



INFORMATION RELEASE

ABOUT PAST EVENTS
IN THE ANTI-DRUG SPHERE
(according to the media)

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INFORMATION RELEASE CARICC

Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination
Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs,
psychotropic substances and their precursors

EDITORIAL ADDRESS:

Republic of Kazakhstan, 050008, Almaty, Abay Avenue, 52
tel.: +7 727 259 99 90
fax: +7 727 392 15 54
registry@caricc.org www.caricc.org

«Information Release about past events in the anti-drug
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In the period from 1 to 30 September 2023, 26 counter-narcotic measures were covered on the basis of information from mass media in CARICC Member States and other countries of the world (*Azerbaijan - 2, Kazakhstan - 8, Kyrgyzstan - 6, Russia - 3, Tajikistan - 2, Uzbekistan - 2. Other countries: Afghanistan - 2, Mongolia - 1*).

Published articles reflect information on enhancing customs knowledge, strengthening cooperation between ROCB Europe and CARICC (*Azerbaijan*), on organization of soccer tournament by Ust-Kamenogorsk police officers, on anti-drug campaign on the streets of Pavlodar, on the plans of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan to total drug testing of schoolchildren, on the proposal of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Kazakhstan to colleagues from ECO countries to unite to fight drug crime, the CSTO sub-regional counternarcotics operation «Channel-Interception», the sports festival in Ekibastuz, the discussion of challenges and threats to Central Asia in the field of drugs, a lecture on drugs for students of the institute in Zhambyl (*Kazakhstan*), inspection of vehicles for drugs on the border with Kazakhstan by the CNS and Border Service, eradication of seized drugs, the CIS conference on combating terrorism and extremism, the meeting of the Head of the CNS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the Regional Director of UNODC in Central Asia, the discussion between the Deputy Head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Director of CARICC on joint work to combat drug crimes, the meeting of the CNS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the heads of associations in the field of international cargo transportation and trade (*Kyrgyzstan*), plans to create a mobile application to combat drug trafficking, a proposal by a State Duma deputy to test officials and deputies for drugs, mass drug testing of Novosibirsk students (*Russia*), presentation of the Tajikistan government's measures to combat drug smuggling at IDEC XXXVII, and Tajikistan's call to focus its efforts on combating drug trafficking from Afghanistan (*Tajikistan*), on capacity building of port control units in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan on pre-arrival cargo data exchange, on the meeting of the Director of NCDC with the Chief of UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch (*Uzbekistan*), as well as a meeting between the Afghan delegation and representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and the United Nations to combat drug trafficking, and a UNODC report on methamphetamine production in Afghanistan (*Afghanistan*), on a training course for law enforcement officials in Mongolia (*Mongolia*).

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN



CARICC EXPERTS ENHANCE CUSTOMS KNOWLEDGE IN AZERBAIJAN



Customs officials from Azerbaijan Customs Services received valuable insights and expertise from representatives of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Center (CARICC) during a training session held at the Regional Office for Capacity Building of the World Customs Organization in Baku on September 6, 2023.

The training, led by Mr. Atageldi Yazlyyev, CARICC Director, aimed to bolster the professional competence and knowledge of customs officers while strengthening their overall potential. It addressed critical aspects of combating the illegal circulation

of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and their precursors.

Mr. Antonio Lo Parco, Director of ROCB Europe, expressed his appreciation for this collaborative effort, stating,

«This workshop exemplifies the spirit of cooperation and knowledge-sharing that underlies our mission at ROCB Europe. We are pleased to host such important initiatives that bring together experts and officials from across the region to strengthen customs knowledge and enhance security measures».

In a comprehensive discussion, participants delved into the intricacies of various methods employed in the fight against illegal drugs, with a focus on in-depth analytical approaches within the field. Furthermore, the training expanded to cover drug trafficking operations and the primary routes through which illicit drugs are transported.

CARICC representatives provided customs officials with vital statistical data related to narcotics, presenting key combat measures and insights into international cooperation efforts in the ongoing battle against drug-related crimes. The training also featured the latest developments and information in the field.

Participants actively engaged in the training, exchanging opinions and seeking clarifications on the materials presented. The event facilitated a productive dialogue between CARICC experts and customs officials, reinforcing collaboration in the fight against drug trafficking and related crimes.

This initiative underscores the commitment of both CARICC and Azerbaijan Customs Services to combat drug-related challenges effectively. By sharing knowledge and expertise, the training further advances their joint efforts in maintaining the security and well-being of their communities.<https://rocb-europe.org/ru/eksperty-tsarikts-povyshayut-uroven-znaniy-v-oblasti-tamozhennogo-dela-v-azerbaydzhane>

<https://rocb-europe.org/ru/eksperty-tsarikts-povyshayut-uroven-znaniy-v-oblasti-tamozhennogo-dela-v-azerbaydzhane>



ROCB EUROPE AND CARICC STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN BAKU MEETING



In a significant stride towards enhancing regional cooperation, the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization Europe Region (ROCB Europe) and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC) convened in Baku, Azerbaijan, to bolster their collaborative efforts to contribute to enhancing the region's capabilities.

The meeting, held on September 06, 2022, saw the participation of Mr. Atageldi Yazlyyev, CARICC Director, leading the CARICC delegation, and Antonio Lo Parco, Director of ROCB Europe, heading the ROCB Europe delegation. The meeting provided an ideal platform for these two organizations to explore opportunities for strengthening cooperation and synergizing efforts in their common mission. The meeting in Baku marks a significant milestone in the partnership between ROCB Europe and CARICC.

