

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

18.11-24.11.2019**№ 47****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

23.11.2019 In the course of an operation carried out in the village of Masazyr in the Absheron region, officers of the General Department for Combating Drugs detained a local resident who illegally stored **54.949 g of heroin** and **54.01 g of methamphetamine** for the purpose of selling them. Subsequently, a resident of the village of Ojagly in the Jalilabad region, suspected of selling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, was arrested and **50.595 g of heroin** were found and seized from him. The suspects established a drug trafficking network in Baku and its suburbs. Criminal proceedings were instituted against the detainees. <https://zerkalo.az/v-baku-raskryta-narkoset/>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

22.11.2019 Officers of the Almaty Police Department dismantled a channel of sale of synthetic drugs during a special operation. A 33-year-old local resident was detained on suspicion of selling the psychotropic substance alpha-PVP. **1.76 kg of alpha-PVP** were found during searches of his place of residence. The man was selling drugs by depositing them in hiding places, receiving payment via electronic payment systems and then cashing them out. <https://kursiv.kz/news/obschestvo/2019-11/v-almaty-likvidirovali-kanal-sbyta-narkotikov>

23.11.2019 Amphetamine laboratory has been identified by officers of the Nur-Sultan Police Department in private sector. A resident of the city of Ekibastuz has established drug production. A search of a residence rented by the suspect involved the seizure of chemicals used in production of synthetic drugs, flasks with a layering of psychotropic substances, notebooks with chemical formulas, weighing scales and gas masks, as well as a chemical defence suit in which the suspect was producing drugs. More than 1,500 single doses of drugs have been seized ready for sale. The laboratory was dismantled by officers of the Emergency Situations Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in chemical protection suits. Wholesale consignments of drugs were sold via the Internet through caches. A stash of **315 g of amphetamine** was found and seized at the city cemetery. The man was taken into custody. A pre-trial investigation is under way.

<https://www.zakon.kz/4996108-narkolaboratoriyu-likvidirovali-v-nur.html>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

19.11.2019 In Khabarovsk Krai, officers of the Department of Transport of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Far Eastern Federal District dismantled a large laboratory producing synthetic drugs. About **25 kg of synthetic drugs and more than 4 tons of precursors** for their manufacture were seized. <https://xn--d1aumdd.xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18923729>

19.11.2019 Russian Interior Ministry officials dismantled a large drug lab in Moscow suburbs. Workshops were located in a former farm in the Serpukhov district of Moscow region. There were chemical reactors worth from 200 to 500 thousand rubles each, in which ingredients for production of synthetic drugs were mixed. In the course of the operation, police stopped 18 deliveries to the Novosibirsk, Tver, Vladimir, Kursk, Kaluga, Arkhangelsk regions, Tatarstan, Buryatia, Khabarovsk and Primorsky territories. In total, more than **100 kg of drugs in crystallized form, 1.5 tons in liquid form, 4 tons of chemical reagents, more than 600 kg of precursors**, seven chemical reactors and various equipment were seized. Three chemists-technologists from Ukraine, a courier-customer and a suspect in the organization of the enterprise were detained. Criminal cases have been initiated. All detainees are detained. <https://ria.ru/20191119/1561101557.html>

19.11.2019 A 30-year-old native of a Central Asian country, suspected of selling drugs, was detained by officers of the Russian Interior Ministry's Ramenskoye MU in the Moscow region. The woman was distributing heroin through caches. A total of about **800 grams of heroin** were seized. A criminal case has been initiated against the detainee. The suspect was taken into custody as a preventive measure. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18925000>

20.11.2019 Inspectors of the road patrol service at the Magri stationary post in Krasnodar region stopped a car under the control of a 39-year-old local resident. During a vehicle search, police officers found and seized a narcotic drug of synthetic origin, a **derivative of ephedrone weighing more than 1 kg**, under the passenger seat. The suspect planned to sell the drug in Sochi through caches. A criminal case was initiated against the detainee. The suspect was taken to custody as a preventive measure. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18934161>

22.11.2019 Officers of the "Orekhovo-Zuevskoye" Russian Interior Ministry's ONK MU of the Moscow Region on the 88th km of the Moscow-Nizhny Novgorod highway stopped a car carrying a 30-year-old driver and a 29-year-old female passenger, residents of the Tula Region, suspected of drug trafficking. During a personal search, about **2 kg of methylephedrone** were seized from the couple. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18952909>

