

## NEWS RELEASE ON ANTI-DRUG PAST EVENTS (from the media)

**14-20.12.2020**

**№ 51**

### ON CARICC MEMBER STATES

#### THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

**18.12.2020** Employees of the Main Customs Directorate for Air Transport stopped an attempt to import a large consignment of drugs into Azerbaijan. During the examination of the suitcase of an Azerbaijani citizen who arrived on the Istanbul-Baku flight, suspicious objects were revealed on the X-ray machine. Upon examination, **13,650 units of pregabalin, 552.9 grams of cocaine, 283 units of MDMA and 971 grams of methamphetamine** were found well disguised in candy bags.

<https://haqqin.az/news/196566>

**19.12.2020** During the customs inspection of a Volvo car with registration number 67E47910, which was traveling through the territory of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic to Germany, suspicious images were found inside the objects through an X-ray machine at the Shakhtakhti customs post. During a physical examination of the vehicle's trailer, a cache was found in which customs officers found 30 parcels containing **23.951 kg of opium**. <https://media.az/society/1067803598/v-nahchyvane-presekli-popytku-kontrabandy-narkotikov/>

#### REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

**15.12.2020** The border guards of the DKNB in the Zhambyl region, while inspecting a Toyota Prado vehicle coming from Kyrgyzstan, found and seized **60.370 kg of heroin** in a gas tank. <https://www.caravan.kz/news/60-kilogrammov-geroina-pytalis-vvezti-v-kazakhstan-699412/>

#### REPUBLIC OF KYRGYZSTAN

**15.12.2020** Police officers in the village of Petrovka, Moskovsky District, Chui Oblast, stopped a Honda-Fit car with a driver born in 1998 and a passenger born in 1995. During the search, **21.58 grams of cannabis** belonging to the passenger was found and seized in the car's purse. During further examination of the car in the luggage compartment, among the bags with foodstuffs, 9 briquettes of **hashish** belonging to the driver, with a total weight of **4.236 kg**, were found. <https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/mass-media/all-news/item/11827-sotrudnikami-sbnon-mvd-zaderzhany-litsa-perevozhivshie-v-avtomobile-narkotiki>

**16.12.2020** As a result of sanctioned search activities in the Toktogul district of the Jalal-Abad region, employees of the SBNON Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic found and seized **22,130 kg of marijuana** packed in polypropylene bags at the place of residence of a citizen born in 1984. Also, during the search, handicraft devices for the manufacture of drugs and a point of sale for drugs were found. <https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/mass-media/all-news/item/11844-operativnikami-sbnon-mvd-likvidirovan-kanal-sbyta-narkotikov>

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**14.12.2020** A 31-year-old resident of the Krasnodar Territory, who carried out regular drug trafficking to Adygea and several other nearby subjects, as well as his accomplice, a 33-year-old resident of the Republic of Adygea, was detained by officers of the OKON Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Republic of Adygea. **39 packages with heroin and 10 with methadone** were seized from the detainees. In the course of further work, the operatives established a place for a large bookmark with drugs. There, police officers seized about **30 more packages with similar substances**. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22213322>

**14.12.2020** Pyatigorsk police officers detained two previously convicted citizens. During the investigative actions, the citizens indicated the places of the caches, from which the operatives seized ten packages with the substance of unknown origin. During a search at their place of temporary residence, the police found and seized three more filled polymer bags with **300 grams of a drug of synthetic origin**. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22209371>

**14.12.2020** As part of a previously opened criminal case, officers of the Police Department No. 5 of the Russian MIA Administration for the city of Voronezh searched a 44-year-old local resident suspected of illegal possession of drugs. As a result of the measures taken, the guards seized from the basement of a private household, two boxes containing about **6 kg of marijuana**. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22212418>

**15.12.2020** The employees of the OKON OMVD of Russia in the city of o. Egoryevsk, Moscow Region, a 29-year-old native of the Orenburg Region was detained. During a body search, the police found in her bag and seized 28 packages of powdery substance. During the examination at the place of residence of the detainee, 500 parcels and 2 boxes with similar contents were found and seized. According to the results of chemical research, it was established that the seized powder is **heroin** with a total weight of about **1.2 kg**. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22226814>

