

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

23-29.09.2019

№ 39

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

25.09.2019 Officers of the State Border Guard Service and Astara Regional Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan carried out comprehensive operational-search measures near the village of Degadi, Astara district, in the territory of Lankaran border guard detachment. As a result of the measures taken, packages of more than **5 kg of opium** were found and seized.

<https://news.day.az/society/1159594.html>

29.09.2019 Based on intelligence received, police officers of the Tartar district in the village of Mamyrlı inspected a house and a teahouse of a local resident of the district, and as a result more than **1.4 kg of marijuana** were found and seized. An investigation is under way. <https://zerkalo.az/u-zhitelya-tertera-izyali-narkoticheskoe-sredstvo/>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

23.09.2019 As part of the Koknar and Doping operations, officers of the Turkestan Province Department of Internal Affairs detained a resident of the Sairam district suspected of selling drugs. More than **5 kg of marijuana** were found and seized during a search of the suspect's residence. In the course of operational and preventive measures, UPB DP of Turkestan province detained a resident of Kentau who illegally stored **1 kg of marijuana** in his house. A pre-trial investigation is currently under way.

<https://24.kz/ru/news/incidents/item/343047-okolo-6-tonn-narkotikov-iz-yali-politsejskie-turkestanskoj-oblasti>

23.09.2019 In Almaty oblast, police officers identified illicit cultivation of narcotic plants. Police detained a 64-year-old resident of Talgar district, who was found to be cultivating large amounts of **marijuana weighing 2.265 kg**. https://www.inform.kz/ru/pensionera-v-almatinskoy-oblasti-zaderzhali-za-vyraschivanie-marihuany_a3568365

25.09.2019 In North Kazakhstan Oblast, police officers found 5.3kg of marijuana with a 49-year-old resident of Mamlyutka on a plot of land and in a household as part of the Doping operation. In addition, a 44-year-old resident of Bulayev, who had illicitly cultivated **cannabis plant containing narcotic drugs totalling 61 kg**, was arrested. These facts are registered in the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations.

<https://pkzsk.info/na-severe-kazakhstan-muzhchina-vyrastil-u-sebya-v-ogorode-bolee-60-kilogramm-marihuany/>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

20.09.2019 At the 446th kilometer of the federal highway R-22 "Caspian" on the territory of the Tambov district, officers of the Tambov region MIA stopped a car "Kia Serato" with registration numbers of the Moscow region with two drug couriers - foreign citizens from neighboring countries. During a search of the vehicle and the detainees, **215 grams of heroin** were seized, which the suspects purchased in Moscow via the Internet for distribution in Tambov province. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18385331>

24.09.2019 Officers of UNK GU MVD of the Russian Federation in the Moscow region together with colleagues from the Republic of Mari El with the support of soldiers of the special purpose detachment "Thunder" stopped criminal association, whose members are suspected in the manufacture, storage, transportation and sale of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It was established that the alleged leader of the criminal association had organized a clandestine laboratory in the territory of the Republic of Mari El, in which his accomplice was engaged in the production of synthetic drugs. Large consignments of drugs were delivered to the Moscow region in cars equipped with caches, after which they were packed and transported to city districts of Lyubertsy, Pushkino, Korolev, Shchelkovo, Krasnogorsk, Podolsk, Dolgoprudny and Voskresensk. There, specially hired salesmen carried out more than 500 caches daily. Offenders sold drugs in a contactless way through a messenger on the Internet. Interested customers chose amount and type of drugs, after which operators of specially created call centers sent them information about the order of payment. For conspiracy purposes, payments were made using electronic payment systems. After money was transferred, information about the location of stashes was sent to the customers' phones. As a result of a large-scale operation in the Moscow region and the Republic of Mari El, 21 suspects were detained, including a criminal association organizer, active participants, couriers, drug manufacturers and retailers. A Rosgvardia special aircraft was used to transport the offenders. More than **20 kg of various narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances** and laboratory equipment were seized during searches. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18397737>

23.09.2019 In Uvat, Tyumen region, a car of a passenger transportation company was stopped by police to check documents. During a search of personal belongings of passengers, 12 bags of **drugs of synthetic origin weighing about 3 kg**, were found and seized. The drugs belonged to a 22-year-old citizen of a CIS country and were transported by the detainees for further sale. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18385241>

24.09.2019 Investigation department of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs for Vologda oblast has completed an investigation into criminal cases involving smuggling and distribution of drugs by an interregional organized criminal group whose members distributed drugs through caches in St. Petersburg, Leningrad, Nizhny Novgorod, Vladimir, Vologda and Kaliningrad oblasts, as well as in the republics of Tatarstan and Chuvashia. More than **45 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances** were seized. Currently criminal case files have been sent to the courts. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18398142>