During the bilateral meeting, both delegations discussed various avenues for collaboration, including the exchange of information, best practices, and technical expertise in the field of customs and narcotics control. Recognizing the pressing need to address regional priorities and challenges, the parties expressed their commitment to mutual support and cooperation.

Mr. Antonio Lo Parco, director of ROCB Europe, stated, «This collaboration with CARICC aligns with our mission to enhance the capacity of customs administrations in the Europe Region. Together, we will work towards a more secure and prosperous future for our region».

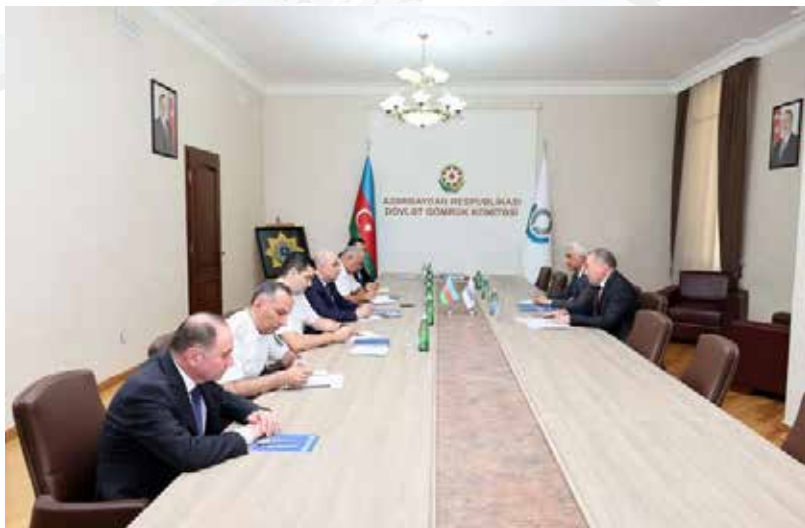
Mr. Atageldi Yazliyev, Director of CARICC, added, «The synergy between our organizations undoubtedly will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices to improve regional security. We look forward to a fruitful partnership».

The meeting in Baku demonstrates the commitment of ROCB Europe and CARICC to working collaboratively towards a safer and more secure environment in the region. As these initiatives take shape, the impact on regional security and cooperation is expected to be substantial.

<https://rocb-europe.org/ru/evropeyskiy-roir-i-tsarikts-ukreplyayut-sotrudnichestvo-vstreche-v-baku>



CARICC DIRECTOR WORKING MEETINGS IN BAKU



Working meetings of CARICC Director Mr. Atageldi Yazlyyev with heads of competent authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan were organized on 5-6 September 2023 in accordance with CARICC Main Events Plan.

Talks were organized with Mr. V. Eyvazov, Minister of Internal Affairs, and Mr. Sh. Bagirov, Chairman of the State Customs Committee. At the meeting parties exchanged views on development of drug situation in Azerbaijan and in CARICC Member States, outlined measures on stimulation of interaction on organization

of international counternarcotics measures, further coordination of matters related to organization of CARICC activities brought up before regular meeting of the Council of National Coordinators.

In addition, a meeting was held with leadership of the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) of the World Customs Organization Europe Region. CARICC presentation on its performance results, perspectives and plans for the future was delivered to staff members of ROCB and SCC of Azerbaijan during the event.

<https://caricc.org/index.php/en/publications/news/item/2244-caricc-director-working-meetings-in-baku>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



**SOCCER TOURNAMENT ORGANIZED BY POLICE OFFICERS
IN UST-KAMENOGORSK**



Department for Combating Drug Crime of DP VKO together with non-governmental organizations under the motto «Say no to drugs!» held a tournament on amateur soccer among backyard teams, reports Polisia.kz. According to organizers of the tournament, key place in the fight against drug addiction is prevention of drug addiction and promotion of a healthy lifestyle. For this purpose, staff of the UPN DP VKO often organize various events, including sports activities.

More than 40 players fought for the title of the best. Despite different ages of the tournament participants, soccer field was full of passion - no one wanted to lose. No team managed to possess the ball for a long time. The play of goalkeepers was especially appreciated by spectators. Especially we would like to mark participants of middle age, who ran on the field on a par with young players, thus showing them that at any age you can do sports and enjoy life. After all stages of the tournament, winners were awarded with certificates, medals, cups and valuable prizes from the Department for Combating Drug Crime.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/futbol-nyj-turnir-organizovali-politsejskie-v-ust-kamenogorske/>

COUNTERNARCOTICS CAMPAIGN «WE AGAINST DRUGS» WAS CARRIED OUT ON THE STREETS OF PAVLODAR



Modern approach to drug addiction prevention suggests that along with active education in various types of addictions, teaching safe behavior for health must promote a healthy way of life. Officers of departments on combating drug crime with the support of deputies of Pavlodar regional maslikhat, activists of the regional council on youth support, youth wing «Zhastar Rukhy» of the party «AMANAT», volunteers of the center for development of youth initiatives and bloggers in Pavlodar held an anti-drug action «We against drugs» with distribution

of leaflets and booklets on drug abuse prevention. Participants of the event called on residents and young people, based on an active life position, to take care of their health, lead a healthy lifestyle, learn to resist difficulties, and, if you find yourself in a difficult life situation, to use the helplines. They also handed out and distributed booklets containing information on what to do if your child takes drugs and how to deal with it. What actions should be taken if you witness illegal acts in the sphere of illicit trafficking of illegal substances? The booklets also provide information about the negative consequences of drug use and its impact on health. - Drug addiction is not a pleasure, but a deadly disease from which it is impossible to escape. It is important to remember that it is up to you whether your life will be happy and long or short, full of suffering and pain,» Rakhat Turlubai, Chairman of the Pavlodar Regional Youth Support Council, said.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/antinarkoticheskaya-aktsiya-my-protiv-narkotikov-proshla-na-ulitsah-pavlodara/>

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS PLANS TOTAL DRUG TESTING OF SCHOOLCHILDREN



The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan is discussing the possibility of regularly testing schoolchildren for drug use. The legislative framework is planned to be developed in 2024.