**15.12.2020** Operatives of the UNK regional department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs received information that a previously convicted drug dealer was detained in the city of Ivanov. 80 parcels containing almost **200 grams of N-methiephedrone** were seized from a young woman during a body search. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22239707>

**15.12.2020** Employees of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, together with colleagues from the Chelyabinsk Region, suppressed the activities of a group whose members are suspected of attempting to sell drugs. As a result of operational-search measures, operatives detained one of the malefactors in Chelyabinsk. With him, the police found more than **20 kg of synthetic drugs**, which were hidden inside two garden pumps. During searches in his two garage boxes and on the territory of the garden plot, about **49 kg of drugs** were seized. During further measures in the city of Kopeisk, Chelyabinsk Region, the police detained another member of the group - a resident of the Sverdlovsk Region who had been previously convicted on several occasions. A **synthetic drug** with a total weight of over **750 grams** was also found at his place of residence. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22230579>

**15.12.2020** In Kaluga, a local resident born in 1995 was detained by officers of the UNK UMVD of Russia in the Kaluga region. During a body search of the suspect, operatives found **64.88 grams of amphetamine**. In addition, when examining the phone seized from the citizen, the coordinates of the so-called tab were found, which contained **44.61 g of N-methylephedrone**. Subsequently, during a search at the detainee's place of residence, law enforcement officers seized **369.2 g of cannabis, 183.3 g of MDMA, 28.9 g of amphetamine and 325.05 g of N-methylephedrone**. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22227393>

**16.12.2020** Employees of the UNK GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Moscow region together with colleagues from the PMC and OGIBDD of the Russian MIA Administration for Orekhovo-Zuevsky a foreign-made car driven by a 39-year-old native of Central Asia was stopped due to suspicion of drug trafficking. As passengers in the car there were a 43-year-old and 45-year-old natives of one of the Central Asian republics. During a body search of the detainees and the car, the police found and seized more than 1,500 parcels of heroin. During a search at the place of residence of the suspects, another 200 polymer packages with a similar drug were found and seized. The total weight was over **4 kg of heroin**. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22249045>

**16.12.2020** A 20-year-old resident of Khabarovsk and a 24-year-old Astrakhan citizen were detained by police officers of the UNK UMVD of Russia for the Astrakhan region in the Narimanov district. Men in a Lada Priora car in a sports bag were transporting **289 bottles** of the potent drug **Tropicamide** and **5586 capsules** of the potent drug **Pregabalin**. It was established that the attackers purchased potent drugs in Moscow with the aim of further marketing them in the Astrakhan region. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22245686>

**16.12.2020** In Tambov, officers of the Drug Control Department of the Regional Ministry of Internal Affairs detained two men - residents of the near abroad. During a body search in their clothes and a search in a rented apartment, the police found several parcels with **264 grams of heroin**. On the same day, another group of foreigners suspected of drug trafficking was detained while entering Tambov. In the car there were four guys from the near abroad, in whose clothes were found parcels of heroin weighing **46 grams**. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22247503>

**16.12.2020** During the events, officers of the OKON Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Kaluga detained a married couple from whom more than **255 grams of mephedrone** were seized, as well as more than **9 grams of methamphetamine** prepared for subsequent sale. In addition, during a search in the garage of the defendant, the police found plastic containers with **212 growing mushrooms**, which, according to the expert's opinion, belong to the category of narcotic mushrooms. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22245788>

**16.12.2020** Police officers as part of the detachment of a separate company of traffic police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Crimea detained a young man suspected of drug sale and possession. Officers of the Road Patrol Service Company found several distinctive plastic rolls with mephedrone in the pocket of his jacket. In the back pocket of his pants the citizen had a bag of heroin. Later, during the inspection in the car and in the bag of a young man, the police found other suspicious colored balls with a powder-like substance inside. All in all, the police seized 94 marked packages with a total

weight of about **200 grams**. The same amount of synthetic drugs was found at the place of residence of the young man. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22256304>

