

Unofficial translation

**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS
IN COUNTER-NARCOTICS**
(based on mass media reports)

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CARICC MEMBER STATES

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



**PUTIN RESPONDED TO REQUEST ON CREATION OF CYBER
POLICE FORCE TO COMBAT DRUGS**

- We hold regular campaigns to clean up dormitory areas, where houses are completely covered by drug advertising - these are domains, these are electronic addresses, where teenagers or residents can safely enter and buy, there are even fully paid for bitcoins, that is, via SMS, chat rooms. And often these criminals avoid punishment using such modern means - complained to Vladimir Putin a month and a half ago at a meeting with members of the public of the Far East. - Is it possible to use new methods in the Interior Ministry, is it cyber-police, which can actively and quickly prevent these things? It is necessary to strengthen the number of staff, perhaps, the Interior Ministry units in those regions where situation is catastrophic.

- I once decided to create a separate unit, and then I was convinced that they should be merged with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to avoid parallel work," Putin then said. - I don't know if cyber police are needed, but keep in mind that criminals are using sophisticated, modern methods of distribution, of course, the MIA should. All our work now in terms of the size of the MIA is aimed at downsizing, not increasing. But that doesn't mean that we should do everything the same way. It is necessary to determine priorities.

As a result of that meeting, the President's instructions were signed, which gave concrete answers to the questions posed.

The President instructed the government to amend legislation on criminal liability for drug propaganda on the Internet. Changes will include criminal penalties "for inducing or promoting narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues through the Internet. Putin instructed the government to take measures to quickly and extrajudicially restrict access to resources that advertise and sell drugs.

The police force will be enlarged to deal with drugs. The Interior Ministry has been instructed to "take measures to ensure organizational, staff, personnel and logistical support for suppression of crimes related to illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the Internet. Proposals to increase the number of staff and financing of internal affairs bodies should be submitted to the President by January 10.

<https://www.kp.kz/daily/27047/4113474/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS



BELARUSIAN SYSTEM OF MONITORING DRUG SITUATION INTERESTED AMERICANS - DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF GKSE

Belarusian experience in combating narcotic and psychotropic substances was of interest to the Americans. In the near future the Drug Enforcement Agency (Drug Enforcement Administration) of the U.S. Department of Justice and the State Committee of Forensic Expertise will sign a memorandum of cooperation. The document provides for exchange of experience, joint measures to prevent importation of new designer drugs into the territory of two countries, as well as work in other areas. In more detail about how the State Committee for Forensic Expertise established monitoring of drug situation and due to what it was possible to eradicate the concept of "legal drug" in our country, the correspondent of BelTA was told by the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Forensic Expertise, Major-General of Justice Sergei Yevmenenko.

Since its establishment, the Committee has implemented a system for monitoring drug situation in foreign countries. As soon as we see that a new drug has appeared in some country, it is included in list of controlled drugs within 1-3 days, and its import into Belarus becomes unprofitable for drug traffickers, because it already carries criminal responsibility. Results of such monitoring were used as a foundation for all prohibitions of new psychoactive substances over the past six years. Absolute majority of those, which were added to the national list on the initiative of the State Committee, were banned on the "pre-emptive" principle, that is, until their first identification in Belarus, which allowed to completely eliminate the concept of "legal drug" in our country.

This work is evidenced by the fact that no seizures of non-controlled psychoactive substances have been registered in Belarus since April 2014, more than five years ago. During the whole period of time, the State Committee initiated inclusion of 225 items in the national list. In some European countries, it takes up to a year and a half, and sometimes even more, to be added to a list of prohibited psychotropic or narcotic substances. Theoretically, it can be sold even on the market all this time.

We went even further. At our initiative, some concepts that did not appear before appeared in legislation at the time. For example, "basic structure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" is the core on which everything is then hung up. Even if we identify a new substance, which, suppose, got into our country, and this substance is not directly under control, basic structure allows us to attribute it to controlled ones, and, accordingly, responsibility for its circulation arises.

In 2015, on the initiative and with direct participation of our specialists, the Republican list of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors subject to state control was completely revised.

In this regard, an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of chemical structure of controlled drugs was carried out and their basic structures were established, according to which they are differentiated into groups (a total of 36 groups). If necessary, basic structures of drugs make it possible to establish state control over circulation of new

psychoactive substances as quickly as possible by classifying them as analogues of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Among other things, the State Committee of Forensic Expertise initiated the use of the concept of "laboratory utensils or laboratory equipment, designed for chemical synthesis" in Part 4 of Article 328 of the Criminal Code of Belarus as a qualifying sign, indicating manufacture of drugs in laboratory conditions. After its adoption at the legislative level, functional purpose of dishes and equipment seized from clandestine laboratories for production of drugs began to be confirmed by the GKSE through commodity examination, which had not previously been practiced. The fact of using laboratory glassware and equipment in synthesis of drugs is established during a chemical examination - by detecting drugs and precursors on their inner surface, including in trace amounts.

Americans were interested in our experience, and now they are discussing specific areas of cooperation. A draft memorandum of cooperation has been fashioned.

The memorandum, which is planned to be signed in the near future, will contribute to strengthening of cooperation in the field of preventing emergence and proliferation of new psychoactive substances. We intend to more quickly exchange relevant expert information necessary in the fight against illicit trafficking of psychoactive substances.

<http://pravo.by/novosti/obshchestvenno-politicheskie-i-v-oblasti-prava/2019/october/41386/>

UKRAINE



"CANNABIS MARCH OF FREEDOM" HELD IN KYIV: PARTICIPANTS DEMANDED LEGALIZATION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS

Protesters demanded from the Verkhovna Rada deputies to submit a bill on the use of cannabis in medicine, announced earlier by the People's Servant Mikhail Radutskiy.

About 200 people took part in the action, reports Censor.net with reference to "Ukrinform".

They gathered outside the Cabinet of Ministers. From there, participants of the action went to the Verkhovna Rada in the government quarter. In their hands they carried posters with inscriptions "this is a medicine, not a drug", "cannabis cures".

"The only requirement of the march today is urgent registration of a bill or bills on medical cannabis, so as not to delay this matter, in order to regulate medical cannabis for the needs of patients, medicine and science. We are talking about medicines based on cannabinoids ... Their circulation should be restricted and controlled by the state," co-organizer of the action Taras Ratushny said in a commentary to journalists.

According to organizers, this is a vital aid for almost 2 million patients who cannot get effective treatment due to lack of appropriate legal guarantees. Among them are more than 20 thousand children with pharmacologically resistant forms of epilepsy, hundreds of thousands of cancer patients, more than a hundred thousand palliative patients, as well as tens of thousands of war veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.



The action was attended by the public organizations Bridge, Veterans for medical cannabis, "Athena. Women against Cancer, Students for Freedom, United Experience, Drug Policy, etc.

In May, previous MPs registered a bill regulating the use of cannabis for medical purposes. A petition to that effect was submitted to the Parliament's website with the necessary 25,000 signatures. However, the Verkhovna Rada of the 8th convocation did not have time to consider this document, and on 28 July it was revoked.

<http://kordon.org.ua/konoplyany-marsh-svobod-sostoyalsya-v-kieve-utchastniki-trebovali-legalizatsii-meditsinskogo-kannabisa.html>

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