

NEWS RELEASE ON PAST ANTI-DRUG EVENTS

(from the media)

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ON CARICC MEMBER-STATES

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



THE STATE DUMA HAS PROPOSED TOUGHENING THE PUNISHMENT FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING ONLINE

State Duma deputies called for tougher punishment for drug distribution via telecommunications networks - up to 25 years in prison. This is stated in an official letter to Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev, available in Izvestia.

The initiative belongs to the first deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee on Natural Resources, Property and Land Relations, Vasily Vlasov. The proposal will be discussed at the parliamentary hearings on 2nd December.

"Drug sales on the Internet and especially on the Darknet are much harder to track. It's a completely different cost when MIA officials directly find a person who packed and sold drugs, and when it comes to virtual reality, where sales are higher and the risk of being caught today is minimal," the Deputy explained to Izvestia.

The letter notes that the volume of drug sales in Russia is growing despite the measures taken. In addition, it is on the territory of the Russian Federation that "the world's largest Internet platform for selling drugs" is located.

The Public Council of the Ministry of Internal Affairs called the distribution of drugs through the Internet a "hyperproblem" in Russia, while the National Anti-Drug Union suggested that law enforcement agencies create cyber-businesses to combat drugs in the virtual world.

<https://iz.ru/949497/2019-12-01/v-gosdume-predlozhili-uzhestochit-nakazanie-za-rasprostranenie-narkotikov-v-seti>

ON OTHER COUNTRIES

GERMANY



COCAINE IS BECOMING A PROBLEM IN GERMAN CITIES - AND IT'S NOT THE ONLY ONE

Cocaine has flooded Europe. In 2019, German border guards had already seized a record amount of the drug. But in Germany, they look at the problem more broadly - and try to help people with all kinds of addiction.

4.5 tons of cocaine, wrapped in plastic and cardboard and hidden in 200 sports bags, was discovered in Hamburg by German border guards in July this year. It was in one of the containers on the cargo ship that was to deliver the soybeans to Antwerp. This is not the only find of its kind in 2019. In all, German police have already discovered more than 10

tons of cocaine this year - a record amount in recent years.

"Cocaine in Germany is a real problem. There are well-organized criminal groups behind this. And now the European market is overflowing with cocaine," said Federal Government Commissioner for Drug Policy Daniela Ludwig, speaking at the annual conference in Berlin on the problem of drug use in Germany.

She invited representatives of cities and communities to the conference to discuss with them key issues of working with drug addicts. Cocaine use in Germany has increased, but not only is this illegal drug a problem.

According to the German government, more than 8 million Germans are dependent. This means that approximately one in ten residents of the country uses at least one legal or illegal drug. Thus, more than 4 million Germans suffer from tobacco addiction and 1.6 million from alcoholism. Approximately 300,000 are dependent on marijuana, and 166,000 are opioid-dependent, using heroin and cocaine.

Mario P., an employee of one of the services for drug addicts, said that he is increasingly approached by people who use several types of drugs. This makes his work much more difficult. Mario believes that legalisation of drugs could help to solve the problem. "We have long lost the fight against drugs," he says. But the legal sale of drugs would help control the content of drugs, minimize the risk of disease and eliminate the criminal clans involved in the drug trade.

The German Bundestag has not yet approved the legalisation of opiates in the country. But the leftists and the Greens have joined the campaign to legalize the sale of cannabis to people over the age of 18. And German Health Minister Jens Spahn called for a discussion on this issue "without ideological shors". However, according to Federal Government Commissioner for Drug Policy Daniela Ludwig, drug legalization is the wrong signal for the population. "Especially young people are already facing a problem - cannabis is very much underestimated. Meanwhile, its use leads to severe mental disorders," says Ludwig. Instead of legalizing it, she calls for stronger prevention measures to be implemented together with the social structures on the ground.

But communes often lack the resources to be effective in delivering preventive measures. Staff members who provide assistance to drug dependent people in the community complain of a very heavy workload and lack of support. Elke Schulze, for example, would like to see drug treatment stations working more closely with the police, youth welfare and social welfare agencies. In any case, there was a consensus at the Berlin conference that drug addicts should not be stigmatized. In some cities, drug addiction is still underreported, but this will not help.

<https://www.dw.com/ru/%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%B8%D0%BD-%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%82%D1%81%D1%8F-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B9-%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%86%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%85-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%B2-%D0%B8-%D0%BD%D0%B5-%D1%82%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BA%D0%BE-%D0%BE%D0%BD/a-51424951>