22.11.2019 Officers of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Tver region in Tver arrested a couple - a 22-year-old resident of St. Petersburg and a 28-year-old resident of Tver - in an attempt to distribute drugs. The woman and the man had **500 g of butane acid** with them. The suspects brought in consignments of drugs from another region. In the course of searches of the defendants' residences, police found and confiscated packaging material, scales and items intended for packing drugs, as well as rolls of **butane acid weighing more than 300 g**. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18955702>

22.11.2019 Police officers of the Russian police department of the Tosnensky district of the Leningrad region discovered and dismantled a clandestine drug laboratory located in a hangar in the village of Obukhovets. In the course of search, about **80 tons of drug precursors** and more than **2 tons of alpha-PVP** were found. Also seized was a **semi-finished narcotic drug raw material weighing 5.8 tons**. Income from the sale of ready-made drugs could have amounted to 7 billion rubles (over \$100 million). In addition,

four reactors for chemical synthesis, a forklift truck and two trucks were seized. A criminal case has been initiated. Three men were detained - alleged participants in the illegal drug trade. Operational and investigative measures are being taken to identify channels of distribution of illegal substances. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18953447>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

19.11.2019 The Australian Border Force (ABF) at the Sydney Container Verification Centre examined a shipment of aluminium alloy ingots from Mexico. The cargo included 18 pallets, each carrying 105 aluminium ingots. Officers performed X-rays, noting anomalies. Further examination revealed **233 kg of cocaine** inside the aluminium ingots. Cocaine is estimated at \$105 million. A joint departmental investigation led by AFP and the ABF resource pool, involving the New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF), the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) and the New South Wales Crime Commission (NSWCC) with assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. A 61-year-old British citizen and a 49-year-old man from Auburn have been arrested, suspected of involvement in smuggling. Police searched houses and vehicles in Auburn and Castle Hill.

<https://newsroom.abf.gov.au/releases/two-arrested-233kg-cocaine-from-mexico-seized-2>

<https://www.afp.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/two-arrested-233kg-cocaine-mexico-seized>

Video: <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/hVR8ZOJjEf>

BELGIUM

19.11.2019 1.2 tons of cocaine were found and seized in a lemon container at the port of Antwerp. The container arrived in Antwerp by ship from Itajai, Brazil. A 53-year-old Belgian citizen, a truck driver who was to extract drugs from the container, was arrested. The investigation is conducted by the Federal Judicial Police of Antwerp under the supervision of an investigating judge. <https://www.hln.be/in-de-buurt/antwerpen/1-2-ton-cocaine-aangetroffen-in-container-met-limoenen-in-antwerpse-haven~a36b6a01/>

BRAZIL

15.11.2019 Federal Revenue Service teams discovered **777 kg of cocaine** hidden in a shipment of orange oil destined for Europe during an operation at a container terminal in the port of Santos. The shipment of orange oil was contained in barrels and the final destination was the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The cocaine shipment was detected using objective risk analysis criteria, including non-intrusive scanner control. After opening the container, several sports bags containing multicoloured packages of cocaine were found on the barrels and next to the doors. The smugglers used the "rip-off" method, in which drug is injected into a licit shipment without the knowledge of exporters and importers. The cocaine seized has been handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue to investigate the case using the information provided by Customs.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2019/novembro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-localiza-777-kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-oleo-de-laranja-no-porto-de-santos>

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2019/novembro/receita-federal-localiza-777-kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-oleo-de-laranja-no-porto-de-santos>

18.11.2019 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) customs officers at the port of Santos discovered **158 kg of cocaine** hidden in a used hydraulic excavator (part of the bucket drive lever) to be exported to Europe along the route at the ports of Valencia (Spain) and Antwerp (Belgium). The cargo was selected according to objective risk analysis criteria, several excavators were selected and non-intrusively scanned, and drugs were concealed in one of them. Cocaine consignments have been handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue to investigate on the basis of information provided by customs.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/aco-es-e-programas/aco-es-da-receita-federal/noticias/2019/novembro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-localiza-cocaina-em-escavadeira-no-porto-de-santos>