26.09.2019 Staff members of UNK of the Russian Interior Ministry's Novosibirsk Region Department detained a 31-year-old resident of Barnaul suspected of selling synthetic drugs

in the Novosibirsk Region and other regions of Russia. The detainee was arrested while attempting to recover **1.5 kg of a narcotic drug of synthetic origin** from a cache for subsequent sale. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18426605>

27.09.2019 Officers of UNK GU MVD of Russia for the Novosibirsk region stopped a group that organized sale of wholesale consignments of drugs through caches in the territory of Novosibirsk. The group included a 28-year-old resident of Novosibirsk, a 29-year-old citizen of a Central Asian republic and a 38-year-old resident of Tomsk. More than **9 kg of alpha-PVP** were seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18432558>

27.09.2019 Officers of the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in Zhigulevsk, Samara region, stopped a car "Daewoo Nexia" with a drug courier - a 23-year-old resident of Samara, who was transporting more than **2 kg of N-methylephedrone** from Moscow to Samara on the 962nd km of the highway M5 "Ural". The man intended to illegally sell the prohibited substance in the territory of Samara region. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18435815>

OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA

27.09.2019 In the port of Durres, Albanian authorities, supported by colleagues from Greece and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), discovered and seized **137 kg of cocaine**. The shipment was smuggled in a container from Ecuador via Greece. Two port guards were arrested during the operation. <http://oranews.tv/article/137-kg-cocaine-seized-durres#.XY7FLwUgu3Y.whatsapp>
 Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmDK3cRUbLA>

ARGENTINA

27.09.2019 Three members of the Airport Security Police (PSA) in Euseuseuse were arrested in an attempt to smuggle **254 kg of cocaine** hidden in suitcases destined for Spain, into Europe. The detainees are two officers who operate a luggage scanner and a superior who appointed them to the position. In addition to police officers, 10 other drug couriers have been arrested, of whom six are men and four are female Argentines from Buenos Aires. The couriers were chosen to carry luggage on Air Europa's UX 042 flight to Spain. <https://www.telam.com.ar/notas/201909/395505-detenidos-efectivos-psa-droga-ezeiza.html>

BRAZIL

22.09.2019 At Pinto Martins International Airport in Fortaleza, two drug couriers, a 32-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman, were arrested as a result of joint action by the Federal Police (PF) in Ceara and the Portuguese Judiciary Police in an attempt to smuggle **53 kg of cocaine** into Portugal. The drug was found in their luggage. <https://g1.globo.com/ce/ceara/noticia/2019/09/23/casal-com-53-kg-de-cocaina-enrolada-em-lencois-e-presono-aeroporto-internacional-de-fortaleza.ghtml>
 Video: <http://g1.globo.com/ceara/videos/v/policia-federal-prende-casal-com-53-quilos-de-cocaina-no-aeroporto-de-fortaleza/7943587/-prende-casal-com-53-quilos-de-cocaina-no-aeroporto-de-fortaleza/7943587/>

29.09.2019 Customs officials at the port of Santos intercepted **240 kg of cocaine** destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium. During an inspection of a container, a cargo was checked and seven large bags of cocaine were found in sugar bags. The packages were marked with the Carolina Herrera perfume brand logo.

https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20190929_04635013/240-kilogram-cocaine-in-lading-suiker-voor-antwerpen-onderschept

UNITED KINGDOM

27.09.2019 Border guards intercepted a shipment of cocaine weighing **751 kg of cocaine**, up to 83% pure, aboard a yacht called Atravido, which was on its way to the United Kingdom from South America, during a joint operation with the National Criminal Agency (NCA) off the coast of Wales. Two British men on board were arrested. The yacht was purchased in December 2018 for 50 thousand euros in Mallorca, Spain. The two men arrested pleaded guilty to importing class A drugs into the UK. Four others - three men aged 23, 31, 47 and a woman aged 30 - were arrested in Liverpool and Loughborough in connection with the incident. <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/cocaine-worth-60m-found-yacht-16993985>

VIETNAM

27.09.2019 Thanh Hoa police arrested two people while attempting to smuggle large amounts of heroin from Laos into Vietnam. A 31-year-old Vietnamese national, who was transporting **9.9 kg of heroin** from Laos province to the central province of Thanh Hoa, was arrested on the border between Viet Nam and Laos. The next day, a 20-year-old Lao citizen was arrested by the police with **660 g of heroin**.

