritises implementation of criminal analysis and investigation-steered work, as well as a revision of today's legislation concerning confiscation of profits from criminal activities (asset forfeiture). The aim is to move the intelligence closer to the fieldwork, which we have already accomplished. An inspection carried out by a team of international experts in October 2003 came to a conclusion that the Agency was as good as entirely spared corruption. DCA's officers have a higher salary than on average in the country, they bear own uniform and feel a professional pride in representing the institution. Head of the DCA, general Rustam Nazarov, has proved himself as a talented leader who gained respect among the professionals not only in Tajikistan but also abroad. A well organised leadership generates well functioning structures all along the hierarchy down to the field officers.

A dream scenario is to establish DCA in all Central Asian countries. DCA's structure can be an example for other anti-drug authorities in

the region and step by step lead to a harmonisation of their efforts. Though there are still many steps to be made and the threat of corruption is omnipresent.

How does the drug situation look like in Tajikistan? Tons of heroin and opium transit through this country every year. With such enormous quantities, a "spill" of heroin is inevitable. This "spill" remains in the country and reaches the local market. A dose, 0.2 g, costs about 2 dollars. The authorities have no idea how many drug addicts there are in the country or how many people have HIV. The president has announced not long ago that the Russian frontier troops must leave the country and pass the responsibility over to the Tajik forces. This decision will, without any doubt, influence the flow of drugs from Afghanistan. The Russians have had their troops stationed here for over a century. Routine, experience and knowledge will disappear in one moment. The competence vacuum that the Russian officers will leave after themselves will need to be filled in with a new recruitment, equipment and education. All of this will need finances and time. Tajikistan is a poor country and its dependence of international support will become even greater in order to manage the situation.



But we have the DCA. The Agency has proved that it is possible to create a well functioning institution in a difficult region. The DCA resists corruption. It has received a full trust from the government and the international community. I have mentioned earlier that it would be of help to establish such institutions in each Central Asian country. This could be a key to a success. But to be able to continue to work in this direction, an essential international assistance is needed. As for today, the USA is the biggest donor within the area of drug combat in Tajikistan. Drug smuggling is bound to the activities of terrorist groups and the flow of illegal weapons in the region is significant. These phenomena are of importance for the USA. We should remember though, as I have already pointed out, that the Afghan heroin is destined for the European market. Europe could play a more proactive role. The German Bundeskriminalamt has already increased its financial and human resource assistance to the DCA. I would like to see other countries to follow the German example.

In 2003, almost 5 tons heroin was seized in Tajikistan, the same year in Sweden - 6 kg. In Europe, both police and customs aim significant resources at combating drug trafficking but very seldom do they reach further than to couriers. Let's take as an example how police or customs start a new case on a drug delivery. A tip comes in, investigation resources are set in, phone bugging is connected, interpreters are engaged, overtime is allowed. An arrest takes place, seizure comes up to 50 g heroin, pre-investigation begins with a prosecutor's participation. The main person in the case is a receiver of drugs assigned for a further distribution through a network of his dealers. Under favourable circumstances the receiver would acknowledge that he dealt with 300 g heroin during the past year. The person will be sentenced according to his own statement and those 50 g that was seized.

See page 3

Afghan heroin – closer than you realise

From page 2

The total costs of the police work may reach some significant levels. More, costs for the prosecutors and court settings need to be added, as well as attorney's fees and finally costs of imprisonment. If we would compare the final sum with the value of those 50 g heroin taken in "physical" seizure, we probably should ask ourselves how does it relate to all work efforts and costs used during the entire process? In particular, if we would take into account amounts of drugs being seized in Tajikistan.

I by no means intend to reduce the value or question legal proceedings or efforts taken by customs/police against drugs within Europe. I would just like to draw attention to the relatively small quantities of seized drugs and tactics used by the European authorities, namely to wait until drugs reach our borders. Why not move up our positions and meet the problem further away? Imagine that we have succeeded to re-enforce the repressive capacity of the anti-drug authorities in Central Asia. 3-5 tons heroin is seized every year in Tajikistan alone. Today's number of seizures already hampers drug barons' activities. If we would succeed in taken some additional tons of drugs off the traffic route, we would really get a hold of the barons and decrease the flow of delivery into Europe.

