

## CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

**11.11-17.11.2019**

**№ 46**

### CARICC MEMBER STATES

#### REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

**13.11.2019** On the official territory of the frontier post near the village of Sim, Astara district, on the official territory of the frontier post "Lankaran" of the Border Troops of the State Border Guard Service, in a forest belt was found a bag containing 24.785 kg of drugs, including **13.24 kg of heroin, 1.535 kg of methamphetamine, 10.01 kg of opium and 1500 tablets of "methadone 40"**. As a result, a 37-year-old Iranian citizen was detained near the village of Sim, Astara district, who smuggled the discovered drugs into Azerbaijan. <https://vesti.az/kriminal/pogranichniki-azerbajdzhana-zaderzhali-grazhdanina-irana-s-25-kg-narkotikov-foto-388153>

#### REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

**06.11.2019** The NSC of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty stopped activities of a drug group that organized a smuggling channel for supply of synthetic drugs by mail from the European Union countries for the purpose of subsequent sale. Two Almaty residents were detained at a post office, involved in organizing smuggling of drugs from the Netherlands through Germany to Kazakhstan. There were **968 unnamed psychotropic tablets** in parcels. Another **1.5 kg of hashish** and **30 g of mephedrone** were found and seized at the residence of one of the detainees. Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were sold through an online shop. A criminal case has been initiated in this regard. Detained persons were placed in TDFs. Pre-trial investigations are ongoing. <https://kursiv.kz/news/proisshestviya/2019-11/v-kazakhstan-postupali-sinteticheskie-narkotiki-iz-stran-es>

**12.11.2019** Mangistau region drug police detained a Taraz resident who illegally stored **71kg of marijuana** in a rented box in Aktau industrial zone. The man purchased and transported marijuana to Aktau, Mangistau region, from the city of Shu, Zhambyl region. The drug was stored in a 200-litre barrel. Later on, during inspection of Aktau industrial zone, another box was discovered, where **1 kg of marijuana** was found. Both detainees were placed in a temporary detention facility. <https://www.nur.kz/1826823-200-litrovuu-bocku-s-marihuanoj-nasli-v-promzone-aktau.html>  
[https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan\\_news/spetsoperatsiyu-proveli-siloviki-v-almatinskoy-oblasti-383838/](https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/spetsoperatsiyu-proveli-siloviki-v-almatinskoy-oblasti-383838/)

**12.11.2019** Drug police have completed a special operation to dismantle a drug supply channel of the cannabis group from Zhambyl region in Almaty. A drug supplier, a native of Shu, who transported drugs from Zhambyl region and a resident of Almaty who sold drugs in Almaty region, were identified and detained. **12 kg** of hashish were seized. The detainees were placed in an investigative detention facility and pre-trial proceedings were initiated against them. [https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan\\_news/spetsoperatsiyu-proveli-siloviki-v-almatinskoy-oblasti-383838/](https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/spetsoperatsiyu-proveli-siloviki-v-almatinskoy-oblasti-383838/)

## KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**12.11.2019** Drug Control Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic carried out an operation aimed at suppressing a supply chain of large consignments of hashish of Afghan origin from Tajikistan to Kyrgyzstan. As a result, **15.72 kg of hashish** of Afghan origin were found and seized in a vehicle cache. <https://vesti.kg/proisshestviya/item/66258-vskryt-kanal-postavok-krupnykh-partij-narkotikov-iz-tadzhikistana-v-kyrgyzstan-foto.html>

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**11.11.2019** Ministry of Internal Affairs officials in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) stopped illegal activities of members of an organized group who were engaged in illegal sale of drugs of synthetic origin in Yakutsk in a contactless manner. A 38-year-old man arrived in Yakutsk in early March 2019 to distribute synthetic drugs as a "stasher". After special training, he received keys to an apartment, a car and drugs prepared for sale from his "curator" in Yakutsk. The drug dealer was caught red-handed and found to be carrying about **24 grams of synthetic drug**. Later, about **1.756 kg of the same substance** were found and seized in different places in Yakutsk, as well as in the place of residence of the detainee. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18863869>

