

Unofficial translation

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

30.03-05.04.2020

№ 14

CARICC MEMBER STATES

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

30.03.2020 Employees of UNK GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Novosibirsk region detained 32-year-old and 29-year-old residents of Novosibirsk suspected of selling heroin in Novosibirsk. More than **600 grams of heroin** intended for sale were seized. The suspects purchased wholesale consignments of drugs by mail, then packed them into small shipments and placed in caches in Novosibirsk for sale. A criminal case was opened over this fact. The defendants were charged and remanded in custody. Drug delivery channels to Novosibirsk are being identified.
<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19879671>

30.03.2020 Employees of GUNK MVD of Russia together with colleagues from UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Novosibirsk region have stopped a 25-year-old resident of Novosibirsk suspected of organizing production and sale of narcotic drugs. The man equipped a laboratory in a his GAZelle, where he produced synthetic drug and then sold it through caches in Novosibirsk. During inspection of the van parked in front of the man's house, police found and seized canisters and containers with ingredients and precursors intended for production of drugs, laboratory equipment, personal protective equipment and other items, as well as **548 g of mephedrone**. A criminal case was initiated on this fact. The detainee was charged and remand in custody was chosen as a preventive measure. Further investigation is under way. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19885806>

30.03.2020 Employees of UNK GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Kemerovo region detained a 30-year-old resident of Novokuznetsk, who organized in her city a large channel for contactless sale of synthetic drugs. Woman was detained red-handed while transporting about **500 g of alpha-PVP**, which was found during a vehicle search. A criminal case has been initiated against the detainee. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19880328>

31.03.2020 At 111 km of the M-4 "Don" motorway, officers of tOMVD of Russia in urban district of Kashira in the Moscow region and officers of the UGIBDD GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Moscow region stopped a car driven by a 34-year-old resident of Samara region. During inspection of the vehicle were found two convolutions with **mephedrone and cocaine, weighing about 700 g**. A criminal case was initiated on this fact. The Kashir City Court selected a measure in the form of detention of the suspect. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19889248>

02.04.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia on the Kaluga region detained two citizens of a neighboring republic, 1993 and 2000 years of birth, engaged in sale of drugs in the territory of Kaluga. The suspects had already packed up a large shipment of heroin from

Moscow, after which they made 8 heroin caches on the territory of Kaluga. During a personal search of the detainees, as well as from the cache and during a search of their place of residence they seized **628.06 grams of heroin**. A criminal case has been initiated in that connection. A measure in the form of remand in custody was taken against the defendants. Investigation is under way. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19901202>

02.04.2020 In the course of monitoring the regional segment of the Internet, employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Ryazan region recorded an activity, typical for the organization of contactless drug trafficking in the city of Ryazan with the help of "caches". Two Ryazan residents aged 28 and 32 suspected of distributing heroin by contactless means were detained. During a personal search of the detainees, examination of their homes and car, packages and many cache-containers with **heroin weighing 390 g**, compact electronic scales and packaging material were found and seized. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19899387>

02.04.2020 Employees of GUNK MVD of Russia in cooperation with colleagues from Tver region dismantled a laboratory producing synthetic drugs. The illegal production was located on the territory of a house in Kalininsky district, Tver region. During the operation, police, with the assistance of Rosgvardia, found more than **1 kg of mephedrone and 2400 liters of reagents** in a building. Two suspects in organization of illegal activities were detained. Equipment used to manufacture narcotic drugs, including a chemical synthesis plant and a reactor, were seized. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. A measure in the form of remand in custody has been taken against the defendants. A preliminary investigation is under way. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19905149>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

