

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

10.02-16.02.2020

№ 7

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

13.02.2020 Police officers of Sabunchu district detained a 33-year-old resident of Baku and seized **200 g of heroin** and **50 g of methamphetamine** during a search. Investigation on this fact is under way. <https://media.az/society/1067764883/u-zhitelya-baku-izyaty-narkotiki/>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

06.02.2020 Police officers in the Issyk-Kul region searched a barn and basement of a 46-year-old resident of the village of Darkhan and seized **10.3 kg of marijuana** and **3 g of hashish**. The fact was registered in the Unified Register of Crimes and Misdemeanours. By decision of the district court the suspect was placed under house arrest.

<https://ru.sputnik.kg/incidents/20200206/1046984735/kyrgyzstan-issyk-kul-narkotik-marihuana.html>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

11.02.2020 An investigator of the GSU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Kemerovo region has completed the investigation of a criminal case against a 48-year-old resident of Novokuznetsk for illegal acquisition, possession and transportation of narcotic drugs. In June 2019, officers of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) in Kemerovo Region detained a female drug courier who was transporting more than **2 kg of heroin** in a car from Kemerovo to Novokuznetsk. The criminal case has been sent to court for consideration. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19521554>

11.02.2020 Officers of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Saratov region revealed three online shops selling drugs by contactless way in Saratov and Engels cities. Two citizens of neighboring countries were detained on suspicion of organizing illegal business in Saratov. 168.38 grams of heroin were found during a search of the suspects' apartment. In addition, police officers detained two more suspects, at whose house they found and seized 232.98 grams of heroin. In Engels, two additional citizens of neighboring countries who illegally stored at least 154.12 grams of heroin at their place of residence were stopped. The total weight of the seized **heroin amounted to 555.48 g**. Three criminal cases have been initiated on these facts. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19524734>

12.02.2020 Employees of UNK department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Moscow region detained a 25-year-old resident of the Republic of Tatarstan on suspicion of selling narcotic drugs, who had **400 g of methylephedrone** during a personal search. A criminal case has been initiated in this connection. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19527969>

12.02.2020 Employees of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Krasnodar found and seized approximately **1 kg of N-methylephedron**, prepared for sale, as a result of an inspection of the Renault car. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19531013>

13.02.2020 Employees of UKON Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Udmurt Republic detained two Izhevsk residents born in 1993 on the territory of a garden massive in Votkinsk district, who equipped a laboratory in a garden house to produce prohibited substances and subsequently sold them via the Internet. They seized **554 g of mephedrone**, as well as devices and reagents for the production of drugs. A criminal case has been instituted in this connection. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19537871>

13.02.2020 The investigation part of an investigation into organized criminal activity by the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Sakhalin Region has completed a number of criminal cases against a group of persons engaged in selling drugs of synthetic origin. Three defendants are charged with legalizing money illegally obtained from drug trafficking. One of them received a consignment of drugs for "sale," while the other two were engaged in packing, distributing them into caches and further selling them. To disguise profits from illegal activities, drug dealers received payment from coordinators in cryptocurrency. Then, in order to legalize proceeds of illegal activities, they made a number of financial transactions in which they converted virtual currency into fiat money and withdrew it to bank cards under the guise of routine transfers. In this way, the defendants managed to extract income from illegal activities for a total amount of about 1.5 million rubles. While carrying out an operation to apprehend the perpetrators, the police found drugs in apartments and caches that were prepared for sale. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19545187>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELGIUM

06.02.2020 In the port of Antwerp, customs investigation services found **432.6 kg of cocaine** in a canned tuna container. The container had arrived from Ecuador. Investigation into the origin and recipient of the consignment is ongoing until someone is arrested. Smuggling methods and amounts suggest that the plan was to extract drugs from container within the port area. <https://www.demorgen.be/nieuws/432-kilo-cocaine-gevonden-in-container-met-tonijn-in-antwerpse-haven~b5197448/?referer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fhttps://news.belgium.be/nl/inbeslagname-cocaine>