**16.12.2020** Employees of Directorate of Internal Affairs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region on suspicion of production and sale of the drug methamphetamine detained a 54-year-old unemployed resident of the Tosno district. During search of the suspect's residence in Lisinskoe rural settlement several packages of **methamphetamine** with a total weight of about **59 kg** and chemical equipment were found in a private house, outbuilding and land plot. Three carbines and several dozen cartridges were seized. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22235442>

**17.12.2020** In Verkhneuslonsky district of the Republic of Tatarstan at a stationary police post officers of the traffic police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Kazan stopped a Kia car. The car and all the personal belongings of the passengers of the car were examined and a roll of dark substance was found in the passenger's left sock. Also during the search of the bag there were found pants with 10 more fragments with the substance of dark color. The examination determined that it was **1,068.3 grams of mephedrone**. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22262413>

**17.12.2020** The Vladikavkaz investigators carried out a special operation that resulted in the detention of a Honda car driven by a 32-year-old unemployed man, a previously convicted Moscow resident. During a personal search of the car in which the suspect drove, a bag with more than **1 kilogram of methamphetamine**, which amounts to more than 3,000 single doses, was found in the trunk of the car. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22272811>

**17.12.2020** In Yaroslavl region, transport police officers together with soldiers of the regional SOBR team stopped a car near a railway crossing in Rostov, Yaroslavl region. During a personal search of the owner of the car, a 36-year-old resident of Moscow, more than **500 grams of heroin** was found. The perpetrator was previously prosecuted for murder and is himself a drug addict. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/22267813>

## REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

**19.12.2020** In the Bekabad district of the Tashkent region, soldiers of the State Security Service Border Troops detained a citizen of Tajikistan while illegally crossing the Uzbek-Tajik state border. During the inspection of two shopping bags belonging to him, 24 bundles containing **5.009 kg of heroin, 17.259 kg of opium and almost 2 kg of hashish** were found. <https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestviya/na-uzbeksko-tadzhikskoy-granitse-zaderzhan-narkokurer-on-pytalsya-perepravit-v-uzbekistan-svyshe-24/>

## ON OTHER COUNTRIES

### AUSTRALIA

**16.12.2020** Queensland police arrested 14 people involved in an interstate drug syndicate after a plane arriving from Melbourne was detained at Redcliffe Airport. There were two people on the plane and they were met on the runway by a third person who arrived in a car. A search of the plane revealed about one million dollars, and five large gym bags

containing about **120 kilograms of cannabis** were found in the car. The officers then conducted simultaneous raids of homes, offices and storage units. Another **50 kilograms of marijuana** and more than \$1.5 million were seized in one of the storage units. The bust was part of an 18-month "Romeo Mugwort" operation that seized a total of \$8.5 million, weapons, ammunition, cocaine and cannabis. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-16/drug-raid-busted-plane-redcliffe-brisbane-queensland-police/12988952>

## AFGHANISTAN

**21.12.2020** Anti-narcotics police officers conducted 75 operations in the period from 15 to 21 December 2020 and detained 89 people as a result of search operations. They seized **412.7 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 15.9 kg of heroin, 124.9 kg of opium, 167.5 kg of hashish, 31.3 kg of methamphetamine, 167 MDMA tablets and 73.3 kg of precursors.** Currency in the amount of 150 US dollars, 16 cell phones, 12 vehicles, 7 weapons and 2,744 ammunition were confiscated. In the course of anti-drug operation one police officer was killed.<sup>1</sup>

## BELGIUM

**15.12.2020** Revenue officials at the port of Santos, on the coast of São Paulo, found **670 kilograms of cocaine** in a shipment of coffee beans that were destined for the port of Gioia Tauro in Italy. [https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20201219\\_94897191](https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20201219_94897191)

## BULGARIA

**17.12.2020** Customs officers of the port of Varna-West found more than **58 kg of cocaine** hidden among planks in a container that arrived on a ship from Suriname. Three Dutch nationals detained on suspicion of involvement in drug trafficking. <https://www.novinite.com/articles/207135/Bulgarian+Customs+Officers+Seize+over+58+kg+of+Pure+Cocaine+in+Varna+Port>

