

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

28.01-03.02.2019**№ 5****CARICC MEMBER STATES****THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

29.01.2019 The Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for Astrakhan completed an investigation into a criminal case against a 28-year-old local resident accused of drug smuggling as well as illegal acquisition and storage of narcotic drugs in significant amounts. The accused ordered ampoules with e-cigarette liquids containing hashish oil and chewing gum with tetrahydrocannabinol in a foreign online store. Payment was made by transferring bitcoins from a virtual exchange. A package with an illegal enclosure was sent by air from the territory of a European country. The fact of smuggling was revealed by officers of the Astrakhan customs, UKON UMVD and the Federal Security Service of Russia in the Astrakhan region. In addition, cannabis seeds were found in the collected packages. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15648037>

30.01.2019 Officers of the OMVD of Russia in the city of Ussuriysk of the Primorsky regions stemmed illicit activities of a 50-year-old resident of the village of Elite in the Ussuriysky district, engaged in the production and processing of narcotic plants of cannabis genus. In total, more than **55 kg of "Manchurian" marijuana** have been confiscated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15660883>

30.01.2019 Officers of the UKON Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Moscow region and staff of the Intermunicipal Unit of the Ministry of the Interior of Russia "Noginskoye" in the town of Elektrougli detained a 29-year-old resident of the Bryansk region suspected of selling narcotic drugs. During a personal search and in the garage belonging to the suspect, more than **150 g of heroin** were seized. A criminal case has been instituted on this fact. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15661239>

31.01.2019 UKON UMVD of Russia in the Penza region in a forest belt on the territory of Penza detained a 27-year-old man at the moment of equipping a cache for drugs. When he was detained near the cache, his 53-year-old mother, also involved in drug trafficking, was in his car. In total, about **3 kg of synthetic drugs** were seized from perpetrators. Suspects were involved in illegal sale of drugs through caches. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15677049>

31.01.2019 Officers of the UKON GU MVD of Russia in Moscow detained a 23-year-old foreign citizen from a neighboring country, and during a personal search and in an apartment at the place of temporary stay of a man, found more than **804 g of heroin**. On this fact a criminal case was initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15675125>

31.01.2019 Officers of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the city of Sorsk of the Republic of Khakassia at the Erbinskaya station in a garage and on the territory of the household of a 46-year-old local resident found and seized **10.4 kg of**

marijuana. The detainee gathered narcotic plants in the vicinity of a nearby settlement. On this fact, a criminal case was instituted. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15674264>

24.01.2019 Officers of the UKON GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Novosibirsk region in the forest near the Novosibirsk Zoo detained a 22-year-old local resident when he was making caches for retail customers. During a search at the place of residence of the young man, **416 g of a drug of synthetic origin** were seized. The suspect acquired wholesale batches of banned substances for the purpose of further marketing on the territory of Novosibirsk. On this fact, a criminal case was opened. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15685157>

01.02.2019 Investigators of the Transport Department of the Russian Ministry of the Interior for the Far Eastern Federal district completed an investigation of a criminal case against four members of an organized group engaged in sale of narcotic drugs of a synthetic group in the Khabarovsk and Primorye Territories. The defendants occupied the role of cache operators in a criminal scheme and their task was to distribute drugs in a non-contact way. Police officers of the UT of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Far Eastern Federal District together with colleagues from the Khabarovsk, Vladivostok DR of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia on transport, LO of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia at Ussuriysk station took measures to detain couriers. Participants in the criminal group received information on location of drug caches using an online messenger. When one of the participants in an organized group was detained, more than **25 kg of N-methylephedron** were confiscated. Later, 6 more people were detained and were brought to justice. More than **4 kg of synthetic drugs** were seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15684690>

31.01.2019 Officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Gukovo, Rostov region, detained a 52-year-old local resident who illegally stored **14 kg of marijuana** in his apartment for sale. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15674059>

31.01.2019 Officers of the Main Investigative Directorate of the Main Administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia of the Chelyabinsk region completed an investigation of a criminal case against an organizer and 4 participants of a criminal community selling narcotic drugs in the territory of the Chelyabinsk region and other regions of Russia. A 24-year-old resident of Chelyabinsk set up and managed a criminal community that, through a network of online stores, sold drugs in the Chelyabinsk and Orenburg regions, the Perm region, the Republics of Tatarstan, Bashkortostan and Udmurtia. 231 episodes of illegal activities of the community were revealed, the income from criminal activities amounted to more than 110 million rubles. 49 people were detained and brought to criminal responsibility in various regions of the Russian Federation, including community leaders. About **10 kg of synthetic drugs were seized.** <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15679533>

