

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

12-18.08.2019

№ 33

CARICC MEMBER STATES

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

16.08.2019 Officers of SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in a car abandoned at the Bishkek-Manas road found a bag of **680 grams of cannabis**, and then during further measures in the village of Dachi Su of Sokuluk district found an illegal cannabis plantation. The owner of the plantation, a Kyrgyz citizen, planted and illegally cultivated cannabis plants. Approximately **8 tons 900 kg of cultivated cannabis** were obtained and seized from the illicit plantation. The suspect was arrested. In addition, bags with **1.1 kg of cannabis**, as well as 6 plastic containers with a capacity of 5 litres each, in which another **23.8 kg of cannabis** were packed, were seized during vehicle and residential searches of the suspect. This fact is registered in the ERPP and pre-trial proceedings are ongoing. <http://www.news-asia.ru/view/ks/accidents/12723>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

15.08.2019 Officers of drug control unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in the Takhtamukai district of the Republic of Adygeya detained an 18-year-old resident of Krasnodar suspected of drug trafficking. At the time of the arrest, a bag of **amphetamine weighing more than 180 g** were found. In the course of the search of the detainee's place of residence, 40 packages of amphetamine packed in single doses were seized that were prepared for sale through caches, and their coordinates were subsequently forwarded to buyers via the Internet. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17939009>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

12.08.2019 In Bayaut district of Syrdarya region, as a result of the large-scale measure "Black Poppy-2019", 42-year-old resident of the mahalla "Anorzor", who grew 12 bushes of drug-containing hemp plants in his home on an area of 10 square meters, was detained red-handed by police officers, and **1.85 kg of marijuana** was also seized. A criminal case has been initiated and investigation is under way. <https://www.mvd.uz/ru/lists/view/7291>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BULGARIA

27.07.2019 Customs officers at the Captain Andreevo border crossing point seized **17,356 kg of heroin** as a 44-year-old British citizen of Iraqi origin was carrying it in his car. The vehicle was selected for customs inspection, during which customs officials found a refrigerator bag with a double-bottomed base containing 17 bags wrapped in copier paper

and transparent polyethylene. The Khaskiv District Prosecutor's Office initiated pre-trial proceedings. In the course of the investigation an accomplice was identified - a 37-year-old Iranian citizen with permanent residence status in Germany, who had been recognized as the organizer of the crime. The recipient of the drug consignment was arrested on 29 July 2019 in Haskovo. Both detainees were charged. Heroin was destined for sale in Western Europe. <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2019/08/01/440990/over-17-kg-of-heroin-worth-bgn-1130000-detained-by-customs-officers-at-kapitan-andreevo.html>

17.08.2019 Police officers at Port Burgas inspected a commercial vessel carrying 400 tons of bananas from Ecuador and seized about **75 kg of cocaine**. The drug, estimated to cost about 2.5 million euros (\$2.8 million), was accidentally found by warehouse workers while they were distributing fruit for sale in various shops in the Balkans. The vessel, before arriving at the port of Burgas on the Black Sea, had a stopover in Italy before arriving in Bulgaria. The drug was disguised among fruits wrapped in metal sheets so that it would not be detected during X-ray examination. <https://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20190817/464123485958/hallados-en-bulgaria-75-kilos-de-cocaina-en-cargamento-de-bananos-de-ecuador.html>

BRAZIL

16.08.2019. Customs officers at the port of Petz, Seara, discovered and seized **330 kg of cocaine** during an IRS inspection in a container carrying a consignment of honey. The shipment was estimated at \$49 million and was destined for Belgium. The drug was detected after information exchange between U.S. Customs and Brazil. The drugs were in ten backpacks found by police near cargo terminal. The honey exporter, Piau , has nothing to do with the illegal cargo. The drugs seized were handed over to the Federal Police. <https://g1.globo.com/ce/ceara/noticia/2019/08/16/mais-de-300-kg-de-cocaina-com-destino-a-europa-sao-apreendidos-no-ceara.ghtml>

GREECE

17.08.2019 Police officers on the Malgar toll road on the Athens-Salonika highway detained a 31-year-old man and his 29-year-old wife, who were carrying **5.581 kg of heroin** in a car. The police found and confiscated 11 packages containing heroin, two mobile phones and cash obtained through drug trade. The suspects were handed over to the Prosecutor's Office. <https://www.thenationalherald.com/257324/over-5-5kg-of-heroin-found-hidden-in-car-two-arrests/>

IRAN

17.08.2019 Anti-narcotics police officers discovered and seized **189 kg of opium** destined for Tehran during an operation in Yazd province. One smuggler was arrested and handed over to judicial officials. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/148960/Police-seize-189kg-of-drugs-in-Yazd>

COSTA RICA

13.08.2019 In the port of Moine, Limon Province (Caribbean Sea), **504 kg of cocaine** were found and seized in a container from Colombia, the final destination of which was Italy, during a container inspection conducted by the Ministry of Security's Drug Control

Police (PCD) following information exchange with the Colombian national fleet. The container was transporting plastic crates as legitimate goods, but during the inspection the authorities found 20 sport bags containing cocaine in the container.