**13.11.2019** As a result of a multistage special operation, the FSB of Russia stopped activities of an organized criminal community specializing in organization of illegal sale of especially large consignments of drugs using the Internet. In the Tver, Voronezh, Moscow, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Orenburg, Saratov, Tyumen, Tomsk and Chelyabinsk regions, **440 kg of narcotic drugs (MDMA, a-PVP, mephedrone and hashish)** were seized. Seven employees of a major illegal Internet shop, who served as interregional and regional couriers, were caught red-handed during transportation and sale. Two of the detainees were responsible for delivery of particularly large consignments (150 to 300 kg) of drugs from Moscow and St. Petersburg to large population centres in the Central, Volga, Ural and Siberian Federal Districts, while the rest were responsible for wholesale (3 to 50 kg) distribution of illicit substances in specific regions. The retail value of seized drugs reaches 650 million roubles. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against the detainees. They have been placed in detention as a preventive measure. <http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%21id%3D10438477%40fsbMessage.html>

**13.11.2019.** Amphetamine laboratory was dismantled in Rostov-on-Don by officers of UNK GU MVD of Russia for the Rostov region. Police officers identified and detained a 34-year-old resident of Rostov-on-Don, who equipped a room for laboratory to organize production of synthetic drugs in his yard. More than **5.5 kg of amphetamine, precursors**, necessary ingredients, chemical reagents and laboratory equipment were seized during a search. A criminal case has been initiated and the suspect is in custody. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18884421>

**15.11.2019** In Rostov region, police officers blocked a large drug supply channel. Russian police inspectors at the Aksai district police department stopped a car carrying **11 kg of mephedrone** at the section of the M-4 "Don" highway. The drug was in the trunk in a

plastic box. A criminal case was initiated against the defendant. The suspect was taken into custody as a preventive measure. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18903334>

**15.11.2019** Officers of UMVD of Russia in the Odintsovo city district of Moscow region in the village of Razdory detained a 22-year-old native of a neighboring country, suspected of drug trafficking. The woman was illegally storing **350 grams of heroin** with her and her place of residence. A criminal case has been initiated. The court has chosen a preventive measure in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18900447>

**18.11.2019** FSB officers dismantled a drug laboratory in the Moscow region producing particularly large consignments of synthetic drugs, which was organized by citizens of the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Illegal sale of prohibited substances was carried out through illicit online shops. Three drug traffickers were caught red-handed. **41 kg of mephedrone**, as well as at least **500 litres of narcotoxic liquid**, laboratory equipment and chemical reagents, were found and seized in a private home in Moscow region. A criminal case has been initiated in this regard. The defendants were placed in custody. [https://life.ru/t/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/1255723/fsb\\_nakryla\\_kru\\_pnuu\\_narkolaboratoriiu\\_v\\_podmoskovie -- vidieo](https://life.ru/t/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/1255723/fsb_nakryla_kru_pnuu_narkolaboratoriiu_v_podmoskovie -- vidieo)

## OTHER COUNTRIES

### BRAZIL

**12.11.2019** Customs teams of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) found and seized **1096 kg** of cocaine in a container terminal at the port of Santos in a container carrying a cargo of coffee. The cargo consisted of green coffee beans packed in jute bags, inside of which there were cocaine packs stacked in bales of 10 packs. The final destination of the container was the port of Antwerp, Belgium. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2019/novembro/receita-federal-localiza-mais-de-uma-tonelada-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-cafe-no-porto-de-santos>

### UNITED KINGDOM

**12.11.2019** National Criminal Agency (NCA) in Harwich arrested a truck driver, a 48-year-old resident of Hillegom, the Netherlands, while attempting to smuggle more than **200 kilograms of cocaine** worth more than £20 million. The NCA opened an investigation after border guard officers inspected a Dutch-registered refrigerated trailer truck from the Netherlands. Cocaine packages were wrapped in frozen minced meat blocks and then loaded on pallets at the back of the truck. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/truck-driver-charged-after-cocaine-found-in-frozen-meat-load>

### VENEZUELA

**14.11.2019** Units of the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) seized approximately **40 kg of cocaine**, which was being transported in a technical cavity of a vehicle during an anti-drug operation in the state of Tachira. <https://twitter.com/vladimirpadrino/status/1194995065367801856>

## GERMANY

**14.11.2019** Federal Police officers at the German-Dutch border stopped two attempts to smuggle drugs from the Netherlands into Germany. At the German-Dutch internal border, patrol stopped a vehicle carrying a 32-year-old Lithuanian citizen and a 32-year-old Dutch citizen passenger to check. The passenger managed to throw a bag of **47 g of crystalline methamphetamine** out of the moving vehicle. In the course of subsequent search of the vehicle, police found two boxes with **20 kg of MDMA**. On the same day, police stopped a car driven by a 37-year-old Bulgarian citizen from the Netherlands who was trying to bring in about **5 kg of cocaine**, hiding the drug in a converted car battery. All three drug couriers have been arrested and handed over to customs officials for further investigation. The value of the seized drugs is about 600 thousand euros.