31.01.2019 Officers of the Kotlas Department of the Department of Illicit Drug Trafficking of Russia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Arkhangelsk region stopped a Hyundai-Solaris car in the town of Koryazhma with a 24-year-old driver and a 21-year-old passenger - residents of Kholmogory. During the inspection of the vehicle, **3 kg of a drug of synthetic origin** were found and seized. On this fact, a criminal case was opened. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15677536>

31.01.2019 The Investigative Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), under the operational support of UKON officers, investigated a criminal case against members of an organized community who have organized production and sale of narcotic drugs in a number of regions. It was established that in the period of 2017–2018, four persons aged from 22 to 34 were engaged in manufacture and distribution of drugs of synthetic origin in Moscow, the Republic of Buryatia, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), and other regions. On the territory of Yakutsk and Moscow, two drug labs equipped in a rented garage and apartment were dismantled. About **3.5 kg of drugs of synthetic origin** and precursors from which they were made were confiscated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15677181>

THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

29.01.2019 Soldiers of the Border Troops of the State Security Service of Uzbekistan in the border area of Tutzor in the Tashkent district cut an attempt by a citizen of Uzbekistan to smuggle **1.9 kg of marijuana and 600 g of hashish**. <https://upl.uz/incidents/10065-news.html>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

01.02.2019 Police agents in Perth confiscated **10.2 kg of methamphetamine and 142 g of MDMA**, 1.6 million US dollars in cash and two firearms in the course of a week with participants of two separate drug trafficking teams. The value of seized drugs is estimated at \$10 million. As a result of investigation of organized criminal activity, three participants of two drug gangs were charged and raids were conducted in suburbs of Perth. Detectives from counter-narcotics task force detained a 20-year-old motorist in Rivervale, who was transporting about 690 thousand US dollars in a cardboard box. Subsequently, during a search of a house located in High Wycombe, about 8.4 kg of methamphetamine and 810 thousand US dollars in cash were found at the place of residence of the detained young man. On the same day, anti-organized crime squad detectives searched two houses in Golden Bay, which resulted in discovery of a pistol and a rifle, as well as about 1.8 kg of methamphetamine, 142 g of MDMA, \$33,900 and anabolic steroids. In another address in a house were found and seized 49.5 thousand dollars derived from criminal activity. <https://thewest.com.au/news/perth/wa-police-allegedly-seize-10kg-meth-and-15m-cash-in-separate-perth-drug-raids-ng-b881092226z>

01.02.2019 Officers of the Australian Border Force (ABF) at the Sydney International Airport detained two Brazilians in an attempt to smuggle **6 kg of cocaine**. Drug dealers - a 30-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman arrived on a flight from Doha (Qatar). As a result of searches, 6 packs of cocaine, each weighing 1 kg, were found inside three bags of passengers. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) is investigating this fact. <https://www.miragenews.com/two-brazilians-charged-after-attempting-to-import-approximately-6kg-of-cocaine-through-sydney-airport/>

01.02.2019 In the course of a joint operation of the NSW Police and the Australian Federal Police (AFP), **750 kg of cocaine** were found and seized on board a yacht heading from the



South Pacific to Coff's Harbor. <https://www.coffscoastadvocate.com.au/videos/750kg-cocaine-found-yacht/64268/>

ALBANIA

29.01.2019 Girokastra border police officers as a result of a special operation in the village of Drite on the Albanian-Greek border, in a building found about **700 kg of marijuana**. Seven people have been arrested for drug smuggling from Albania to Greece. At the same time, the Greek police in the city of Kavala eliminated the Albanian-Greek criminal network, arrested three Greek citizens and three Albanian citizens responsible for illegal transportation of cannabis across the border and its sale in Greece. In a building in Thessaloniki, about **100 kg of Albanian marijuana** were found and confiscated, one person was arrested.

<http://www.tiranatimes.com/?p=140324>

ARGENTINA

31.01.2019 The 11th San Ignacio Squadron at the Ipolito Irigoyene military checkpoint, in a border town in northeastern Argentina, south of Paraguay, cut off a large smuggling of a narcotic drug of herbal origin. A truck carrying **4 tons of marijuana** trying to break through border fortifications crashed into a highway fence. The driver managed to escape from the scene of the incident, leaving a truck loaded with marijuana worth about 263 million Argentine pesos (7 million US dollars). Illegal consignment was confiscated.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6653905/Argentine-military-seize-4-tons-marijuana-not-truck-driver-abandoned-cargo.html>

BRAZIL

28.01.2019 Agents of the Federal Revenue Service found and confiscated more than 1 ton of cocaine in the port of Paranaguá on the coast of Paraná in two cargo containers loaded with wooden planks. A consignment of cocaine was destined for the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. No person was arrested.