I assert that today we have a rather vague understanding of how the "white heroin" (heroin hydrochloride, for intravenous injections) reaches Europe. The "brown heroin" (heroin-base) is produced in Turkish laboratories situated in the eastern parts of the country. Heroin comes into European drug markets via the so called "Balkan route". This route is controlled by the Turkish and Albanian criminal groups. Routes for the "white heroin" are unclear. There is a theory that it can go via the "northern route", through the Russian tundra.

We know that the Afghan heroin that transit Tajikistan, Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan is for further transportation into Russia and Europe. But what about heroin going via Turkmenistan and then over the Caspian Sea into Caucasus? Or an open "heroin corridor" via Tjetjenia in order to finance its subversive forces and their activities there? Or heroin that transits and is stored in Ukraine and Belarus before it reaches Europe? There always emerge new opportunities and new routes but who analyses them in depth? How does the heroin finally come into Europe? How is it packed? Does it come mainly through a private or commercial traffic?

We do not have a clear answer on these questions today. There is a supposition that significant amounts of heroin are smuggled in half-kilo vacuum packages within coffee-packets. In October 2003, I visited a frontier post "Moskovskaia" located between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The Russian frontier guards have seized 800 kg (!) white heroin, about 1 ton opium and 1.2 ton cannabis. I asked for permission to take a look at the heroin packages before they would be burned. Nearly 50% of all packages were represented by coffee-packets of European sorts coffee. Packages were without a doubt smuggled from Afghanistan and have probably been vacuum-packed there. The fact that the packages had texts written in European languages shows that the drugs were destined for the European market, and not for the countries using Cyrillic letters. The smell of coffee has a disrupting effect on a dog's sense of smell. Thus, if heroin is packed into a vacuum-package surrounded by a coffee-pack, the work be-

comes difficult for a dog. Let's imagine that 50 kg heroin, which means 100 coffee-packets, is being smuggled in a truck that delivers 10,000 coffee-packets. How can one, without very specialised technical support, find this drug? Up until the summer of 2004 there were no cases in Europe where heroin was found in vacuum-packed coffee-packets. It could mean that this kind of delivery is not identified as a "threat", that is why those trucks are not searched. Is there such a "threatening-profile" within the customs and border guards?

This "coffee example" is a good reason why we, Europeans, should move our positions. Without co-operation with the "source regions" our capability to clarify routes and methods of smuggling is not so great, we would keep standing by our European borders waiting for heroin to arrive. If we could stop it further away from our borders, our means to protect our countries and the younger generation from contact with drugs would be much better.

An active assistance to UNODC is not entirely represented by repressive measures. Activities within demand reduction, which target such groups as drug addicts, school youths and others, increase constantly. We co-operate with different non-governmental organisations. We follow the situation with HIV in Central Asia.

Our work in Tajikistan needs all the support we can get. Immense interests are fuelling narcotics industry. We cannot cope with the situation alone and we can never protect ourselves fully without co-operation and assistance with each other. Europe is definitely exposed to the activities taking place in Central Asia. These countries are no longer "over there". They are closer than you realise.

Afghan opium-poppy cultivation: latest trends

A new UN survey identifies a positive trend in the majority of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. While researchers suggest that opium-poppy crops have grown in five provinces, the broader decline marks the first time in four years that such harvests have fallen in Afghanistan. The survey was released on 27 March by the UNODC and Afghanistan's newly formed Counternarcotics Ministry.

The UN survey was carried out in February among more than 200 villages that represent more than half of Afghanistan's districts. Work for the detailed annual UNODC opium survey for 2005 will start in April. The current survey gives trends rather than statistics. Doris Budenberg, head of the UNODC in Afghanistan, tells RFE/RL that the trend shows many farmers are taking the government's anti-drug commitment and policies seriously. "It is a respect for the government's ban on opium poppy cultivation -- but also fear of eradication," she says. Budenberg says international help is needed if the downward trend is to continue. "The test case will be next year and particularly the years after [as to] whether this reduction in cultivation is sustainable," she says.