22.11.2019 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) customs officers discovered **1162 kg of cocaine** concealed in an export shipment destined for Europe at a container terminal in the port of Santos. Legitimate scrap metal was exported to the port of Rotterdam (Netherlands) for transshipment at the port of Antwerp (Belgium). The shipment was selected for objective risk analysis criteria, including non-intrusive inspection with a scanner. There were 34 sports bags wrapped in foil and containing cocaine packages. Cocaine consignments have been handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue to investigate based on information provided by Customs.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/aco-es-e-programas/aco-es-da-receita-federal/noticias/2019/novembro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-supera-quantidade-de-cocaina-apreendida-no-porto-de-santos-em-2018-e-bate-recorde>

Video: <http://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/videos/v/receita-federal-localiza-mais-de-uma-tonelada-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos/8109963/>

23.11.2019 Terminal security in a restricted area of the port of Navigantes spotted two suspicious men trying to place a shipment of cocaine in a container. Access to the terminal area is only possible on trucks identified and registered at the port. Having noticed the guards, suspects tried to escape. One of them, a 27-year-old man, was detained, while the other managed to escape. During an inspection of the scene, six bags containing cocaine were found between containers. One of the containers had a damaged seal, and police found seven more bags of cocaine inside. **Cocaine totalled 445 kg**. Cocaine was destined for the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The case is being investigated by the Federal Police. <https://g1.globo.com/sc/santa-catarina/noticia/2019/11/23/mais-de-400-kg-de-cocaina-sao-apreendidos-em-porto-de-sc-homem-e-presos.shtml>

UNITED KINGDOM

23.11.2019 Border guards at the port of Newhaven in East Sussex inspected a truck with a refrigerated trailer that was carrying almost **100 kg of cocaine** with its frozen fish after a ferry crossing from Berkshire. Ninety-seven packages containing approximately 1 kg of cocaine each were seized. A 50-year-old van driver was arrested by the National Criminal Agency (NCA) and charged with importing class A drugs.

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/driver-charged-after-10m-cocaine-seizure-at-newhaven>

IRAN

19.11.2019 Two separate operations conducted by police forces along the border with Afghanistan confiscated two consignments of **crystalline methamphetamine weighing 200 kg and 300 kg**. In another operation in Southern Khorasan province, **126 kg of crystalline methamphetamine** were seized. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/152444/Police-seize-600-kg-crystal-meth-in-a-week>

19.11.2019 Counter-narcotics police units intercepted a group of drug smugglers in the city of Hash, Sistan and Balochistan province, resulting in the seizure of **1,151 kg of opium**. Four people and two vehicles were arrested during the operation, and several weapons were seized. <https://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13980828000578>

23.11.2019 Sistan and Balochistan border services seized about **2,287 kg of opium and 100 kg of hashish** during a special operation involving police forces and a gang attempting to smuggle drugs into the country across the borders with Mirjava. Four smugglers have been arrested and large amounts of weapons and ammunition have also been seized. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/152592/Over-2-ton-of-illicit-drugs-confiscated-in-Iran-s-Mirjaveh>

SPAIN

19.11.2019 The large-scale operation Copitos, carried out by police in hard-to-reach, densely populated areas of Aguero and Murillo de Gallego, uncovered an illicit cannabis plantation. A total of **16,000 cannabis plants** were seized. The plantations belonged to an Albanian criminal group that set up a camp in the area. Six members of the gang watched the plants around the clock, maintained cultivation and harvested crops, and equipped a sophisticated watering system using electric generators and water pumps. <https://www.euroweeklynnews.com/2019/11/19/police-break-up-biggest-marijuana-plantation-ever-discovered-in-aragon-spain/#.XdRScFdKhPY>

22.11.2019 National police agents and customs officials from the Tax Administration found about **426 kg of cocaine** in a container from Costa Rica transporting coconut fibres during a joint operation in Alcazera, Valencia. Six people were arrested, including administrator of an importing company. Investigations began in August, when, through international cooperation mechanisms, National Police agents were informed of a company from Valencia that was involved in drug trafficking using container traffic from South America. Cocaine shipments were distributed in 426 packages and placed inside legal cargo. The packages were packed in plastic with different logos.