Bakhytzhан Amirkhanov, deputy head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, reported on plans to introduce drug screening for schoolchildren during a roundtable discussion at the SCS.

«Screening among schoolchildren is planned - detection of drugs in biological media. This item is included in the comprehensive plan to combat drug addiction and drug trafficking for 2023-2025, the deadline is the first half of 2024. It is necessary to elaborate the legislation, as we are talking about schoolchildren, this issue is sensitive. In 2012, the question of testing schoolchildren was raised, and many parents were against it. Now the majority of parents are in favor: many want to be tested, because otherwise it is impossible to track drug use,

especially since there is pharmacy drug addiction».

Bakhytzhan Amirkhanov

The MIA spokesman assured that there would be no forced examinations of schoolchildren.

«The examination will be carried out routinely - perhaps when a school student submits the whole package of documents, passes medical commission and takes tests. Before that, there will also be an assisted test with the participation of a psychologist. There will be a questionnaire for pupils, by which it will be possible to assume whether a person takes drugs. The legislative basis is being processed, it will be ready in 2024».

Bakhytzhan Amirkhanov

Bakhytzhan Amirkhanov pointed out that the issue of universal drug screening of schoolchildren is controversial, as it affects human rights and freedoms. Therefore, lawsuits related to the screening of schoolchildren cannot be ruled out.

Earlier, representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan shared his opinion about civil servants who use drugs.

<https://www.zakon.kz/sobytiia/6405744-totalno-obsledovat-shkolnikov-na-narkotiki-planiruet-mvd.html>

zakon.kz

BERIK ASYLOV INVITED COLLEAGUES FROM COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO) TO UNITE IN COUNTERING DRUG CRIME



During his visit to Baku, Prosecutor General Berik Asylov participated in the 4th meeting of Prosecutors General of the Member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The ECO hosted a discussion on the prospects for enhancing regional cooperation in combating human trafficking, drug trafficking, cybercrime and other contemporary challenges.

In his report Berik Asylov told about the work being done and measures

taken to counter drug crime. The Prosecutor General also invited the participants to join forces against this problem.

After the meeting, the head of the supervisory agency held a number of bilateral meetings with foreign colleagues, during which they discussed topical issues of mutual legal assistance, including those related to asset recovery.

<https://www.zakon.kz/press-relizy/6406996-berik-asylov-predlozhit-kollegam-iz-stran-oes-obedinitnya-dlya-borby-s-narkoprestupnostyu.html>



CSTO SUB-REGIONAL COUNTERNARCOTICS OPERATION «CHANNEL INTERCEPTION»



Sub-regional counternarcotics operation «Channel Interception» was carried out from 11 to 15 September on the territory of CSTO Member States. International Coordination Office to run the operation was stationed in Almaty at CARICC premises.

The operation was aimed at interdicting distribution channels for narcotics, their precursors and analogues, new psychoactive and potent substances, neutralizing international transnational drug groups, and dismantling clandestine drug production and disrupting economic foundations of drug business, including legalization of drug profits.

Coordinated actions during the operation resulted in the seizure of more than 897 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 61.5 kg of mephedrone, 2.8 kg of MDMA, 12.2 kg of α -PVP, 237 kg of marijuana, 301 kg of hashish, 2.5 kg of heroin, more than 1 kg of potent substances and more than 34 kg of precursors on the territory of CSTO Member States. 48 firearms and about 2 773 rounds of ammunition of various caliber were confiscated. 854 drug crimes were detected, 4 illegal drug laboratories were dismantled. Law enforcement officers and security services detained 399 persons for committing crimes related to drug trafficking, including 44 wanted persons. 444 Internet websites disseminating prohibited drug-related information were identified.

The International Coordination Office convened two round tables on countering synthetic drugs and laundering criminal drug proceeds. Best practices in this area were also shared.

Representatives of China, Iran, UNODC and CARICC also participated in the International Coordination Office as observers.

Moreover, the III International Specialized Training of Canine Services of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan was conducted as part of the operation «Channel Interception».

<https://caricc.org/index.php/en/publications/news/item/2248-csto-sub-regional-counternarcotics-operation-channel-interception>

«SPORT AGAINST DRUGS AND BULLYING»: SPORTS FESTIVAL HELD IN EKIBASTUZ



In the sports complex «Zhasybay» Ekibastuz held a sporting event «Festival of wrestling» under the motto «Sport against drugs and bullying», timed to coincide with the Family Day in Kazakhstan. The festival was held on freestyle wrestling and judo wrestling among boys and girls 14 years old and younger. 160 athletes from Ekibastuz and Bayanaul district took part. The main goals and objectives of the event were to promote a healthy lifestyle among children, to develop interest in physical education and sports, to form a negative

attitude to the use of drugs and alcohol, to develop and popularize judo and freestyle wrestling, to improve the individual skills of athletes. Before the start of the competition, the first deputy head of the Ekibastuz PD Tolegen Kudaibergenov said words of encouragement to the athletes, wished the participants worthy victories, demonstrate sportsmanship, team spirit, strength and will to win, and judges - objective judging. - Healthy lifestyle today is a requirement of the time. Быть здоровым модно и престижно. Such events contribute to the strengthening of friendly ties between the participants and between the teams they represent. Holding tournaments in freestyle wrestling and judo wrestling give an opportunity to realize their strength and strive for the same goal - a healthy lifestyle and victory. Many thanks to all the participants for the fair, persistent and spectacular fight that we saw today,» he said.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/sport-protiv-narkotikov-i-bullinga-sportivnyj-festival-proshel-v-ekibastuze/>