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/vietnamese-lao-men-caught-trafficking-10-kilos-of-heroin-3990057.html>

GERMANY

03.09.2019 Customs officers in the Bremerhaven Free Zone found more than **50 kg of cocaine** in a refrigerated container with bananas from South America.

https://www.zoll.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/Rauschgift/2019/y82_rip_off.html

IRAN

26.09.2019 The Iranian police identified one of the largest drug trafficking channels and seized almost **10 tons of drugs** destined for Europe. The drug consignment was hidden in a gasoline tanker and transported across Iran's eastern border, had to be unloaded and then smuggled into European countries. The shipment amounted to **3.9 tons of morphine and 5.8 tons of opium**. Nine suspected drug traffickers have been arrested. In addition, about **20 kg of heroin** (44 pounds) and 130 firearms were seized during a special operation.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-seizes-10-tons-heroin-opium-europe-but-us-sanctions-could-see-it-halt-anti-narcotics-work-2019-09-26/>

SPAIN

22.09.2019 The Spanish Civil Guard arrested 32 people as a result of a special operation against members of an international criminal organization specializing in the smuggling of

drugs through the port of Tarifa (Spain). The operation at the port of Tarifa involved the discovery of sealed barrels attached to the hulls of vessels carrying about **2 tons of hashish** in the underwater part of boats.

Video: https://ph.news.yahoo.com/video/32-arrested-spanish-police-barrels-094234423.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAAlJCag3TKDj6WVDfIdSrKPLx6qG9ban1P3-GcYcfRvJKcgbKbWMOBASD5GiwFXRUBo-1r_6Psc6E8sQXEKXOLqZ3Aa1Hs-IA3f4mSXWPGuLjOHfPtvNgMg2cOTDCE76zYjcRrayrMgYhfPDUBWZRNeOxFS7rYIS6LHddkUKp
<http://www.guardiacivil.es/es/prensa/noticias/7122.html>

25.09.2019 National police seized almost **700 kg of cocaine** during an operation near Estepona, Malaga province. Four members of a criminal organization were arrested: two Moroccan nationals, one Spanish and one Dutch national suspected of drug trafficking. The international criminal group has established a smuggling channel for the supply of drugs by boat from Africa to Spain, as well as their further distribution in Europe, mainly in the Netherlands. Police confiscated 4 vehicles and about 40,000 euros in cash. The suspects are currently at the disposal of the courts in Estepona.

<https://www.theolivepress.es/spain-news/2019/09/25/in-huge-drug-bust-700kg-of-cocaine-seized-by-authorities-on-spains-costa-del-sol/>

MEXICO

27.09.2019 Mexican Navy units discovered a buoy with a beacon tied to it a few meters off the coast near Punta Chiqueros beach during a patrol along the eastern coast of the island of Cosumel (Mexico). Divers' exploration of the submerged area around the buoy allowed marine personnel to detect a large network with many packages inside. The network was fixed with a wooden structure. After its delivery to land, it was determined that the packages contained cocaine (no weight indicated).

<https://www.riviera-maya-news.com/large-network-of-cocaine-discovered-along-cozumel-coast/2019.html>

27.09.2019 Mexican Army personnel at the Cucapa Strategic Security Post in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, checked a vehicle from Hermosillo, Sonora, using non-intrusive gamma-ray technology and discovered suspicious anomalies. The truck was bound for Tijuana, British Columbia, transporting plastic containers containing liquids (chili flavours). Searches have identified 319 bags concealed in containers holding crystalline and granular substances. A total of **150 kg of methamphetamine and 1,950 tablets of fentanyl hydrochloride** were seized.

<http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2019/09/sedena-busts-150-kilos-of-crystal-meth.html>

THE NETHERLANDS

25.09.2019 During an inspection of a vessel in the port of Rotterdam, customs intercepted **186 kg of cocaine**. The drugs were concealed in a container with bananas arriving from Colombia via Antwerp, Belgium, with the final destination in Rotterdam. The shipment of drugs was destroyed. HARC's investigation is being carried out by a team of customs, FIOD, seaport police and the Rotterdam Prosecutor's Office.

<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuwsberichten/@106755/douane-onderschept-0/>

27.09.2019 Amsterdam police have found a new way to conceal drugs. On 4 September, at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, police observed dozens of boxes being loaded into vans. The

vehicles delivered left the animal storage area and went to a warehouse in Amsterdam, where the boxes were unloaded. The boxes contained large plastic bags filled with water and live fish. At the bottom of the bags of live fish were sealed containers of liquid cocaine. As part of an ongoing investigation, five Dutch nationals, one woman and four men were detained. <https://nltimes.nl/2019/09/27/police-fishing-around-aquarium-shipment-find-liquid-cocaine>