02.04.2020 Employees of Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan on Dushanbe city have stopped activity of transnational criminal group which was engaged in illicit trafficking of drugs. 7 persons were detained. Members of the group brought drugs from Afghanistan, and then transported to other countries for sale. This criminal group was led by M. Sh. Kurbonov, a 44-year-old resident of the rural jamoat of Puli Sangin in the town of Nureka, known by his nicknames "Mukimcha" and "Bachai Campir", previously twice prosecuted for drug trafficking in Russia. Over **13.5 kg of hashish, 221 g of opium and a shipment of psychotropic "ecstasy" tablets (MDMA)** were found and seized during a search of Kurbonov's house in Nurek. Detained members of this transnational criminal group lived in Dushanbe, Khujand, Shokhin and Rudaki districts. A total of **70,283 kg of various drugs** were seized from them. Kurbonov coordinated the group' actions through messengers. Drugs were transported abroad, sold, and money was transferred to the leader's account through an electronic payment system "kiwi-purse". It was found that in October 2019, this group transported **55 kg of heroin** to a CIS country. A criminal case has been opened against the suspects, and investigation is under way. <http://avesta.tj/2020/04/02/v-tadzhikistane-presechena-deyatelnost-gruppy-natkotorgovtsev-izyato-svyshe-70-kg-narkotikov/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

31.03.2020 Detectives from the Drug and Firearms Squad of the State Crime Command of the New South Wales State Police discovered illegal plantations of about 20,000 acres of cultivated cannabis, located 80 km north of Cobar. A total of **3,020 cannabis plants**, valued at an estimated US\$ 6 million, have been confiscated. Police arrested a 34-year-old man, also seized an unauthorized firearm (two-barrel shotgun) and ammunition.

<https://www.facebook.com/nswpoliceforce/posts/10157718661671185>

31.03.2020 Four men aged 39, 24, 21 and 18 years and a 39-year-old woman were arrested in Sydney by the Organized Crime Unit of the New South Wales State Police Force, with assistance from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) and the New South Wales State Crime Commission, in connection with their involvement in drug trafficking. Police confiscated over **200 kg of cocaine**. Investigation is under way.

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/sydney-cocaine-bust-200-kilograms-seized-by-nsw-police/4598f315-a9e4-4f29-a847-7df0f49793e1>

BULGARIA

30.03.2020 Two members of an organized criminal group smuggling heroin from the Middle East to Western Europe were detained by the Police (DGBOP) in a special operation conducted in Burgas, Stara Zagora, Dimitrovgrad and Haskovo by the State Security Service under the supervision of the Special Prosecution Office. The heroin consignment arrived at the port of Burgas on 26 March 2020 and was overloaded with several trucks, making monitoring by law enforcement agencies difficult. Subsequently, **72 kg of heroin** were found in a Bulgarian-registered truck at the Haskovo parking lot. The heroin was hidden in caches inside air cylinders attached to the bottom of a semi-trailer. Drug seizures are worth over BGN 10 million. Participants in a criminal group operating on the European market, including its leader, were detained. During searches of addresses located in various settlements where the accused lived and used, evidence of their criminal activity was collected. Co-ordination with partner services in several countries has been established for a full and comprehensive investigation of the group's activities.

<https://www.mvr.bg/press/%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%82%D1%83%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%BD%D1%84%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%8F/%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%82%D1%83%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%BD%D1%84%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%8F/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B4/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8/%D0%B3%D0%B4%D0%B1%D0%BE%D0%BF-%D0%BD%D0%B5%D1%83%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82%D1%8A%D0%BF%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B3%D1%80%D1%83%D0%BF%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%84%D0%B8%D0%BA-%D0%BD%D0%B0-72-%D0%BA%D0%B3-%D1%85%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B8%D0%BD-%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%8F-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D1%82%D0%BE%D0%BA-%D0%BA%D1%8A%D0%BC-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BF%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B5%D0%B2%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%BF%D0%B0>

http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2020-03/31/content_75883440.htm

Video: <https://youtu.be/dnTmQm8XGPw>

BRAZIL

31.03.2020 Customs of the Federal Revenue Service (IRS) seized **645.5 kg of cocaine** at the port of Itapoa, Santa Catarina. Cocaine was concealed in a shipment of plywood. The cargo was destined for the port of Hamburg, Germany.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/marco/9a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-645-5-quilos-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-itapoa>

[https://s2.glbimg.com/d4rsM4d5s5QTM-HkX-](https://s2.glbimg.com/d4rsM4d5s5QTM-HkX-vDYZQh3JA=/0x0:600x340/600x0/smart/filters:gifv():strip_icc()/i.s3.glbimg.com/v1/AUTH_59edd422c0c84a879bd37670ae4f538a/internal_photos/bs/2020/d/1/YAfaqTTXuWRN9SHddh8Q/gif-receita-federal.gif)