CADAP: REGIONAL DRUG THREATS AND CHALLENGES ARE BEING DISCUSSED IN ASTANA



On September 28-29 in Astana CADAP has hosted a regional dialogue on drug policy – a meeting attended by representatives of Central Asia drug control agencies, European institutions and expert organizations such as Spanish Government delegation for the National Plan on Drugs, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Intelligence Centre against

Terrorism and Organised Crime (CITCO), Spanish Ministry of Interior, European Union delegations in Central Asian countries, representatives of the civil society sector, international experts, international organisations and other regional partner programmes.

The objective of the dialogue was to foster a dynamic discussion among key stakeholders in Central Asia; to provide an overview of the drug situation in Central Asia; to discuss current situation in the field of drug policy, threats and challenges of drug policies in supply control to present the results of country assessments held

recently and provide key recommendations. As it was emphasized by Cosimo Lamberti, EU representative, “The regional component is very important for the European Union as it brings best possible drug harm reduction practices”.

Participants were overviewing the current situation and key issues, identifying and learning from European experience and country level good practice, and resetting the drug control system to focus on health and human rights. A separate session was dedicated to education of stakeholders as an effective tool for successful drug policy design and implementation.

The Regional Dialogue on Drug Policy is another important step forward to facilitate the broader consultation and cooperation between European institutions and Central Asian authorities.

According to Ernest Robello, CADAP 7 Director, this kind of cooperation is essential: “A balanced approach to the issue of drugs and drug policy can only be achieved if there is stronger cooperation. Strengthening the dialogue is imperative in order to formulate consistent and effective global responses to drug-related challenges”.

CADAP is the Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP). It is an initiative of the European Union to promote the development of effective drug demand reduction policies in Central Asian countries. It is currently in phase 7. In line with the EU Drug Strategy 2021-2025 and the Joint Communication on “The EU and Central Asia: New opportunities for a stronger partnership”, CADAP 7 reflects the continuity of the EU’s long-term commitment to partners from Central Asia to help further. strengthen their national drug demand reduction plans and continue to cooperate in the development of integrated and balanced drug policies.///EU CADAP, 29 September 2023.

<https://www.newscentralasia.net/2023/09/29/cadap-v-astane-obsudili-vyzovy-i-ugrozy-dlya-tsentralnoy-azii-v-sfere-narkotikov/>



ZHAMBYL POLICE OFFICERS HELD A LECTURE ON DRUGS FOR STUDENTS OF INSTITUTE

In pursuance of the Comprehensive Plan for 2023-2025, officers of the Drug Crime Prevention Directorate of the Zhambyl region police department on a regular basis conduct preventive activities with the participation of schoolchildren and students aimed at forming a sustainable anti-drug consciousness among adolescents and young people. Another such meeting was held at the Institute of Ustaz of Taraz Regional University named after M.H. Dulati. The event was organized jointly with the KSU «Youth Resource Center» of the Internal Policy Department of the Taraz Akimat. Police officers and students discussed measures to combat drug addiction, punishment for the sale and distribution of narcotic drugs, data and statistics on drug addiction problems. The participants of the meeting also watched anti-drug videos of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. - Every year new types of «aggressive» drugs appear on the black market. Mostly teenagers and young people are exposed to harmful habits, who instead of studying, career and family spend their lives searching for psychoactive substances and dealing with their consequences. There should not be indifferent in the fight against drug addiction, as it is a problem of the whole society and we should fight it together,» said Alim Bazhikbayev, Head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Department of Internal Affairs.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/lektsiyu-o-narkotikah-proveli-zhambylskie-politsejskie-dlya-studentov-instituta/>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**CNS AND BORDER SERVICE OFFICERS SEARCHED CARS FOR DRUGS AT THE BORDER WITH KAZAKHSTAN**

Officers of the Counter Narcotics Service (CNS) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with a sniffer dog and officers of the Border Guard Service inspected trucks and cars at the Chon-Kapka checkpoint on the border with Kazakhstan.

According to the press service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the search was conducted as part of operational and preventive measures to detect and suppress crimes related to the sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogs.

The officers inspected 30 vehicles with and without cargo, including 24 passenger cars with the use of a service dog. Drivers of heavy-duty vehicles were given explanatory talks on responsibility for illegal transportation of narcotic drugs.

<https://kg.akipress.org/news:1980717/?from=kgnews&place=maincats>

**MORE THAN 450 KILOGRAMS OF DRUGS BURNT IN A BISHKEK FURNACE**

More than 450 kilograms of drugs were burned in a furnace house in Bishkek. This is reported by the press service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

It is specified that the entire burning process was supervised by law enforcement officers and other experts.