After RFE/RL

Co-operation around the Baltic Sea



Jaako Sonck, Juergen Storbeck, Audrone Astrauskiene, Walter Kegö, Tomas Hallberg

An international seminar for customs, police and coast/border guards became a powerful appeal for international co-operation against organised drug-related criminality.

Nearly 70 representatives for customs, police and border guards from Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania gathered in February in Vilnius, Lithuania. The seminar was organised by the Swedish National Mobilisation Against Drugs, Drug Control Department under the Lithuanian government and ECAD.

Some well-known international experts on drug combat took part in the event. Among them, Jürgen Storbeck, former Chief of Euro-pol, Björn Blomqvist, prosecutor and founder of Eurojust (an organ for international co-operation for judicial authorities), and Vladimir Fenopetov, Chief of the Europe and West/Central Asia Sector, UNODC. Russia has been represented on a high level by Alexander Mikhaylov, deputy director of the Federal Drug Control Service with nearly 40,000 staff workers.

The message that the speakers conveyed to the seminar participants was that the challenge posed by organised crime is such that just to inform each other is no longer sufficient. Instead, an operative collaboration between the authorities in different coun-

tries should develop to a greater extent than it is today. The speakers emphasised the fact that the necessary legal structures are already in place. Björn Blomqvist referred to the widening of the European boundaries. He pointed out that a spread opinion expressing worries that the open borders would make the drug combat more difficult was a wrong idea. Instead, the European integration gave the law enforcement an effective counter-method against the organised criminality, which does not recognise state borders.

The seminar participants have discussed these, and other issues concerning international co-operation, in depth during the specialised workshops for customs, police and coast/border guards respectively. One of the conclusions the workshops came up with was that effective international co-operation begins at home. To be successful internationally, countries also need to develop internal networks between different authorities, institutions and organisations, all working towards the same goals.

This was the third seminar for judicial authorities from countries around the Baltic Sea. The organiser, Walter Kegö from the Mobilisation Against Drugs, emphasised the importance of such recurrent initiatives, "Co-operation rests upon trust, and in order to build trust, personal contacts are of crucial importance. I hope and I believe that our meetings create a basis for concrete activities and results in the field of cross-border co-operation."

Walter Kegö expressed his hope that the next meeting would take place in Russia.

By Lars Andréén, Chief information officer,
Swedish customs

*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 **countries'** well being.*



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?

★ ECAD VISIONS

"When ECAD speaks of drug free Europe there are many who call it a utopia. If I had told you fifteen years ago that the Championships will be organised by former drug addicts in a treatment centre you would all have called it a utopia".

Chairman of ECAD, Jim Corr

Answer from Rainbow Sweden

Chairman of the Rainbow Sweden Alec Carlberg sent a letter to the ECAD newsletter (dated 2005-03-01) in regard to the article "Rainbow Sweden deprived of membership in Rainbow International" (Volume 1 No 77). In his letter, Mr Carlberg writes that

"It is stated in the ECAD News 1-2005 that Rainbow Sweden has been excluded from Rainbow International. This is an untruth that is spread through the organisation Drugnews in spite of the fact that Drugnews knows the case history, since they have interviewed me on this particular issue.

The truth is that Rainbow Sweden has never been a member of Rainbow International and therefore cannot be excluded. And Rainbow Sweden has not received any formal proposal or record with the decision of exclusion."

★ HE SAID SHE SAID

"Distance"

He said – First I wanted to say no no no but now I see the play in it.

She said – Who made the goal?

European Cities Against Drugs

ECAD, Stadshuset
105 35 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel. +46-8-5082 93 62 Fax +46-8-5082 94 66
e-mail: ecad@ecad.net www.ecad.net

ECAD Regional office in Russia www.ecad.ru
zazulin@ecad.ru Phone +7-812-328 96 65

ECAD Regional office in Latvia
vilnis.kipens@kurzeme.rcc.lv
Phone +371-7037330 Fax +371-7037331