

**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS  
 IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE**

(based on mass media reports)

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**ON CARICC MEMBER STATES**

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**REGNUM RUSSIA AND JAPAN WILL CONTINUE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY**

Russia and Japan will work to expand cooperation in the security sphere, including in the Asia-Pacific region (APR), Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a press conference following the meeting of the foreign ministers and defense ministers of the two countries on July 31.

"We confirmed the focus on cooperation in the field of combating terrorism, ensuring international information security and combating corruption," he said.

The minister also added that the countries will continue to cooperate in the fight against drug trafficking, including in the framework of a joint project with the UN to train drug policemen for Afghanistan and the countries of Central Asia. <https://regnum.ru/news/2457247.html>

**ON OTHER STATES**

**GEORGIA**

** PUNISHMENT FOR SMOKING MARIJUANA CANCELED IN GEORGIA**

The Constitutional Court of Georgia on July 30 recognized as illegal the use of any sanctions (including administrative ones) for smoking marijuana. However, we are not talking about the full legalization of marijuana.

"The use of marijuana is an action protected by the right to free development of the individual," the Constitutional Court said in a statement. The court emphasizes that this decision is directed against trafficking in marijuana. According to the court, the role of the individual consumer in facilitating turnover (of marijuana) is very small.

Smoking cannabis is still illegal, if it "creates danger to a third person." For example, in educational institutions and in some public places.

The Constitutional Court of Georgia in November 2017 already decriminalized the use of marijuana, that is, abolished the criminal punishment for its smoking. But there were administrative fines. Opposition party "Girchi" Their sought their cancellation through the court.

The party demands not only to legalize smoking cannabis, but also its sale and purchase. In the meantime, only the use (smoking) of cannabis is completely legalized. The acquisition, storage and cultivation of marijuana - even in small amounts - remain punishable. And the sale of drug is a criminal offense. <http://ru.rfi.fr/kavkaz/20180731-v-gruzii-otmenili-nakazanie-za-kurenie-marikhuany>

**UKRAINE**

**Буквы HEAD OF KYIV POLICE IS FOR DECRIMINALIZATION OF STORAGE OF DRUGS**

Head of the Main Directorate of the National Police in Kiev, Andrey Kryshchenko, spoke in favor of decriminalizing the storage of light drugs.

He said this in an interview on August 3, 2018.

"Maybe I will make a seditious thought and I will be condemned by many colleagues, but I would bring the possession of drugs to the administrative plane." Decriminalize it, and clearly spell out storage for the purpose of marketing, volumes and quantity, "said Kristchenko.

According to him, it is the lack of separation in this issue that "greatly damages the work" of law enforcers.

However, he stressed that he is against full legalization of soft drugs.

"I'm not a supporter of legalization, I do not think that this will improve the situation or fill the budget," said Kristchenko. <https://bykvu.com/bukvy/96654-glava-natspolitsii-kieva-vystupil-za-dekriminalizatsiyu-khraneniya-narkotikov>

**This information has been extracted from open sources and is intended only for the competent authorities of the CARICC member states, observer states and other partners of the Center**