<https://www.presseportal.de/blaulicht/pm/70276/4440084>

## ITALY

**14.11.2019** More than **1 ton of cocaine** concealed in a refrigerated container from South America used to transport bananas was seized by carabinieri, with the assistance of a customs agency and INTERPOL, at the port of Gioia Tauro in Calabria, near the Strait of Messina. The value of the cocaine shipment is estimated at about \$275 million. A total of 144 packages of cocaine concealed in the banana shipment were found. According to shipping documents, the container's destination is Germany.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/europe/2019/11/14/italian-police-discover-over-a-ton-of-cocaine-in-banana-containers>

<http://www.gdf.gov.it/stampa/ultime-notizie/anno-2019/novembre/sequestro-record-di-cocaina-al-porto-di-gioia-tauro>

<https://www.adm.gov.it/portale/documents/20182/5290166/Cre.s.20191114-Gioiataurococaina.pdf/890db30a-08f0-4b34-b513-158028f17153?version=1.0>

## SPAIN

**26.10.2019** Tax agency and Mossos d'Esquadra seized about **500 kg of high-purity cocaine**, which had been concealed in a container from Peru, at the port of Barcelona. Market value of the cocaine shipment is estimated at more than 50 million euros. The operation was named "Chahana" when customs officials learned that, on that date, a container carrying a large consignment of cocaine from the port of Callao in Peru would be unloaded at the port of Barcelona. Customs officials found a container with 20 tons of fish oil in it and proceeded to open it. A total of 489 packages of cocaine were found in 16 sports bags. Traffickers used the "rip-off" method when a consignment of drugs was placed in legal cargo containers without the knowledge of exporters and importers.

[https://www.metropoliabierta.com/el-pulso-de-la-ciudad/golpe-narcos-pillan-500-kilos-coca-puerto\\_21520\\_102.html](https://www.metropoliabierta.com/el-pulso-de-la-ciudad/golpe-narcos-pillan-500-kilos-coca-puerto_21520_102.html)

<https://twitter.com/aduanassva/status/1195324818935205888>

<https://www.elperiodico.com/es/videos/sociedad/hallados-500-kilos-de-cocaina-en-un-contenedor-en-el-puerto-de-barcelona/4718216.shtml>

**12.11.2019** Civil Guard agents, in coordination with the Customs Control Service at Marin port, discovered a cache of **176 kg of cocaine** in a container. The shipment was in two packets inside a container from Colombia, which was transporting construction material. The ship sailed from Chile and stopped in Panama, Hamburg, Germany, and Algeciras, Spain.

Smugglers used the "rip-off" method, using transportation of legal goods, hacking seals to place illegal cargo without the knowledge of those responsible for the transport.

<https://www.diariodepontevedra.es/articulo/o-morrazo/localizan-200-kilos-cocaina-control-rutinario/201911121159481060604.html>

<https://www.laopinioncoruna.es/sucesos/2019/11/13/madre-joven-arrojado-embalse-boboras/1451833.html>

[https://www.cope.es/emisoras/galicia/pontevedra-provincia/pontevedra/noticias/interceptados-200-kilos-cocaina-procedentes-colombia-puerto-marin-20191112\\_549196](https://www.cope.es/emisoras/galicia/pontevedra-provincia/pontevedra/noticias/interceptados-200-kilos-cocaina-procedentes-colombia-puerto-marin-20191112_549196)

## COSTA RICA

**12.11.2019** Police officers from the Ministry of Public Security (PCD) in a dock at the Port of Moine, Limona, inspected a container of export bananas and found and confiscated about **300 kg of cocaine**. The banana shipment was destined for the port of Setubal, Portugal.

<https://www.facebook.com/seguridadcrc/videos/vb.232619856751475/727222517790247/?type=2&theater>

<https://www.repretel.com/actualidad/pcd-decomisa-cargamento-de-cocaina-entre-bananos-de-exportacion--168800>

## MEXICO

**11.11.2019** Mexican Naval Secretariat units at the port of Manzanillo seized **22 kg of cocaine** that had been transported aboard the merchant vessel Kota Cepa from the port of Guayaquil, Ecuador. The cocaine shipment was distributed in 20 packages in two black bags.