<https://www.maritimeherald.com/2019/costa-rica-finds-504-kilos-of-cocaine-in-a-container-from-colombia/>

MOROCCO

12.08.2019 Moroccan security services on Sidi Rahal beach, 123 km south of Rabat in Berrechid province, confiscated **3 tons of cocaine**. The police opened an investigation to clarify the case. The origin and destination of the cocaine were not reported. A week earlier, 37 packs of cocaine had been found on the beach between the towns of Salé and Mehdiyah near Rabat.

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2019/08/280427/police-seize-3-tons-of-cocaine-on-moroccan-beach/>

MEXICO

13.08.2019 A vehicle carrying **7,600 fentanyl tablets** was stopped on a dirt road near a military security post in El Sentinela in the municipality of Tecate as a result of patrols by the Mexican Army. The vehicle was passing through an area where the military found **458 kg of crystal methamphetamine, 5 kg of heroin and 169 g of marijuana seeds**. The driver was arrested and handed over to the Prosecutor General's Office for legal evaluation.

<http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2019/08/tecate-bc-military-secures-shipment-of.html>

THE NETHERLANDS

16.08.2019 Police found and confiscated **72 kg of cocaine** at a warehouse in Hogerheide. Three suspected Dutch nationals aged 45, 52 and 54 years were arrested near the warehouse. A 57-year-old truck driver was arrested on a highway near Barendrecht in connection with cocaine shipment to a warehouse in Hogerheide. The truck was detained for investigation.

<https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2019/augustus/16/11-vier-aanhoudingen-na-vondst-72-kilo-cocaine.html>

UAE

17.08.2019 Customs officials stopped an attempt to smuggle **251 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 6.4 kg of heroin**, with a total market value of 25 million dirhams, concealed in vehicle spare parts. The drugs were found at the Jebel Ali customs centre in Dubai Emirate using the "Smart Risk Engine" system.

<https://www.thenational.ae/uae/courts/dh25-million-worth-of-heroin-and-meth-seized-at-dubai-port-1.899224>

PANAMA

16.08.2019 Drug Prosecutor's Office in the port of Balboa, located in the Ancona area, found a 20-foot container with a black briefcase with 99 rectangular packages inside containing about **99 kg of cocaine**. The export container was of Panamanian origin and was destined for Guatemala. Investigation has been launched into the case.

<http://ministeriopublico.gob.pa/decomisan-99-paquetes-de-cocaina-en-contenedor/>

USA

14.08.2019 Officers from the Providence Police Department, Rhode Island during an ongoing investigation after a search in a house on Sisson Street seized **1 kg of cocaine and heroin, 2 kg of fentanyl and 2,000 tablets of oxycontin**. Three people were arrested. <https://turnto10.com/news/local/providence-police-makes-million-dollar-drug-bust>

15.08.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in conjunction with the Field Operations Office and officers of Nogales Port, Tucson, Arizona, discovered and seized **71.67 kg of methamphetamine** concealed inside a vehicle attempting to enter the U.S. CBP officers at the crossroads of Dennis DeConcini detained a 57-year-old woman from Tucson who was carrying nearly 160 packages of methamphetamine in her car. Estimated value of the consignment is more than \$142,000.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/nogales-cbp-officers-seize-142k-methamphetamine>

TURKEY

16.08.2019 Anti-narcotics police officers seized more than **111.8 kg of heroin** as a result of a special operation against drug trafficking in the Ipekyolu district of eastern province of Van. Heroin in 220 packages was kept in three bags and transported in a car. The driver was arrested on suspicion of smuggling drugs. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/over-100-kg-of-heroin-seized-in-eastern-turkey/1557676>

FRANCE

14.08.2019 Customs agents in the Normandy port of Le Havre discovered more than **1 ton of cocaine** hidden in 15 bags inside a container from Ecuador. The shipment was en route to France through the Belgian port of Antwerp. The value of the seized shipment was estimated at more than 74 million euros (\$82.4 million).

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/article234004602.html>