## BRASILIA

**15.12.2020** Tax officials at the port of Santos, on the coast of São Paulo, found **670 kilograms of cocaine** in a shipment of coffee beans that were destined for the port of Gioia Tauro in Italy. The coffee beans were packed in large bags and when checked, the service dog tested positive for the presence of drugs. Three people were also arrested in a joint operation conducted by the Federal Tax Service, the Federal Police and the Special Action Battalion of the São Paulo Military Police. The operation resulted in the seizure of **360 kilograms of cocaine**, which was to be shipped to Nigeria. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/12-noticias-de-dezembro-de-2020/acao-conjunta-da-policia-federal-e-receita-federal-com-apoio-da-policia-militar-de-sao-paulo-localiza-360-kg-de-cocaina>

**15.12.2020** Federal police officers at São Paulo International Airport arrested a 40-year-old Bolivian woman attempting to travel to Africa in drug-stained clothing. During a body search and baggage search, she was found to be wearing wet clothing with a distinctive **cocaine**

<sup>1</sup> Data provided by a liaison officer with the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at CARICC.

odor. The destination of the flight was Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/12-noticias-de-dezembro-de-2020/pf-apreende-roupas-engomadas-com-cocaina>

## GREAT BRITAIN

**15.12.2020** Police officers stopped a suspicious Mercedes car in Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, after noticing a strong odor of cannabis. However, when police searched the car, they did not find anything. Afterwards, one of the suspects, who did not speak English, wanted to open Google Translate on his phone to talk to police, but instead a video of a cannabis farm appeared on the screen. As a result, two men, 22 and 38, were arrested on suspicion of drug production. Police discovered a huge cannabis farm in the northeast England village of Easington Lane, where more than **600 cannabis bushes** were found on three floors. <https://tengrinews.kz/europe/anglichanina-arestovali-sluchayno-pokazannogo-politseyskomu-423211/>

## SPAIN

**18.12.2020** As a result of a joint operation of the National Police, Civil Guard and tax authorities at the port of Valencia seized **200 kilograms of high quality cocaine** inside a container with legal goods. <https://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20201218/6132946/incautan-200-kilos-cocaina-contenedor-puerto-valencia.html>

**20.12.2020** Police officers seized more than **450 kg of hashish** in a van (motor home) in which a married couple was traveling, which was stopped for inspection on the A-8 highway. The drugs were concealed in the equipped cavities of the interior of the vehicle. <https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/arousa/vilagarcia-de-arousa/2020/12/18/cae-matrimonio-jubilado-vilanova-arousa-500-kilos-hachis-autocaravana-oviedo/00031608299174634394863.htm>

## MALAYSIA

14.12.2020 Malaysian police found more than **2 tons of methamphetamine** in a special operation near the island of Penang. The drugs had been packed in Chinese tea bags and were meant to be smuggled into Australia and China. A total of 130 bags of drugs, valued at more than \$26 million, were seized. <https://24.kz/ru/news/in-the-world/item/442477-partiyu-narkotikov-na-26-mln-dollarov-konfiskovali-v-malajzii>

## NETHERLANDS

**12.12.2020** Three Dutchmen aged 26, 34 and 35 were detained in Antwerp on suspicion of transporting drugs. They found **250 kilograms of cocaine** in their van. [https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20201212\\_95641896](https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20201212_95641896)

**16.12.2020** During the checks carried out in the port of Rotterdam, customs officers intercepted about **4 tons 128 kg of drugs** with a total value of more than 309 million euros. The first shipment of **208 kg of drugs** was found and seized in an empty container. Four suspects have been detained in this case. In the second case, **2,371 kg of drugs** were found and seized in a container of bananas from Ecuador. In the third case, another **1 kg of cocaine** was again seized in an empty container. In the fourth case, customs officers found **42 kg of cocaine** in a container loaded with frozen blueberries during an inspection of a sea vessel. Later, another **1,506 kg of cocaine** was found in a container of bananas. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/12/16/douane-onderschept-4128-kilo-cocaine-in-vier-dagen>

## PANAMA

**16.12.2020** During an operation conducted by the National Police Intelligence Directorate together with prosecutors from the State Ministry of Anti-Drugs in the Pacific port, a shipment of **cocaine** worth \$55.8 million was seized inside the container. The container was scheduled to depart Panama for Italy with a final destination in Ukraine.