«The drugs were seized during operational and investigative actions. They were to be destroyed by court order. More than 30 kilograms of heroin, 328 kilograms of drugs of the cannabis group, more than 2 kilograms of opium and about 90 kilograms of psychotropic substances were burned in the boiler room,» the agency said.

https://24.kg/obschestvo/274626_vkotelnoy_bishkeka_sojgli_bolee_450_kilogrammoy_narkotikov/



CIS CONFERENCE ON COUNTERING TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM HELD IN BISHKEK



On September 20, Kyrgyzstan hosted the first Commonwealth of Independent States conference on combating terrorism and extremism. The event was organized by Kyrgyzstan's State Committee for National Security (SCNS) and the Anti-Terrorist Centre (ATC) of the CIS member states.

Representatives of CIS countries, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, as well as representatives of the Secretariat and the Joint Staff of the Collective Security

Treaty Organization (CSTO) gathered in Bishkek.

At the opening of the conference, Kamchybek Tashiyev, SCNS Chairman, noted that Kyrgyzstan took an active part in creating a new platform aimed at sharing best practices and knowledge on countering modern challenges and threats.

“Terror has no nationality, race or age and brings universal destruction and chaos. Kyrgyzstan is actively fighting terrorism, but I believe that uniting with other countries will give a good impetus,” Mr Tashiyev said.

He added that Kyrgyzstan has developed a state programme to counter terrorism and extremism that provides an algorithm for joint action by both government agencies and society as a whole.

The conference resulted in the adoption of the final document, resulting from the continuing efforts to strengthen the counter-terrorism cooperation of international organizations (CSTO, CIS, SCO and others).

<https://paodkb.org/events/v-bishkeke-proshla-konferentsiya-sng-po-borbe>



HEAD OF CNS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC MET WITH MS. ASHITA MITTAL, UNODC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CENTRAL ASIA



Head of CNS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic held a meeting with Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia. During the bilateral meeting a number of topics related to implementation of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia for 2022-2025, as well as preparation and implementation of upcoming meetings of the Steering Committee of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia and the 56th Annual Session of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Trafficking of Illicit Substances in the Near and Middle East were discussed. Meetings are scheduled for November this year in Bishkek with participation of representatives of more than 50 countries.

In addition, at the initiative of the Service, representatives of the Criminalistics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic took part in the meeting to discuss issues of assistance in capacity building of expert laboratories, as well as conducting quality research on drugs and new psychoactive substances.

During the meeting Ms. Ashita Mittal mentioned high results achieved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in countering drug trafficking and expressed readiness to continue fruitful cooperation in all directions.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2396>



DEPUTY HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CARICC DIRECTOR DISCUSSED JOINT WORK ON COUNTERING DRUG CRIMES



Today, on 21 September, Major General of Police Nurbek Abdiev, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, met with Mr. Atageldi Yazlyev, Director of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC), at the building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The event was attended by heads and representatives of competent departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as Police Colonel Nurlan Niyazbekov, representative

of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic to CARICC.

During the meeting parties discussed further development of cooperation within CARICC, which is currently an effective mechanism for coordinating efforts of competent authorities of member states in combating transnational drug crime.

Joint implementation of a number of projects and promising programs was also considered, taking into account rapid adaptation of criminals to new realities.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2399>



CNS MET WITH HEADS OF ASSOCIATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL TRUCKING AND TRADE SECTORS, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR LOGISTICS COMPANIES



On 28 September 2023, CNS held a working meeting with the heads of associations in the international trucking and trade sectors, as well as representatives of major logistics companies.

The working meeting is aimed at strengthening cooperation, exchange of information and analysis of the operational situation in order to prevent, detect and suppress drug crimes committed with the use of large-size vehicles.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2420>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



STAVROPOL REGION PLANS TO DEVELOP AN APPLICATION TO COUNTER DRUG TRAFFICKING



The Ministry of Youth Policy of Stavropol region has been instructed to create a mobile application facilitating prompt informing of law enforcement agencies about drug distribution activities. Such an order was given by the head of the region Vladimir Vladimirov, the department of press service and information policy of the governor and government of the region reported.

«The Governor [Vladimir Vladimirov] instructed the Ministry of Youth Policy of the Krai to involve Stavropol IT specialists in the development of a mobile application that will allow citizens to promptly report incidents related to illicit drug trafficking, including places where advertisements

for narcotic drugs are placed. posted information about the sale of illegal substances.» - were said in the message from the meeting of the regional anti-drug commission.

The Government of Stavropol region stressed that various youth organizations, as well as sports, creative, military-patriotic and other associations, were actively involved in projects aimed at preventing drug abuse and promoting healthy lifestyles. They expressed particular concern about the growing number of children and adolescents exposed to drug-related activities and emphasized the importance of protecting them from such influence.

Stavropol region has a regional state program «Prevention of Delinquency and Ensuring Public Order», which supports initiatives to prevent alcohol and drug addiction, as well as rehabilitation and social adaptation.

https://www.pravda.ru/news/society/1890768-na_stavropole_planiruetsja_sozdat_prilozhenie_dlja_borby_s/

6

SURPRISE EFFECT: THE STATE DUMA PROPOSED TO TEST OFFICIALS AND DEPUTIES FOR DRUGS



State Duma deputy Sultan Khamzaev says that only the best of the best should work in the civil service. Civil servants and deputies of all levels in Russia simply need to be tested for drugs. State Duma deputy Sultan Khamzaev, the main fighter for sobriety, has made such a proposal. And this is not about suspicion, the leader of the Sober Russia movement explained. «The point is to have the best of the best working in the civil service. That's why it should be done necessarily once a quarter, selectively, according to the system, without warnings,» Khamzaev told the National