<https://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2019/01/28/receita-federal-apreende-mais-de-1-tonelada-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua.ghtml>

INDIA

28.01.2019 Border Security Forces (BSF) forces on the India-Pakistan border in the Ferozepur sector of Punjab state found and seized six packs with **3 kg of heroin**.

<https://www.ptcnews.tv/border-security-force-seizes-3-kg-heroin-in-ferozepur/>

30.01.2019 Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Maldeva detained a drug dealer and seized **850 grams of heroin** intended for further distribution in Bangladesh.

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/kolkata/ncb-arrests-drug-racket-member-with-850-gms-of-heroin-338674>

SPAIN

01.02.2019 A special operation "Lupita" was conducted in Campo de Gibraltar to combat drug trafficking, which resulted in more than **14 tons of hashish** seized. More than 200 police officers from Madrid, Cadiz and Ceuta were involved in the operation, as a result of

which 50 people were arrested in Algeciras. In Madrid was arrested one of the leaders of an influential drug group specializing in drug trafficking in Campo de Gibraltar.

<https://www.gbc.gi/news/fifty-arrests-14-tonnes-cannabis-resin-seized-major-drug-trafficking-operation-campo-de-gibraltar>

ITALY

30.01.2019 The Financial Guard forces from Livorno together with customs and monopolies agency in the port of Labronico in a container with a load of coffee beans aboard a ship under the Portuguese flag found bags containing 582 packs of **cocaine with a total weight of 644 kg**. The seizure was a result of many years of work of Prosecutors' Offices of Livorno and Florence competent in the fight against mafia and international drug trafficking as well as customs services' analysis of risk profile of goods arriving via maritime links with from countries of Central and South America. The container was shipped by a Honduran coffee maker in the port of Puerto Cortes (Honduras), and then overloaded in the port of Moines (Costa Rica) to another cargo ship sailing to the port of Barcelona in Spain. The final destination for delivering the shipment of coffee was a commercial company in Madrid. <http://www.gdf.gov.it/stampa/ultime-notizie/anno-2019/gennaio/sequestrati-644-chilogrammi-di-cocaina>

31.01.2019 Officers of the provincial financial guard command in the port of Genoa inside a container from Colombia intended for shipment to the port of Barcelona (Spain) found 60 bags with more than **2 tons of cocaine**. The value of the seized consignment is estimated at 500 million Euros. Activities were coordinated by the District Mafia and Anti-Terrorism Directorate of the Ligurian Prosecutor's Office and conducted by the Economic and Financial Police Division based on information from the Central Anti-Terrorism Directorate. The decision to conduct an internationally controlled supply was made by the judicial authority through issuance of a European order of inquiry, conducted under the auspices of Eurojust with the support of special units of Spain and Italy on combating drugs and crime. The drugs were in a container that left the port of Turbo aboard a merchant ship sailing through the port of Genoa to Spain. It has been established that the drug cargo carrier belonged to various criminal drug trafficking organizations associated with an organized armed group known as the "Clan of the Persian Gulf", which uses contacts in numerous ports in Europe and was intended to be sold on the European market. At the request of the Italian judicial authority in Barcelona, a 59-year-old Spanish citizen was arrested on charges of organizing this delivery.

<http://www.gdf.gov.it/stampa/ultime-notizie/anno-2019/gennaio/operazione-neve-genovese-sequestro-di-oltre-2-tonnellate-di-cocaina>

31.01.2019 A 32-year-old citizen of Malta was arrested in Ragusa, Sicily, a driver in a Maltese transport company that transported **231 kg of marijuana** in a trailer loaded with frozen food. Value of seized drugs is 1.5 million Euros. The consignment was to be overloaded on a catamaran and transported by boat to Malta.