BRAZIL

14.02.2020 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs seized **1,113 kg of cocaine** in a joint operation with the Federal Police (PF) in the port of Santos. Seizures were made in two different export operations. In the first case, 478 kg of cocaine were found in a container loaded with wood destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium; in the second case, 635 kg of cocaine were found in a container carrying graphite bound for the port of Rotterdam, Netherlands. Containers were selected for inspection using objective risk analysis criteria, including non-intrusive inspection of by scanner.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2020/fevereiro/receita-federal-e-pf-apreendem-mais-de-uma-tonelada-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos>

DENMARK

15.02.2020 Danish police arrested 27 people on suspicion of drug smuggling after discovering about **100 kg of cocaine** on a cargo ship registered in the Bahamas - container ship "DUNCAN ISLAND". (IMO 9059638, DWT 14140, built 1993) sailing in Danish waters. The container ship left Ecuador on 27 January and arrived in Helsingborg on 14 February. As a result of an internationally coordinated operation, a consignment of cocaine was intercepted in a container ship from Langeland during a drug transfer to a small boat. Three persons who were to pick up the cargo from the ship were arrested. The ship was ordered to be sent to an unnamed port, where the entire crew was arrested and interrogated. Foreign nationals are charged with serious drug offences under Danish law and can be sentenced to up to 16 years imprisonment. This includes the international crew of the vessel with nationals of Ecuador, Russia, Latvia and the Philippines, who are in detention pending further investigation. Investigations were conducted by a special investigation unit within the Copenhagen police force. The ship was en route from Helsingborg (Sweden) to St. Petersburg (Russian Federation). Cocaine is estimated to cost Dkr 350 million (\$50 million).
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/denmark-arrests-27-people-suspected-172010294.html>
<https://www.maritimebulletin.net/2020/02/15/reefer-carrying-drugs-arrested-with-all-hands-in-danish-waters-while-en-route-to-russia/>

IRAN

14.02.2020 Between 7 and 14 February 2020, the Iranian Narcotics Police seized **39 kg of heroin, 9 tons and 419 kg of opium, 363 kg of methamphetamine, 1 ton and 65 kg of hashish and 41 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**¹.

SPAIN

07.02.2020 Civil Guard officers seized two vehicles that were moving large amounts of hashish from Ceuta to Algeciras by ferry. Monitoring teams that inspect vehicles travelling on ferries to their destination in Algeciras have identified a drug cache in double bottom of a Mercedes van. After the double-bottoms were dismantled, **62.15 kg of hashish** were recovered. The driver, who had a residence permit in Spain, was detained. Similarly, the same units identified a Citroën C-4 vehicle with a drug cache in the floor, where **22.8 kg of hashish** were hidden. The driver, a Spanish citizen from the province of Alicante, was arrested.
<https://elfarodeceuta.es/dos-detenedos-embarcar-85-kilos-hachis/>
<https://www.ceutaactualidad.com/articulo/sucesos-tribunales/detenedos-intentar-embarcar-85-kilos/20200207172743098261.html>

COSTA RICA

16.02.2020 The Costa Rican police made the largest cocaine seizure in the country's history, finding and confiscating more than **5 tons of cocaine**. The drugs were concealed in a flower consignment destined for the Netherlands. One suspected drug smuggler, a 46-

¹ Information provided by liaison officer of the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

year-old Costa Rican national, has been arrested. Central America is one of the main routes used by drug cartels to transport cocaine from South America to the United States and Europe. An inspection of a suspected shipping container revealed 202 black bags containing a total of **5,048 packets of cocaine**, each weighing approximately 1 kg.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-51520615>

MOROCCO

15.02.2020 Police at Mohammed V airport in Casablanca arrested six Ivorians from Côte d'Ivoire in an attempt to smuggle a total of 795 **cocaine** capsules in their stomachs, **totalling 4.75 kg**. Drug couriers aged 27 to 43 were preparing to take off at Tunis Carthage Airport. The police are conducting an investigation to identify other persons involved in the crime, with a view to identifying possible links with international drug trafficking networks outside Morocco.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/16/c_138787275.htm

MYANMAR

10.02.2020 The Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) reported that a combined police force in Kyauxe Township in the Mandalay region had confiscated **22 kg of heroin and 549,000 tablets of stimulants**. Heroin worth 1.54 billion kyat (US \$1.02 million) and stimulants worth 2.74 billion kyat (US \$1.83 million) were found in a parked car. Police have filed a lawsuit to detain a suspect who was absent at the scene.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/12/c_138777070.htm

16.02.2020 The Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) reported that a joint police force in Indo Township in the Sagain region had confiscated **6.6 kg of heroin and 89,300 tablets of stimulants**. Heroin worth 660 million kyat (440 thousand USD) and stimulants worth 446.5 million kyat (297.6 thousand USD).