News Service. Stresses, active work cannot help but affect the psyche of deputies and officials, that's why special services should know whether a civil servant or parliamentarian is familiar with banned substances, whether he or she has a «craving» or disposition to them, the leader of the movement is convinced. Testing is required of everyone who applies for a civil service job. But even after being hired with clean tests, it is important for officials to be tested periodically. For this purpose, Khamzaev suggests taking artificial intelligence (AI) as «assistants». But no matter how the testing is conducted, it should be selective, and most importantly - sudden and unscheduled, the initiator emphasized. Increased stress and active work affect the psyche of deputies and officials, Khamzaev explained. Therefore, special services and law enforcement agencies need to know whether an official or deputy has «acquaintance» with drugs and whether he or she has a predisposition to use illegal substances or addiction. However, when asked directly if there are drug addicts among his colleagues, he avoided answering. He noted evasively that the tests would allow the state to start the fight against drugs starting «themselves». A few months ago, Khamzaev raised the issue of drug testing. He motivated his proposal by the fact that at a crucial time for Russia, civil servants are obliged to have a clear mind. Then he suggested that the list should also include those who are bearers of state secrets. In September, police caught Tatarstan State Council deputy Rustem Khasanov red-handed. The latter was picking up a «dead drop» with 1.88 grams of mephedrone. In 2021 in St. Petersburg, traffic police officers stopped a luxury car driven by Islam Khizriev, the head of Chechnya's representative office for the North-Western Federal District, in St. Petersburg. Traffic police were attracted by the driver's inappropriate behavior. As a result of the inspection they found narcotic stimulant.

Earlier, the former mayor of Volgograd Konstantin Kalachev proposed to make mandatory drug testing of all deputies of the State Duma. At the same time, he proposes to test them quarterly, reports «Bloknot Volgograd».

<https://bloknot.ru/obshhestvo/e-ffekt-vnezapnosti-v-gosdume-predlozhili-proveryat-chinovnikov-i-deputatov-na-narkotiki-1170170.html>



NOVOSIBIRSK STUDENTS WILL BE MASSIVELY TESTED FOR DRUGS



After testing, a special database will be created to store information about those students who are at risk of using illegal substances.

Starting 15 September, Novosibirsk students will be tested for drugs. And after that, a special database will be created with a list of «persons in need of psychological, pedagogical, medical and social assistance», as stated in documents published on the Novosibirsk Region government website.

The order of former Education Minister Serhiy Fedorchuk says that in order to prevent illegal consumption of drugs and psychotropic substances by university students, the Regional Center for Diagnostics and Counseling was instructed to organize social and psychological testing of students. It is planned to be held from 15 September to 1 November 2023.

The document also states that based on the results of the testing, a database will be compiled with the distribution of universities based on the ratio of the total number of students to the number of students at risk of drug use.

<https://ndn.info/novosti/294328-novosibirskih-studentov-nachnut-massovo-testirovat-na-narkotiki/>



REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

**GOVERNMENT OF TAJIKISTAN MEASURES TO COMBAT DRUG SMUGGLING PRESENTED IN JAMAICA.**

Mr. Habibullo Vokhidzoda, Director of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, took part in the 37th International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC XXXVII), which was held from 19 to 21 September in St. James (Jamaica). This was reported to NIAT «Khovar» by the Drug Control Agency.

The Director of the Agency spoke about the drug situation in the Republic of Tajikistan, the measures taken by the country's law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking, the problems of drug

smuggling from Afghanistan, threats and dangers, drew the attention of those present to the solution of smuggling issues and drug control problems.

The conference was attended by representatives of 138 countries, a number of international and regional organizations.

Also during the conference, the Director of the Agency met with responsible representatives of the Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States Department of Justice (DEA) and heads of delegations of counter-narcotics authorities of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar and South Korea.

During the meetings, they discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation by signing new documents and attracting financial and logistical assistance to increase the Agency's capacity and strengthen state border protection.

<https://casian.info/tj/security/na-yamayke-predstavleny-mery-pravitelstva-tadzhiki-64229.html>

**TAJIKISTAN CALLED FOR CONCENTRATED EFFORTS TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING FROM AFGHANISTAN**

It is necessary to maintain a permanent dialog on the problem of drug trafficking from Afghanistan. This was stated by Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Mukhriddin at the meeting of foreign ministers at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, asia24.media reported..

Mr. Mukhriddin noted that regional organizations such as the SCO play an important role in complementing UN efforts to counter threats.

Earlier, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon said that the security and stability of Central Asia directly depend on the situation in Afghanistan. The Tajik leader called the Afghan situation «the largest universal crisis in the world» and called on the world community to increase humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan. He emphasized that Tajikistan has created the necessary conditions to logistically support this initiative.

<https://yandex.kz/turbo/eadaily.com/s/ru/news/2023/09/22/tadzhikistan-prizval-skoncentrirovat-usiliya-na-borbe-s-narkotrafikom-iz-afganistana>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



UNODC STRENGTHENS CAPACITIES OF PORT CONTROL UNITS IN UZBEKISTAN AND TURKMENISTAN ON CARGO PRE-ARRIVAL DATA EXCHANGE



On 5-7 September 2023, the UNODC conducted a Joint onsite practical training on cargo pre-arrival data exchange at the Alat Customs post of Uzbekistan for nine Customs officers from among the members of Port Control Units (PCUs) deployed at the Customs posts Alat and Farap, Turkmenistan, as well as National Focal Points (NFPs) from Customs services of both countries and the National Information-Analytical Center on Drug Control of Uzbekistan.