[vDYZQh3JA=/0x0:600x340/600x0/smart/filters:gifv\(\):strip_icc\(\)/i.s3.glbimg.com/v1/AUTH_59edd422c0c84a879bd37670ae4f538a/internal_photos/bs/2020/d/1/YAfaqTTXuWRN9SHddh8Q/gif-receita-federal.gif](https://s2.glbimg.com/d4rsM4d5s5QTM-HkX-vDYZQh3JA=/0x0:600x340/600x0/smart/filters:gifv():strip_icc()/i.s3.glbimg.com/v1/AUTH_59edd422c0c84a879bd37670ae4f538a/internal_photos/bs/2020/d/1/YAfaqTTXuWRN9SHddh8Q/gif-receita-federal.gif)

01.04.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs seized about **88 kg of cocaine** in the port of Paranagua. The drug was concealed in a dump truck trailer, which was to be loaded on a vessel bound for Abidjan port, Côte d'Ivoire. Seized drugs have been submitted to the Federal Police, which will continue the investigation. <http://sindireceita.org.br/blog/analistas-tributarios-atuam-na-apreensao-de-cerca-de-88-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua/>

IRAN

03.04.2020 Some **832.6 kg of narcotics, including 565.6 kg of opium and 267 kg of hashish**, were seized by border guards of Sistan and Balochistan province during a special operation. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/157195/Police-seize-over-830kg-of-narcotics-in-Sistan-and-Baluchestan>

04.04.2020 Police in Sistan and Balochistan Province confiscated **2,033 kg of opium and 1 kg of hashish** during clashes between police and smugglers attempting to smuggle drugs into the country across the Saravan border. The operation also involved a seizure of two vehicles and several weapons, arrest of two smugglers who were handed over to judicial officials. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/157222/Police-seize-over-2-tons-of-illicit-drugs-in-SE-Iran>

SPAIN

02.04.2020 Civil Guard and the Tax Authority in the port of Valencia inspected a container of banana boxes and found 600 packs of **cocaine with a total weight of about 600 kg**. The operation was carried out as part of actions of the Risk Analysis Unit at the Port of Valencia, which is composed of members of the Customs Supervision Service and the Financial Analysis and Investigation Unit of the Civil Guard. Previously, on 23 March, a cache of **370 kg of cocaine** was discovered in a container of goods received by a company in Montavern in Valencia. In that case, the "Rip-on/Rip-off" method was used, which involves using the container, which is used for legitimate commercial traffic, by placing inside it bags or backpacks containing drugs, in the port of origin or in a trans-shipment port in order to later collect the illicit cargo at the port of destination. Investigation is under way. https://www.cope.es/emisoras/comunidad-valenciana/valencia-provincia/valencia/noticias/intervienen-600-kilos-cocaina-camuflados-entre-platanos-contenedor-puerto-valencia-20200402_666924
<https://twitter.com/aduanassva/status/1245691008945446912>

07.03.2020 During a joint operation between Customs, the National Police and the Civil Guard in the port of La Luz, **150 kg of cocaine** were found and seized in cooling zone of the MSC Agadir container ship engine. The vessel departed from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to its

final destination in Valencia, Spain. The cargo could have been destined for Valencia or any of the following destinations: Barcelona or Livorno (Italy). After the container ship had docked in La Luz, security personnel investigated underwater part of the ship, where several cocaine bales were found by divers from the Civil Guard Special Submersible Activities Group (Geas). <https://www.laprovincia.es/sucesos/2020/04/06/hallan-150-kilos-cocaina-refrigeracion/1272093.html>

CYPRUS

05.04.2020 Anti-drug officers detained four men aged 27 to 39 and a 25-year-old woman in connection with a discovery of **2.3 kg of cocaine and 10 kg of cannabis** in parcels from Greece through a courier service company. The parcels arrived at the Limassol service office from Greece. <https://cyprus-mail.com/2020/04/05/five-people-remanded-over-2-3kg-of-cocaine-found-at-courier-service/>