<https://www.critica.com.pa/sucesos/incautan-558-millones-en-cocaina-594419>

## USA

**17.12.2020** On a public beach in the resort town of Palm Beach, USA, washed out **32 kg of cocaine**, pressed into waterproof briquettes with the image of a penguin from the cartoon "Madagascar". Experts estimate that the shipment found could be worth as much as \$850,000. The police department, along with federal agencies, are trying to determine the origin of the illegal goods. <https://lenta.ru/news/2020/12/17/cocaine/>

**17.12.2020** Police found **649 kilograms of cocaine** in an abandoned boat that had washed ashore in the Marshall Islands. The boat had washed ashore on Ailuk, a remote atoll from the capital, where about 400 people live. There were no people on the boat. According to the preliminary version of the police, the boat came from Central or South America: the ship could have been drifting on the high seas for several years. The entire cargo of cocaine had already been burned. The police left only two small sachets, which they plan to give to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency for examination. <https://toppress.kz/article/lodku-s-600-kilogrammami-kokaina-pribilo-k-beregu-marshallovih-ostrovov>

## SURINAM

**18.12.2020** Customs officials at the Port of Jules today found five large bags of more than **140 kilograms of cocaine** when they inspected a container in transit. The containers are believed to belong to Greenheart NV.

[https://www.sun.sr/Details/6153\\_3hL4jK2D3bPRKLMp9Mbm1Krkwbc2aFaFaTBk3y8HBhtOH96SbFbFbbBx8WD1LAihMoNQ9A8\\_drogahout.jpg](https://www.sun.sr/Details/6153_3hL4jK2D3bPRKLMp9Mbm1Krkwbc2aFaFaTBk3y8HBhtOH96SbFbFbbBx8WD1LAihMoNQ9A8_drogahout.jpg)

## TURKEY

**14.12.2020** Turkish security forces seized **1,016 kilograms of marijuana** during Operation Yildirim-7 in the rural areas of Lis, Diyarbakir in southeastern Turkey. In addition, a huge amount of food and life-support items were seized from two shelters used by terrorists. <https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/over-1-ton-of-marijuana-seized-in-southeastern-turkey-3556522>

**16.12.2020** Customs officials seized more than 155 kilograms of drugs in three operations at Istanbul airport. The first seizure involved **96 kilograms of marijuana** hidden in a foreign suspect's luggage. In another operation, 67 capsules containing more than **2 kg of heroin** concealed inside tropical fruits were found in the luggage of a flying passenger when his luggage was X-rayed and searched with the use of a service dog. In the third case, **57 kg of marijuana** was also found and seized in the luggage of the suspected passenger.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-over-155-kg-of-drugs-seized-at-istanbul-airport/2079141>

## UKRAINE

**19.12.2020** State Border Guard Service officers together with other law enforcement officials seized **54 kilograms of cocaine**. The drugs had arrived at the southern seaport of Ukraine from Ecuador in a container of fruit. The final destination of the shipment of drugs was to be an EU country. Border guards escorted the container and prevented drug smuggling at the international border crossing Starokozachye. The cocaine was packaged in 46 briquettes and hidden in the ventilation hatches of the container.

<https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/%20video%20-na-odeshchini-prikordonniki-vikrili-mizhnarodniy-kanal-kontrabandi-kokainu-do-s/>

## EQUADOR

**14.12.2020 930 kilograms of cocaine** were intercepted at the port of Posorje. The drugs were destined for the port of Antwerp. [https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20201214\\_95556958](https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20201214_95556958)

**18.12.2020** During the operation in El-Oro province, **602 packages of cocaine** were seized. The drug was found in a container to be shipped to Russia. One person was detained as a result of the operation.

<https://twitter.com/FiscaliaEcuador/status/1339959638872211457>

**19.12.2020** About **400 kilograms of cocaine** were found and seized in a container intended for shipment to Antwerp at the port of Posoría, in western Ecuador.

[https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20201219\\_94897191](https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20201219_94897191)