<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2019-01-31/local-news/Maltese-man-arrested-in-Sicily-with-230kg-of-marijuana-6736202943>

CAPE VERDE

01.02.2019 Police in the port of Praia on the ship "ESER" under the Panamanian flag found and seized **9.5 tons of cocaine**. The ship was heading from Panama to Tangier (Morocco) and moored in the port of Praia in Cape Verde due to the death of one of the crew members. The police acted on the basis of intelligence provided by the Maritime Analysis and Exploitation Center, which coordinates actions to combat drug trafficking. Crew members, 11 citizens of Russia, were arrested. <https://www.reuters.com/article/capeverde-drugs/cape-verde-seizes-record-cocaine-haul-from-russian-ship-idUSL5N1ZW4BD>

COLOMBIA

27.01.2019 As a result of the work on blocking cocaine drug trafficking through sea terminals in the country, **568 kg of cocaine** were seized by the Anti-Drug Administration of the National Police in seaports of Buenaventura and Santa Marta. A shipment of **cocaine weighing 298 kg** intended for shipment to Antwerp (Belgium) was seized in the port of Buenaventura. Drugs were found in a container loaded with metal waste. In addition, two more large quantities of cocaine destined for export to Europe were seized. In the port of Santa Marta in a container with bananas intended for shipment to the Netherlands, **168 kg of cocaine** were found and seized and **120 kg of cocaine** were waiting to be sent to Valencia (Spain) in the port of Buenaventura. <http://diariodelcauca.com.co/noticias/judicial/caen-primeros-cargamentos-de-coca-en-los-puertos-de-buenaven-495388>
<http://static.hsbnoticias.com/sites/default/files/video/2019/01/whatsapp-video-2019-01-26-at-9.14.40-am.mp4>

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

31.01.2019 Officers of the National Inspectorate of Investigations with the assistance of the General Prosecution Office, the Office of the Prosecutor for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases and the Customs Service as a result of an international investigation together with colleagues from Spain, Ukraine, Belarus, Romania and Russia revealed an international network of drug traffickers. The criminal scheme involved more than 20 people, including former and current law enforcement officers from Moldova, led by a former Border Police officer. Drug traffickers transported hashish from Spain to Russia. The operation to detain suspects began on January 19. Seven people were detained in Moldova, six wanted. The suspects arranged supply of Moroccan hashish from Spain to Russia. The leader of the group coordinated actions of drug couriers from Chisinau. International criminal network included citizens of Spain, Belarus, Romania, Ukraine and Russia. It was through these countries that the drug traffic ran. Law enforcement agencies abroad detained 10 members of the group, including citizens of Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and Uzbekistan. In total, more than **450 kg of hashish** worth about 2 million Euros were seized. It has been established that they managed to distribute about 400 kg of hashish. <http://newsmaker.md/rus/novosti/v-moldove-raskryli-mezhdunarodnuyu-set-narkotorgovtsev-ee-vozglavlyal-byvshiy-sotr-41491>

MEXICO

29.01.2019 Officers of the Federal Ministerial Police, with the participation of the Naval Secretariat on anonymous information received by the General Prosecutor's Office conducted a raid onboard the MSC Divina, a cruise ship moored in Cozumel port (Mexico).

As a result of the raid, packs **of 6 kg of cocaine** were found in the wall behind the toilet. The ship left Georgetown (Cayman Islands), its final stop was Miami, Florida (USA).
<http://www.crew-center.com/six-packages-cocaine-discovered-cruise-ship-msc-divina>

MONGOLIA

28.01.2019 Officers of the Anti-Drug Department of the Criminal Police of Mongolia, in cooperation with the prosecutor’s office of Ulaanbaatar and the General Administration of Customs detained a 31-year-old Nigeria citizen for smuggling and possession of a synthetic drug "ice" (methamphetamine), worth about 300 million tugriks (about 115 thousand US dollars). The suspect allegedly teaches English at the Upline training center in Ulaanbaatar. Three more citizens of Nigeria were detained during investigation. Criminals received a large shipment of drugs via international mail from Thailand. **258 g of methamphetamine** were seized.
<http://medee.mn/single/132133>

PAKISTAN

24.01.2019 The Anti-Narcotics Forces of Pakistan (ANF) seized **215.168 kg of narcotic drugs**, including: **122.01 kg of hashish, 81 kg of opium, 9.61 kg of heroin, 1.728 kg of amphetamine, 3.5 thousand tablets of Xanax (450 g) and 37 g of alprazolam tablets** in 17 operations, 23 people were arrested, 6 vehicles were confiscated.
http://anf.gov.pk/press_release/pr24Jan19.pdf

PERU

31.01.2019 Agents of the Anti-Drug Authority in the port terminal of Callao in the holds of the vessel "Carlotta Star" found and seized 60 packs of **cocaine amounting to 63.43 kg**.
<http://policiaperu.tumblr.com/>