MOROCCO

01.04.2020 Police officers, with the assistance of the Directorate General of National Security (DGSN) in Nador, arrested a man on the national wanted list for drug trafficking, with **3.8 kg of heroin** seized from him. The police also seized two vehicles with fake licence plates. The suspect is in custody. Investigation is under way. <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2020/04/298238/morocco-arrests-man-in-possession-of-nearly-4-kg-of-heroin/>

MEXICO

04.04.2020 National Guard units, in coordination with the Tax Administration Service (SAT), seized approximately **36,812 kg of cocaine and 3,992 kg of heroin** at the border crossing at the Jerónimo Santa Teresa Bridge, Chihuahua. The Civil Guard stopped a semi-trailer truck on its way to Oklahoma, USA, for inspection, resulting in a discovery of 41 packages of cocaine and heroin in cargo bay on the floor. <http://noticiaslocales.mx/2020/04/04/aseguran-en-cruce-fronterizo-cerca-de-41-kilos-de-cocaina-y-heroina/>
<http://www.omnia.com.mx/noticia/138851/aseguran-41-kilos-de-cocaina-y-heroina-en-el-puente-de-santa-teresa>

THE NETHERLANDS

30.03.2020 Customs confiscated **865 kg of cocaine** during an inspection in the port of Rotterdam. The drugs were hidden in a container of pineapples arriving from Costa Rica for the company in Antwerp. The investigation is being conducted by the NARC team - Customs, FIOD, Seaport Police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. Drugs seized have been destroyed. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/03/30/douane-onderschept-865-kilo-cocaine>

PAKISTAN

02.04.2020 During ongoing actions to combat drug trafficking, the police seized **360 kg of hashish, 570 g of opium** and 14 weapons. Cases against 13 defendants have been registered and investigations are under way. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/2360-kg-hashish-570-gm-opium-weapons-seize-881731.html>

PORTUGAL

03.04.2020 Customs officials at the port of Sinisha, during non-intrusive control of a container from South America, which was selected as part of the risk analysis criteria, found 4 sport bags containing **107 kg of cocaine**. Cocaine seized could have a market value of about €4 million. Cocaine has been transferred to the judicial police, competent investigative authority, in accordance with existing legislation.

http://info-aduaneiro.portaldasfinancas.gov.pt/pt/noticias/Documents/AT_NEWS_15_20.pdf

USA

19.03.2020 Federal agents in San Diego seized about 1996 kg of drugs, including **589.7 kg of cocaine, 39 kg of methamphetamine, 7.71 kg of heroin, 1,360.78 kg of marijuana and over 900 g of fentanyl**, totalling about \$29.6 million. The drugs were smuggled from Mexico through a tunnel from Tijuana. Agents discovered an underground railway about 600 meters (2,000 feet) long that connects warehouses in Tijuana with the Otai-Mesa section in San Diego. The tunnel was 9 meters deep and had reinforced walls, ventilation and lighting. Drugs were found in the tunnel on the US side. An unnamed amount of drugs was also seized by the Mexican authorities in the southern part of the tunnel. No one has been arrested, investigation is ongoing. The operation was conducted by the San Diego Tunnel Task Force, which is investigating clandestine smuggling in the ICE division, the U.S. Homeland Security, the U.S. Border Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Attorney's Office. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/half-mile-tunnel-filled-over-4-000-pounds-drugs-found-n1173526>

30.03.2020 US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials in Indianapolis, Indiana, seized approximately **2.04 kg of fentanyl**. The drug was inside a parcel destined for a recipient in East Elmhurst, New York, which was delivered to a local express delivery point. The drug was valued at \$1.5 million.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/indianapolis-cbp-k9-sniffs-out-15-million-fentanyl-seizure>

30.03.2020 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Field Operations (OFO) in Laredo, Texas, detained a 36-year-old U.S. citizen in an attempted importation from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, in a Nissan Altima vehicle carrying **52.2 kg of methamphetamine and 1.1 kg of heroin**. The drugs were hidden inside plastic buckets. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/laredo-cbp-officers-seize-hard-narcotics-worth-24-million-gateway>