At the training led by WCO experts the participants discussed the existing treaty frameworks between the two countries,

elaborated upon mechanisms of cargo pre-arrival data exchange between the two PCUs on high-risk cargo.

WCO trainers provided major highlights of the progress of the Passenger and Cargo Border Team's (PCBT/CCP) implementation in the region, followed by presentation on history and recent accomplishments made by countries under the PCBT/CCP Inter-Regional Network of Customs Authorities and Port Control Units (IREN).

They delivered to participants and discussed the ways and methods of further enhancing the PCUs' practical skills and knowledge on risk analysis, profiling and inspecting high-risk consignments, improving the expertise in cooperative work and information sharing in a real time within the framework of the IREN, as well as WCO practices related to the facilitation of the legitimate trade flows. The participants from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan delivered their presentations on the existing cooperation framework, mechanisms, and practices on cargo pre-arrival data exchange from their perspectives.

The progress in implementing the mutual Protocol on the exchange of cargo pre-arrival data signed between the Customs services of two countries in October 2021 was capitalized upon.

These were followed by summing up and outlining the further technical assistance by the Passenger and Cargo Border Team needed to successfully accomplish the pilot component on establishing the cargo pre-arrival data exchange mechanism between the two Customs posts..

<https://www.newscentralasia.net/2023/09/21/unp-oon-ukreplyayet-potentsial-grupp-portovogo-kontrolya-v-uzbekistane-i-turkmenistane-po-obmenu-dannymi-o-gruzakh-do-pribytiya/>



MEETING WITH CHIEF OF THE UNODC RESEARCH AND TREND ANALYSIS BRANCH



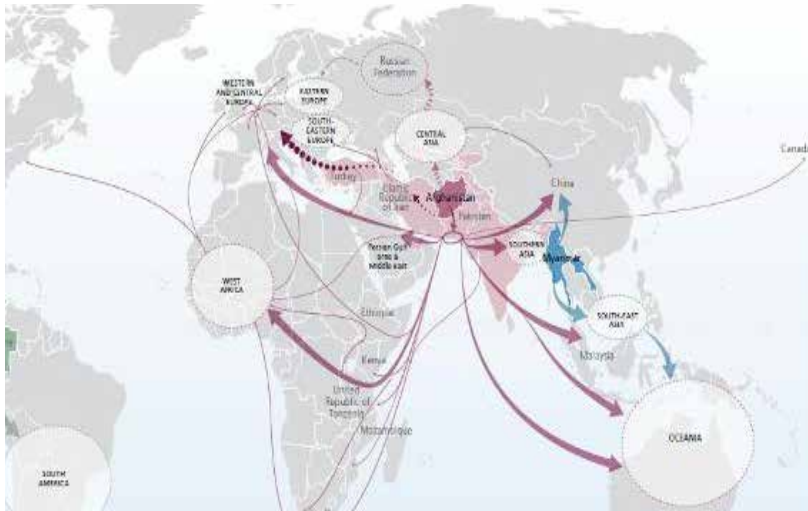
On 13 September 2023, Mr. S. Boydedaev, Director of NCDC, met with Ms. Angela Me, Chief of the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch.

The meeting was also attended by NCDC staff members, Ms. A. Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, and Ms. S. Flores, Head of the UNODC Information Centre for researching and analyzing transnational threats related to drugs and crime.

During the event, they discussed key aspects of strengthening Uzbekistan's cooperation with UNODC, status and prospects of cooperation in countering drug trafficking.

<https://ncdc.uz/news/bmt-boshqarmasining-tadqiqotlar-va-tahlillar-bolimi-boshligi-bilan-bolib-otgan-uchrashuv-togrisida>

AFGHANISTAN

interfax
AZƏRBAYCAN**AFGHAN DELEGATION DISCUSSED COMBATING DRUG TRAFFICKING WITH US, UK AND UN REPRESENTATIVES**

A delegation of Afghanistan-ruling Taliban (a terrorist organization) discussed combating drug trafficking in the Qatari capital Doha with representatives of the United States, Britain and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Afghan TV channel TOLO news reported on Thursday.

Suheil Shaheen, head of the Taliban's political office in Doha, cited by the TV channel, said «the three separate meetings were constructive».

«Our team presented facts and figures

showing the unprecedented progress made by the Islamic Emirate (that's what the Taliban call Afghanistan - IF) in the fight against opium poppy cultivation, drug trafficking and drug treatment».

Shaheen also emphasized that the Taliban government welcomes visits by UN monitoring teams and other representatives of the international community to areas of Afghanistan where opium poppy crops have been eradicated».

According to the group's spokesperson, «there is an urgent need for alternative livelihood projects for Afghan farmers whose opium plantations have been eradicated».

U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Afghanistan Karen Dicker said after meeting with the Afghan delegation, they discussed alternative livelihoods for Afghan farmers, as well as ways to eradicate the drug trade and treat drug addicts in Afghanistan.

Data collected by UNODC over the past year shows that opiate trafficking has not been interrupted since the Taliban came to power in August 2021. Afghan illicit supply provides opiates for about 80% of the world's opiate users.

In April 2022, the new Government of the country strictly prohibited all cultivation of opium poppy and all plants from which narcotic drugs are derived. However, as the Office clarified, the previous year's harvest was largely exempt from that decree.

According to UNODC findings, the area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2022 increased by 32% compared to the previous year.