https://www.policia.es/prensa/20191122_2.html

https://www.policia.es/prensa/descarga.php?file=20191122_2.mp4

http://www.interior.gob.es/es/web/interior/noticias/detalle/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_1YSSI3xiWuPH/10180/11174055/?redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.interior.gob.es%2Fes%2Fprensa%2Fnoticias%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_GHU8Ap6ztgsg%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-2%26p_p_col_count%3D1

CHINA

08.11.2019 Hong Kong Customs at Kwai Chung Customhouse seized **1.57 million fenetylline tablets** from a trans-shipment container. Fenetylline as an active substance contains amphetamine, which is controlled under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (DDO). Estimated value of the consignment is about 245 million US dollars. Through a risk assessment, customs officials have selected a maritime container from Syria bound for Saudi Arabia via Hong Kong and mainland for inspection. The cargo, according to accompanying documents, was a shipment of furniture. Fenetylline was hidden under the seats of 84 sofas. The drug syndicate used a bypass route to transport drugs from the Middle East and back to the same region. Fenetylline is usually produced in the form of pills and was once used as a

cure for mental disorders or nervous system diseases in foreign countries. As an amphetamine-type stimulant, it causes human euphoria and addiction.

https://www.customs.gov.hk/en/publication_press/press/index_id_2759.html

MOROCCO

19.11.2019 Within a joint security operation carried out by judicial police of Temara, **476 kg of cocaine (61-64% purity)** were seized in an apartment on the outskirts of Rabat based on information of the General Directorate of Territorial Supervision (DGST). A 40-year-old woman and a 38-year-old man were arrested during the operation. Cocaine seized was smuggled by sea from a Latin American country and unloaded on the Moroccan coast. Smugglers were transporting cocaine aboard a "tourist boat". The case is being investigated by national police under the supervision of the prosecutor's office.

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2019/11/287232/morocco-cocaine-rabat/>

MEXICO

23.11.2019 Mexico's Navy, in coordination with maritime personnel from Altamira, Tamaulipas, found 6 bags with **134 kg of cocaine** in a pile of ore on a ship called the Bahamas-flagged Delphi Ranger from Barranquilla, Colombia. The discovery of drug consignments was reported to the Attorney General's Office of Mexico. Experts from the Federal Ministerial Police arrived at the scene. <https://lafuncion.mx/decomisa-la-semar-droga-en-la-api-altamira/amp/>

NIGERIA

20.11.2019 National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) confiscated **126 kg of cocaine and 189 kg of marijuana, as well as 26.7 kg of psychotropic substances (tramadol and phenobarbital)** during a raid in Ebony. Four persons have been arrested in connection with the confiscated substances and will be prosecuted.

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/11/ndlea-confiscates-126kg-of-cocaine-189kg-of-marijuana-in-ebonyi/#gsc.tab=0>

THE NETHERLANDS

22.11.2019 A joint international investigation by the National Criminal Investigation Service of the Dutch police and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) into a criminal group involved in production of and international trade in synthetic drugs in Europe dismantled a source of drugs from the Netherlands to Australia in early November. The police in the Netherlands received information from Australian counterparts that there was a large drug production line in the Netherlands from which drugs were trafficked to Australia. Based on information from AFP, a shipment of **MDMA weighing 700 kg** was intercepted in August. On 5 November, the National Criminal Investigation Service had a clear understanding of the drug route. Criminals used many different buildings in the Netherlands and Belgium to store chemicals, manufacture drugs and store the final product. During a police operation, 120 police officers simultaneously invaded and raided 15 buildings in Raamsdonksveer, Bergen op Zoom, Hoogeloon and Opglabek (Belgium). Five people were arrested and three others arrested two days later, all Dutch citizens. A total of more than **43,000 litres of chemicals, 150 kg of MDMA, 1 kg of methamphetamine, 3 kg of cocaine** and

2 firearms were found. Most of drugs produced in the Netherlands are smuggled worldwide, including Australia. <https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2019/november/21/11-intercontinentale-drugsroute-beeindigd-door-nederlandse-en-australische-politie.html>