<https://www.proceso.com.mx/606574/aseguran-22-kilogramos-de-cocaina-en-el-puerto-de-manzanillo>

<https://tlaxcala.quadratin.com.mx/nacional/semar-asegura-20-paquetes-de-presunta-cocaina-en-manzanillo/>

[https://cdn.heraldodemexico.com.mx/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/12210433/manzanillo\\_cocaina\\_drogas\\_aduana.jpg](https://cdn.heraldodemexico.com.mx/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/12210433/manzanillo_cocaina_drogas_aduana.jpg)

## THE NETHERLANDS

**11.11.2019** Based on information received, police found and confiscated **300 kg of cocaine** in a truck on the Maasvlakt in Rotterdam docks. Three men between aged between 22 and 28 were arrested. A shipment of cocaine arrived in a container from Brazil. According to official data, 23 tons of cocaine, valued at €1.2 billion, were seized in the port of Rotterdam in 2019. <https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2019/11/police-on-course-to-seize-record-amount-of-cocaine-in-rotterdam-in-2019/>

**13.11.2019** Dutch Coast Guard units in the South American region apprehended the vessel "Trader Express III" under the Panamanian flag with a crew of 10 Honduran citizens carrying **3000 kg of cocaine** in the waters off the coast of Aruba. The operation was carried out by the International Narcotics Agency, as well as the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which coordinated with the Merchant Marine Administration of Honduras. The ship departed Roatan, Honduras, on 16 October and was heading for South America until it was captured.

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2019/11/13/detienen-embarcacion-que-llevaba-tres-mil-kilos-de-supuesta-cocaina/>

**15.11.2019** During inspection of a cargo van, which was located in the Rotterdam port area, customs officials found **500 kg of cocaine**. The packages of cocaine were in sports bags. The van and the people in it tried to escape, but were detained in Briel. The suspected smugglers left the vehicle. The cocaine found in the van was in 24 gym bags. Subsequently, police detectives discovered and arrested one suspect, a 31-year-old Rotterdam resident. The HARC team, a joint project of the customs, FIOD, the seaport police and the

Prosecutor's Office in Rotterdam, continues to investigate this crime and further arrests are possible.

<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuwsberichten/@107103/douane-vindt-500/>

## UAE

**16.11.2019** The Abu Dhabi Police Anti-narcotics Authority seized **450 kg of heroin and crystalline methamphetamine** belonging to drug traffickers from Asia during Operation Shabaket al Mawt or the Death Network. The drugs were distributed in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. During the operation, 14 suspects were arrested. Main drug supplier does not reside in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and has supplied consignments of drugs to a drug dealer, both were arrested with almost **5 kg of heroin and crystalline methamphetamine**. The police have received information about two suspected gang members who are involved in criminal activity from outside but are based in several emirates. Each team has a specific role to play in smuggling and distributing drugs. 11 suspects were arrested for possession of **189 kg of heroin** before about **261 kg of heroin** were seized. Investigation teams identified a warehouse where drugs were hidden in one of the emirates, where they were discovered and seized along with the rest of the criminal group.

<https://www.gulftoday.ae/news/2019/11/16/operation-death-network-help-seize-450-kg-of-heroin-and-crystal-meth-in-abu-dhabi>

[https://www.facebook.com/ADPoliceHQ/?eid=ARBCV2a1b582i123OkBAG9f3Vvl\\_rM4JPDkuz-dc4GfPDcBMLzzXk3NtH19FiJM3c-V1P\\_yBVudTlyVn](https://www.facebook.com/ADPoliceHQ/?eid=ARBCV2a1b582i123OkBAG9f3Vvl_rM4JPDkuz-dc4GfPDcBMLzzXk3NtH19FiJM3c-V1P_yBVudTlyVn)

<https://www.dubailad.com/abu-dhabi-police-seize-450kg-of-drugs-hidden-inside-a-truck/>

## PAKISTAN

**12.11.2019** During a joint counter-narcotics operation conducted by the Pakistan Navy, the Maritime Security Agency and the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in Jivani, near Pashtun, Balochistan, at least **241 kg of heroin and 2kg of hashish** were discovered and seized. The drugs seized were handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Force for further judicial investigation. Continuous counter-narcotics operations and seizures by PMSA are the result of careful planning and ongoing surveillance of Pakistan's maritime areas.