Meanwhile, Afghan farmers' income from opium poppy sales more than tripled from \$425 million in 2021 to \$1.4 billion in 2022.

<https://interfax.az/view/900293>

AFGHANISTAN IS THE FASTEST GROWING PRODUCER OF METHAMPHETAMINE, UN DRUG AGENCY SAYS



AP: Afghanistan is the world's fastest-growing maker of methamphetamine, a report from the United Nations drug agency said Sunday. The country is also a major opium producer and heroin source, even though the Taliban declared a war on narcotics after they returned to power in August 2021.

The United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crimes, which published the report, said meth in Afghanistan is mostly made from legally available substances or extracted from the ephedra plant, which grows in the wild.

The report called Afghanistan's meth

manufacturing a growing threat to national and regional health and security because it could disrupt the synthetic drug market and fuel addiction. It said seizures of meth suspected to have come from Afghanistan have been reported from the European Union and east Africa.

Annual meth seizure totals from inside the country rose from less than 100 kilograms (220 pounds) in 2019 to nearly 2,700 kilograms (6,000 pounds) in 2021, suggesting increased production, the report said. But it couldn't give a value for the country's meth supply, the quantities being produced, nor its domestic usage, because it doesn't have the data.

Angela Me, the chief of the UNODC's Research and Trend Analysis Branch, told The Associated Press that making meth, especially in Afghanistan, had several advantages over heroin or cocaine production.

"You don't need to wait for something to grow," said Me. «You don't need land. You just need the cooks and the know-how. Meth labs are mobile, they're hidden. Afghanistan also has the ephedra plant, which is not found in the biggest meth-producing countries: Myanmar and Mexico. It's legal in Afghanistan and it grows everywhere. But you need a lot of it".

Me said it was too early to assess what impact the Taliban's drug crackdown has had on meth supplies.

A spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, Abdul Mateen Qani, told the AP that the Taliban-run government has prohibited the cultivation, production, sale and use of all intoxicants and narcotics in Afghanistan.

He said authorities have destroyed 644 factories and around 12,000 acres of land where prohibited narcotics were cultivated, processed or produced. There have been more than 5,000 raids in which 6,000 people have been arrested.

"We cannot claim 100% that it is finished because people can still do these activities in secret. It is not possible to bring it to zero in such a short time," said Qani. «But we have a four-year strategic plan that narcotics in general and meth in particular will be finished".

A U.N. report published in November said that opium cultivation since the Taliban takeover increased by 32% over the previous year, and that opium prices rose following authorities' announcement of a cultivation ban in April 2022. Farmers' income from opium sales tripled from \$425 million in 2021 to \$1.4 billion in 2022.

The 2022 report also said that the illicit drug market thrived as Afghanistan's economy sharply contracted, making people open to illegal cultivation and trafficking for their survival.

Afghans are dealing with drought, severe economic hardship and the continued consequences of decades of war and natural disasters.

The downturn, along with the halt of international financing that propped up the economy of the former Western-backed government, is driving people into poverty, hunger, and addiction.

An Afghan health official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said around 20,000 people are in hospitals for drug addiction, mostly to crystal meth. Of these patients, 350 are women. He said children are also being treated, but did not give the number nor their ages.

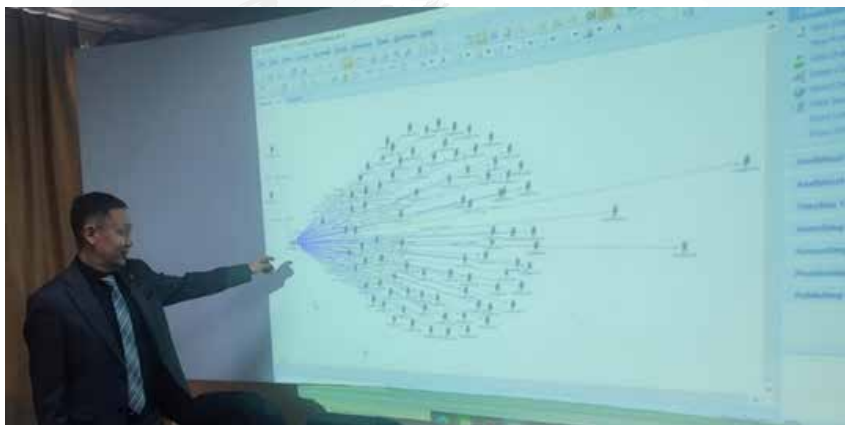
<https://www.turan.az/ext/news/2023/9/free/Worldwide/ru/8455.htm>



MONGOLIA



TRAINING COURSE ON SOFTWARE FOR INFORMATION ANALYSIS



On 26-30 September 2023 CARICC instructors conducted a training course for Mongolian law enforcement officers on specialized software for information analysis at the Academy of the General Intelligence Agency of Mongolia.

During the training participants studied application of separate functions of the specialized software «i2», and implementation of this system in information-analytical field of collection, analysis and preparation of tabular data

for making reports and statements.

Participants assessed that the training corresponded to their functional responsibilities and proved to be highly valuable in daily business of law enforcement officers.

The workshop was organized and delivered with the support of the General Intelligence Agency of Mongolia.

<https://caricc.org/index.php/novosti/item/2258-uchebnyj-kurs-po-ispolzovaniyu-programm-dlya-analiza-informatsii>



Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination
Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs,
psychotropic substances and their precursors

Republic of Kazakhstan, 050008, Almaty, Abay Avenue, 52
tel.: +7 727 259 99 90
fax: +7 727 392 15 54
registry@caricc.org www.caricc.org