PAKISTAN

14.11.2019 Anti-narcotics forces in Pakistan seized 765 kg of drugs worth Rs. 1.62 billion, arrested 19 criminals and confiscated 8 vehicles in 18 counter-narcotics operations. **85.47 kg of hashish, 12.19 kg of heroin, 1.2 kg of opium, 660 kg of amphetamine (ice) and 5.92 kg of methamphetamine (ice)** were also confiscated. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/anf-seizes-765-kg-drugs-in-18-operations-in-r-762083.html>

PANAMA

21.11.2019 National Police and Drug Prosecutor's offices at the Port of Balboa in Panama City found a bag containing **32 kg of cocaine** between two containers. Investigation is under way. https://www.tvn-2.com/nacionales/Autoridades-ubican-maletin-puerto-Balboa_0_5447455225.html

24.11.2019 Prosecutors, together with police, confiscated **15 kg of cocaine** at the Colon port. The shipment was concealed inside a container, arrived from Ecuador and was destined for Russia, where a package of cocaine is estimated at \$200,000. <http://elsiglo.com.pa/cronica-roja/decomisan-15-kilos-cocaina-puerto-colon/24145203>

PORTUGAL

22.11.2019 National Anti-Narcotics Unit of the Judiciary Police found and seized about **1,500 kg of high-purity cocaine** in a fruit store on the outskirts of Lisbon. The shipment was concealed inside several banana crates. <https://www.policiajudiciaria.pt/combate-ao-traffic-de-estupefacientes-13/>

USA

22.11.2019 A police operation in Pittsburgh area, Pennsylvania resulted in the discovery and seizure of **14 kg of cocaine** hidden in caches in the rear-wheel wells of GMC Acadia SUV. Law enforcement officers tracked the GMC Acadia SUV and a Honda Accord from warehouse before two Phoenix residents and three Mexican nationals were detained in a garage in Pittsburgh who entered the United States on tourist visas from Mexico. The suspects are in detention awaiting a detention hearing and further proceedings in the U.S. Western District Court. <https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/state-police-arrest-5-find-14-kilos-of-cocaine-in-pittsburgh-area-bust/>

THAILAND

19.11.2019 Police at Donmyang Bangkok Airport arrested three people aged 33, 43 and 46 (members of the same family) while attempting to smuggle **1 kg of crystalline methamphetamine** worth about 800,000 baht (\$27,000), which was hidden in canned fish cans. A total of 10 cans of Thai sardines were found, each containing 100g of methamphetamine. <https://coconuts.co/bangkok/news/meth-smuggling-family-busted-at-bangkok-airport-police/>

TURKEY

22.11.2019 Anti-narcotics police in Shanliurfa seized **12.3 kg of heroin** and arrested a suspect in drug trafficking. In Diyarbakir province, gendarmerie forces conducted an operation in the Lice district and seized **129.45 kg of cannabis**. An alleged drug trafficker was arrested during the operation. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/security-forces-seize-drugs-in-southeast-turkey/1653000>

URUGUAY

20.11.2019 National Customs Administration and the National Naval Prefecture (DIVIN Investigations Division) discovered and seized more than **3 tons of cocaine** during an inspection of a container of Paraguayan rice en route to Cotonou (Benin), which was planning to stop in Tenerife (Spain). Estimated value of the seized shipment is USD 740 million. <https://www.aduanas.gub.uy/innovaportal/v/21072/6/innova.front/se-incautaron-mas-de-3-toneladas-de-cocaina-con-un-valor-estimado-de-740-millones-de-dolares.html>

CROATIA

20.11.2019 At the border crossing, customs officials, together with police officers at the Bajakovo border crossing, prevented an attempt to smuggle **25.856 kg of marijuana** hidden in a Mercedes Sprinter car with Slovenian license plates, driven by a 32-year-old Slovenian driver. An inspection of the vehicle's interior revealed packages of marijuana concealed in a sliding side door and in the roof section. Drugs, the driver and the vehicle were handed over to officers of the Bajakovo border police station for further investigation or criminal charges. <https://carina.gov.hr/vijesti/sprijeceno-krijumcarenje-25-kilograma-marihuane/8155>

ETHIOPIA

19.11.2019 A U.S. citizen suspected of smuggling **5.2 kilograms of cocaine** was detained at Bole Addis Ababa International Airport. The drug courier transited from Sao Paulo, Brazil, to India via Ethiopia. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/19/c_138567331.htm