<https://arynews.tv/en/2-4bn-worth-of-heroin-hashish-seized-in-jiwani-operation/>

**14.11.2019** Police in Nagaland arrested two residents of Rajasthan from Bisalpur and Jodhpur district who were carrying **82.5 kg of opium** in a car. Seventy-eight packages of opium were found and seized, hidden in car seats and spare tires. Investigations into the case are ongoing. <https://thenortheasttoday.com/nagaland-two-held-with-82-5-kg-of-opium-in-khuzama/>

**15.11.2019** Anti-narcotics force (ANF) at Bacha Khan Peshawar International Airport (BKIA) discovered and seized **1 kg of heroin** during a luggage check of a Pakistani passenger flying to Saudi Arabia. The drug courier was taken into custody and transferred to the ANF detention centre for further investigation. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/one-kg-heroin-recovered-from-saudi-bound-pass-762744.html>

## SERBIA

**15.11.2019** Officers of the Criminal Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime, conducted

extensive police operations in the Mladenovac area, near Belgrade. The operation resulted in the seizure of **77 kg of heroin** of exceptional purity and **0.5 kg of cocaine**. Three members of the organised criminal group were arrested, including leader of the group born 1982 and its members born 1982 and 1966. Drugs, estimated to cost around 5 million euros, were found during a search of the suspects, as well as in several places they used to store them in Belgrade. The OCG received drugs from Turkey in 2018 and then distributed them throughout Serbia. During the operation, police also seized several expensive cars and a motorcycle. <https://www.telegraf.rs/english/3122224-major-police-raid-in-mladenovac-organized-crime-group-arrested-77-kilos-of-heroin-seized>

## SLOVENIA

**13.11.2019** In October 2019, FURS officers stopped a suspicious shipment of 437 rolls of plastic sheeting weighing 2,530 kg, which arrived in a container at the port of Koper. The container arrived from the UAE and was overloaded in Egypt. During a complex of inspection activities, including the use of X-ray equipment on October 29, violations in the delivery of cargo were detected. The shipment was dispatched from Iran and forwarded to a company in Hungary. As a result of physical inspection of the goods in 42 out of 437 rolls of PVC film, 1,421 packages of **heroin** were found, weighing **just under 730 kg**. Based on the findings that the container had been sent by a Hungarian company from Budapest, the Slovenian police contacted their Hungarian counterparts to identify the drug recipient. A response was received regarding a criminal investigation of organized crime suspects who were awaiting arrival of a major drug shipment. The police operation against the criminal group was carried out by Slovenian and Hungarian police. 134 packages of the drug (about 70 kg) were returned to PVC rolls and the container was sealed as part of a "controlled delivery" and sent to its destination in Budapest. The container was under constant control of Slovenian police units and their Hungarian counterparts after crossing the border. The cargo was received in Budapest and allowed the police to arrest several members of an organized criminal group. A total of 661 out of 730 kg of high-purity heroin (about 70 per cent) were seized by the Slovenian authorities. Street value of the consignment could be as high as 85 million euros. This is the largest amount of heroin seized in Slovenia, with a total of 345 kg of heroin seized in 2018. <https://www.total-slovenia-news.com/news/4967-largest-heroin-bust-in-the-history-of-slovenia-in-shipment-from-iran-to-hungary>  
 Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&time\\_continue=3&v=RhMo3QwY6z4&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&time_continue=3&v=RhMo3QwY6z4&feature=emb_logo)

## USA

**11.11.2019** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at George W. Bush International Airport in Houston, Texas, detained a 26-year-old Colombian national while attempting to smuggle **15.88 kg of liquid cocaine**, concealing it in 24 bottles of shampoo. The bottles were found in luggage of the drug courier. Cocaine is estimated at \$400,000. CBP returned the suspected drug smuggler to Colombia, the drugs were seized and handed over to the Houston Police Department for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-finds-liquid-cocaine-shampoo-bottles>

**12.11.2019** At the port of Lukeville, Tucson, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials arrested while attempting to smuggle large seizures of **cocaine, methamphetamine and fentanyl**, totalling approximately 328 kg:

1) 58-year-old Mexican citizen trying to smuggle almost **293.02 kg of cocaine** from Mexico to the United States. A \$8.8 million consignment was found hidden inside a water tank in the back of a truck;

2) 31-year-old U.S. citizen from Tucson trying to smuggle nearly **33.57 kg of methamphetamine and 1.36 kg of fentanyl** from Mexico to the U.S., hiding them inside the fuel tank of a GMC truck. Methamphetamine costs about \$66,000, and fentanyl costs more than \$34,000.