PAKISTAN

24.09.2019 Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) intercepted a vessel suspected of smuggling drugs. The boat was taken to Karachi, where PMSA and Pakistani customs inspected the boat and seized **130 kg of heroin** from specially equipped compartments in the boat. The drugs seized were handed over to customs authorities for further trial. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/pakistan-maritime-security-agency-recovers-13-719882.html>

USA

24.09.2019 U.S. border patrol agents in the Rio Grande Valley sector near Escobares and Garceno have seized about **367 kg of cannabis (159 kg and 208 kg)** smuggled from Mexico in the past few days. As a result of actions of border guards, smugglers who had entered the United States illegally fled the scene in Mexico, leaving behind vehicles carrying illegal cargo. <https://www.themonitor.com/2019/09/24/rgv-border-patrol-seizes-large-quantities-marijuana-cocaine/>

24.09.2019 Officers from the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Florida, detained a 17-year-old young man from Texas, who was carrying and carrying in his backpack four packages of **heroin weighing about 5 kg**. The man brought heroin from Brownsville, Texas, and was supposed to deliver it to Tampa, but the deal failed, and instead he went to Sarasota. <https://www.bradenton.com/news/local/crime/article235540422.html>

26.09.2019 U.S. border patrol agents in Texas seized **64.41 kg of methamphetamine** at the Javier Vega checkpoint. The next day, **4.08 kg of methamphetamine** were found and seized at the Falfurrias checkpoint during a check of a passenger bus in a suitcase in the luggage compartment. The owner of the suitcase was not identified. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-seizes-hard-narcotics-rio-grande-valley-checkpoints>

26.09.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Field Operations Office, employees of the port of Nogales, Arizona, seized more than **233.6 kg of drugs, including 94.4 kg of methamphetamine, 41.73 kg of heroin, 5.9 kg of fentanyl and cocaine**, in an attempt to import them from Mexico in vehicles within 5 days. Drug packages in each case were concealed in technical cavities and caches equipped in the bodywork and interior of cars. 11 U.S. citizens and one Mexican citizen are in custody. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/nogales-cbp-officers-seize-19m-worth-hard-drugs>

THAILAND

26.09.2019 Police in the Dan Khun Toth area seized **320 kg of crystalline methamphetamine (ice)** worth about 320 million baht. The operation was carried out on intelligence received about a large consignment of drugs being transported by traffickers along the Dan Khun-Tot-Badan road in Tambon Huai-Bong, in the Dan-Hun-Tot district. As a

result of police pursuit of a pickup truck registered in Bangkok, the criminals managed to escape by abandoning the vehicle. During a vehicle search, large bags of drugs were found hidden in the back of the vehicle. A consignment of methamphetamine was taken from Nong Khai province upon arrival from a neighbouring country and destined for a third country. <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1759059/>

TURKEY

25.09.2019 In the course of operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which is included in the list of terrorist organizations in Turkey, the United States and the EU, units of the regional command of gendarmerie in the districts of Liche and Hani in the south-eastern province of Diyarbakir seized **202.5 thousand cannabis bushes and 569 kg of marijuana**. During the operation, gendarmerie command also neutralized three PKK terrorists. In addition, **20 kg of genetically modified marijuana (skunk)** were seized. According to Turkish security forces, PKK is an influential player in the international drug trade. According to Interior Minister Suleiman Soylu, PKK controls 80% of the drug trade in Europe, which brings in about \$1.5 billion a year. <http://origin.yenisafak.com.tr/en/news/over-550-kg-marijuana-seized-from-terrorist-pkk-in-turkey-3501562>

SWITZERLAND

27.09.2019 The Federal Customs Administration has identified drug smuggling. Shortly after crossing the border crossing point in Dipolzau, customs officers checked a 42-year-old man who was carrying **6 kg of cocaine** in his car. The drugs were hidden in a specially equipped cache above the spare wheel cavity, where a steel plate was attached. The stash was opened using an electric mechanism. The driver and the seized substance were handed over to the Cantonal Police of St. Gallen. The vehicle was confiscated.

<https://www.radio.li/news-1/zoellner-finden-6-kilo-koks>

Video: https://www.radio.li/application/files/5215/6959/3251/IMG_0057_1.mp4

JAPAN

27.09.2019 Nagoya Customs seized **177 kg of cocaine** after inspecting a container from South America that arrived in the city of Toyohashi. The seizure is the largest in history. In mid-August, after arriving at the port of Mikawa, customs and coast guard officers discovered aboard the ship and confiscated a smuggled cocaine shipment. Cocaine, packed in plastic bags, was concealed in the ship's design in an area where water flows into the ship to cool its engines. One seafarer is suspected of involvement in drug smuggling. The consignment is worth about 3.5 billion yen. <https://www.tokyoreporter.com/crime/aichi-record-177-kg-of-cocaine-seized-from-freighter/>