PORTUGAL

31.01.2019 Agents of the National Group against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs of the Judicial Police during an operation to combat illicit drug trafficking in the open sea seized **2.5 tons of cocaine** valued at about 125 million Euros. The operation involved the Navy and the Portuguese Air Force, a drug trafficking agency based in Lisbon, with colleagues from several European countries: Portugal, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands. The operation resulted from information support of the Maritime Analysis and Operation Center - Narcotics. According to the information received in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean was a vessel carrying a large amount of cocaine. With the help of the Navy and the Air Force, the ship discovered 1400 km south-west of the Azores. The operation to detain a sea tug registered in Panama which transported drugs on most routes from Latin America was carried out 300 km from San Vicente Island (Cape Verde). Crew of the vessel of 11 citizens of Eastern European countries was arrested.
<https://www.jn.pt/justica/interior/cocaina-apreendida-em-alto-mar-e-11-detidos-em-acao-da-pj-10514793.html>

USA

25.01.2019 US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the port of entry Presidio, Texas, arrested a 21-year-old US citizen and a 65-year-old Mexican citizen in an attempt to smuggle **97.98 kg of marijuana**. Men tried to enter the US from Mexico by car pickup "Ford F-150". Following inspection in the false-bed compartment of the car, 109 packages of marijuana were found. Men were transferred to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement HSI agents.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/marijuana-truck-bed-seized-cbp>

<https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/crime/2019/01/29/cbp-seizes-200-pounds-marijuana-presidio-texas-port-entry/2710027002/>

29.01.2019 The Combined Forces for Rapid Action (FURA) of the US Border Patrol and the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) discovered **401 kg of cocaine** on board an abandoned vessel off the coast of Loiz, Puerto Rico. The US Coast Guard and the United States CBP Air and Marine assets discovered a suspected smuggling vessel heading south to the northern coast of Puerto Rico in the Loise region. Border Guard agents seized the ship, the engine and the smuggling, handing them over to the FBI to investigate. Estimated value of discovered drugs is 10 million USD. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-fura-seize-cocaine-worth-10-million-inside-abandoned-vessel>

31.01.2019 Officers of the Dakota County Drug Force, Minnesota in New Alma during a search found and seized **20.4 kg of methamphetamine, 15.5 kg of cocaine** and more than 710 thousand US dollars in cash. <https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-news/meth-cocaine-and-710k-cash-seized-in-west-st-paul>

31.01.2019 US police and the US Coast Guard in the Caribbean along with the Coast Guard and the Puerto Rico Police stemmed a smuggling of **90.72 kg of cocaine**. The cocaine consignment was aboard a speedboat. About 20 nautical miles from Isabela, Puerto Rico, the Coast Guard patrol boats intercepted the vessel. During the detention, people on board threw cargo into the water, which turned out to be bales of cocaine. Drugs were recovered from the water by a marine patrol brigade from the Puerto Rico Police Department. The crew members on board — four citizens of the Dominican Republic suspected of smuggling — were arrested and handed over to agents of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/florida-keys/article225358060.html>

01.02.2019 As a result of an accident on I-40 in Van Buren, Michigan, more than **31.75 kg of methamphetamine and more than 500 oxycodone tablets (30 mg)** were found and seized in a car carrying drugs. A 43-year-old woman driver and a 27-year-old passenger drove from California to Georgia by car and were caught in a car accident on an interstate highway. In a district court of Crawford County, the woman and the man were charged with trafficking in a controlled substance. <https://www.kark.com/crime/70-pounds-of-meth-seized-in-ar-2-from-ca-arrested/1745537831>

THAILAND

28.01.2019 400 kg of marijuana were seized as a result of a car stop by police in the province of Amphoe Mueang Nakhon Phanom. On the requirement of police officers to stop

at a checkpoint, the driver tried to escape. After pursuing on the Soi Tani Sopsan Thai highway, the driver threw a truck into a rice field and went into Tambon Nong Yarte. On inspection of the truck, 10 bags were found, containing 400 packages of marijuana, each weighing 1 kg. <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/breakingnews/30363056>

TURKEY

25.01.2019 Officers of the customs service of the Ministry of Commerce in Kapikul in the province of Edirne on the border of Turkey and Bulgaria as a result of inspection activities of a cargo vehicle entering from the customs point "Captain Andreyevo", using X-rays and a service dog, discovered over **235 kg of cannabis**. <http://www.milliyet.com.tr/kapikule-de-235-kilogram-esrar-ele-gecirildi-ankara-yerelhaber-3234276/>

31.01.2019 Anti-drug police in Istanbul confiscated a total of **850 kg of heroin** in the northern Sariyer region and in the eastern part of Sultanbeyli. Two suspects were detained. Also, as a result of stopping a truck carrying **500 kg of cannabis**, three drug traffickers were arrested. <https://www.dailysabah.com/investigations/2019/01/31/turkish-police-arrest-5-in-13-ton-heroin-cannabis-bust-in-istanbul>