Both drug couriers have been arrested and handed over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. Drugs and vehicles have been confiscated. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-port-lukeville-seize-89m-hard-drugs>

**13.11.2019.** A 31-year-old woman, who was carrying more than **7 kg of crystal methamphetamine (ice)** in her car, worth more than \$400,000, was arrested by the Yufola Alabama Police Department on charges of drug trafficking.

<https://www.wrbl.com/news/eufaula-woman-arrested-in-400000-crystal-meth-ice-drug-bust/>

**15.11.2019** Staff of the Flagler County Sheriff's Office in Palm Coste, based on anonymous information received, found a bag of **15 kg of cocaine** washed ashore on the beach. The bag was probably in the ocean for some time before it was discovered.

<https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/local/deputies-confiscate-15-kilos-of-cocaine-after-it-washes-up-on-florida-beach/77-6ed144ed-01ee-44e4-aed6-4f87c2d5cf86>

## THAILAND

**14.11.2019** Drug Enforcement officers at a warehouse near the Tanon Motorway in Prayet District, Bangkok, found a shipment of 10 packaged sports equipment - treadmills - to be shipped to Japan, with about **200 kg of crystalline methamphetamine** concealed in steel frames. They opened cardboard bags with treadmills. The drugs were packed in bags of green tea. A 44-year-old man was arrested on charges of attempting to smuggle illicit drugs out of the country and storing them for sale. The first shipment of training machines for Japan was stopped by the police at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok and contained 36 packages of crystalline methamphetamine.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1794149/crystal-meth-found-hidden-in-treadmills-for-shipment-to-japan>

<https://nypost.com/2019/11/14/thailand-seizes-388-pounds-of-crystal-meth-hidden-in-treadmills/>

## CZECH REPUBLIC

**12.11.2019** Police detained two foreign nationals at the main airport in Prague on suspicion of smuggling **142 kg of khat** (a plant called Catha edulis, which resembles drugs from an amphetamine group) in seven suitcases of passengers arriving from Tel Aviv. Khat is prohibited in most of Europe. <https://www.radio.cz/en/section/news/czech-police-seize-142-kg-of-khat-inbound-from-israel>

## PHILIPPINES



**15.11.2019** CPMFB in conjunction with the Cebu Provincial Police Office (CPPO) in an operation in the village of Purok, Sunyog Province, arrested three suspects, aged 64, 35 and 37, who were holding illegal cannabis plantations in Barangay Sunog. During the operation, illicit cannabis herb plantations were discovered, where some **22,000 cannabis plants** were destroyed. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1086141>

## FRANCE

**11.11.2019** More than **750 kg of cocaine**, most of which is 83% pure, washed in plastic bags along the French Atlantic coast in November. The drugs were found on the beaches from Landes, in the extreme south, to the mouth of the Loire west of Nantes. The origin of the drugs is unknown. In Gironde, near Bordeaux, several beaches were closed. At the moment, the cost of drugs found is estimated at 60 million euros. During the investigation, prosecutors are contacting with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the European Anti-Narcotics Police. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50373657>

## ECUADOR

**13.11.2019** During three months of operation of a new deep water port of Posoria in Guayas, two seizures of drugs in an exported shipment were identified. On 12 November, anti-drug police confiscated **71 kg of cocaine** in a banana container destined for Poland, which was disguised in the structure and walls of refrigerated containers with banana boxes. The bananas were produced on a farm in the canton of Kevedo, Los Ríos province, and delivered to Posorje. For the first time, on 2 November, **161 kg of cocaine** were found in a modern terminal built and operated by Dubai DP World in a shipment of flowers destined for Amsterdam, the Netherlands. In both cases, two detainees and exporting company are under investigation. The port of Posorya has been operational since 8 August 2019. <https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/policia-detecta-bloques-cocaina-posorja.html>

## ETHIOPIA

**17.11.2019** A total of about **47.4 kg of cocaine** concealed in hand luggage have been seized at the international airport at Beaulieu Addis Ababa, where five Brazilian nationals, including four women, have been detained. Three drug couriers were travelling from São Paulo International Airport, Guarullos (GRU) (Brazil) to Kigali, Rwanda, via Addis Ababa, while the other two were travelling from São Paulo International Airport, Guarullos (GRU) to Johannesburg, South Africa and Bangkok, Thailand, via Addis Ababa. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/17/c\\_138562418.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/17/c_138562418.htm)