03.04.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials found and seized **19.05 kg of cocaine** aboard the M/V Carib Trader II on the Miami River, Florida. The drugs were hidden behind interior walls of a cabin. The cargo ship left Le Gonaïves, Haiti, and made one stop in Bimini, Bahamas, before arriving in Florida. Cocaine is valued at \$400,000. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/drilling-finds-cocaine-vessel-miami-river#>
<https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/400000-worth-of-cocaine-seized-in-vessel-on-miami-river/2215652/>

03.04.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the international border crossing in El Paso, Texas seized more than **40.8 kg of methamphetamine** during an attempted truck ride into the United States from Mexico. Methamphetamine was concealed

in an industrial magnetic separator mechanism. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-seize-methamphetamine-el-paso-port-entry>

03.04.2020 Border Patrol agents from El Centro Sector arrested a 29-year-old U.S. citizen suspected of drug smuggling at a checkpoint on Highway 86, California, while attempting to smuggle narcotics in a Kia Rondo vehicle. During a vehicle inspection, border patrol agents found **54.20 methamphetamine** hidden inside the vehicle's floorboard. The seized substance is worth approximately \$103,000. Woman, drugs and vehicle were handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-stops-meth-smuggling-attempt>

TURKEY

04.04.2020 A special operation was carried out by officers of the Anti-Drug Directorate of the Mersin Police Department, under the supervision of the Office of the Public Prosecutor-General in Mersin, which led to a discovery and seizure of **47.8 kg of cocaine** in refrigeration system of containers shipped from Ecuador. Two of five suspects wanted in connection with the incident were detained in Kocaeli and Mersin.

<https://www.cnnturk.com/turkiye/ekvadordan-mersine-getirilen-gemiye-operasyon-48-kilo-kokain-ele-gecirildi>

Video: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/mersin-liman%C4%B1ndaki-bir-gemide-47-kilo-800-gram-kokain-ele-ge%C3%A7irildi/vp-BB12aCg3>

URUGUAY

02.04.2020 Police officers seized the largest **cocaine** shipment in Uruguay's history, weighing about **6.12 tons**. Containers marked as soybean meal contained about 4,418 tons of cocaine, which had been imported into Togo on a ship under the flag of Italy. An additional 1.7 tons of cocaine were seized during a search at a ranch in the western region of Soriano, where cocaine was loaded in a truck. Drug seizures are valued at more than \$1 billion.

<https://gruntstuff.com/uruguay-seizes-more-than-six-tons-of-cocaine-in-countrys-largest-drug-bust/23751/>

FRANCE

04.03.2020 During customs control, **291 kg of cocaine** concealed in a container of cereals were seized at the port of Fos-sur-Mer (Bouche-du-Rhone). Market value of seized cocaine is estimated at about €11.6 million. Drug was in bags and arrived with a container on board a ship from the United States that was in transit from Central America through ports of Morocco, Spain and Italy. Before arriving at the first port in France, several bags were discovered by customs officials. The Drug Enforcement Agency (Ofast) is conducting an investigation. <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/provence-alpes-cote-d-azur/bouches-du-rhone/fos-sur-mer/douanes-saisie-291-kg-cocaine-port-fos-mer-1811448.html>

UKRAINE

24.03.2020 Department for Combating Drug Crime of the GUNP in Zaporizhzhya region discovered a drug laboratory where methadone was produced for sale in Ukraine. The organizer of the group - a resident of Zaporizhzhya, born in 1996, involved in illegal activities four more people - a man, born in 1989, who provided supplies of precursors and equipment for the drug lab with subsequent sale of methadone; a man, born in 1990 - a



chemist who manufactured drugs; young people, born in 1994 and 1991 - direct drug sellers. During carried out searches in territory of Zaporozhye and Zaporozhye region about **2 kg of methadone, more than 1 kg of marijuana, precursors**, accessories and the equipment, a considerable amount of a packing material, bank cards and communication means were seized. Seized narcotic drugs cost about 3.5 million hryvnia. The equipment found made it possible to produce up to 10 kg of methadone per week. Three members of the group were detained. An arrest as a preventive measure is being decided. Pre-trial investigation in criminal proceedings is under way..<https://tsn.ua/ru/ukrayina/v-zaporozhskoy-oblasti-likvidirovali-moschnuyu-narkolaboratoriyu-v-kotoroy-izgotovlyali-metadon-1513170.html>