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2020/02/16/66kg-of-heroin-stimulants-seized-in-northern-myanmar>

THE NETHERLANDS

07.02.2020 Customs inspected a container of bananas from Ecuador at the port of Rotterdam and found about **1 ton of cocaine**. The cargo arrived at the port on a seagoing vessel from Costa Rica. Bananas were destined for a company in Portugal that was not involved in smuggling. The investigation is being carried out by the HARC team - Customs, FIOD, Seaport Police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. The cocaine shipment seized was destroyed. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuwsberichten/@107771/douane-vindt-1000/>

15.02.2020 Customs seized **500 kg of cocaine** during an inspection in the port of Rotterdam. The drugs were hidden between mangoes in a container from Brazil. The investigation is being carried out by the HARC team - Customs, FIOD, the seaport police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. Seized cocaine shipment was destroyed.

<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuwsberichten/@107806/douane-onderschept/>

15.02.2020 Police arrested five people aged 28 to 49 suspected of involvement in drug smuggling after they found **270 kg of cocaine** in a container of scrap metal in the port of

Rotterdam. The seized cocaine shipment has been destroyed. The investigation is led by the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. <https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2020/februari/15/07-vijf-aanhoudingen-voor-drugs-in-container.html>

PAKISTAN

10.02.2020 The Pakistan Coast Guard (PCG) seized **82 kg of heroin** on the Turbat Road near Guadara, Balochistan. The seizure was made by special mobile teams of PCG. After seeing the patrol, traffickers managed to escape, taking advantage of the fog and darkness in mountainous area. Subsequently, the PCG patrol found a cache of 82 kg of heroin in the desert mountainous terrain. This hidden shipment of heroin was planned to be taken abroad by boat in the coming days. Investigation and legal proceedings are under way. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/pakistan-coast-guards-seizes-82-kg-heroin-834699.html>

11.02.2020 Anti-Narcotics Force Pakistan (ANF) has intercepted an attempt to smuggle **45 kg of heroin and 35 kg of cocaine** worth Rs 1 billion in a cargo container across Pakistan. The seizure was made at a port terminal in South Asia in a container intended for shipment to the Netherlands. <https://dailyfrontierstar.com/%ef%bb%bfanf-busts-attempt-to-smuggle-1-billion-worth-of-drugs-through-pakistan-3/>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=23&v=z-n39cS8_Pl&feature=emb_logo
<https://gujrat.news/Çy-Çsä-Çÿ-ÿ-ÑÇ-ÿ æÑŠ- Ñ-Èšÿ-ÇÑÑæÇÆÿ/>

TURKEY

11.02.2020 Customs authorities seized **2.07 tons of cannabis** at the Kapikule border crossing, located on the border between Turkey and Bulgaria. When checking a truck travelling from Georgia to Italy, customs officers X-rayed the vehicle whose driver claimed to be carrying fertilizer. Drugs were found inside the truck in 213 bags among the fertilizers. The shipment is estimated to cost 124.2 million lire. The foreign driver of the truck, whose name and citizenship are not disclosed, has been arrested. Similarly, customs officers at the Ipsala border crossing point on the Turkish-Hellenic border found **306 kg of cannabis** in a secret compartment inside a truck. <https://www.dailysabah.com/investigations/2020/02/11/record-haul-of-drugs-captured-at-turkish-bulgarian-border>

FRANCE

14.02.2020 Customs officials at the port of St. Maarten in Guadeloupe discovered and confiscated **2.4 tons of marijuana**. Customs officers conducted a general inspection of several containers that were unloaded from a container ship that had arrived on St. Maarten from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Inside one container were 240 cardboard boxes of compressed marijuana packages. The confiscated shipment of drugs was destroyed after forensic analysis and weighing. Investigation is under way. <https://thedailyherald.sx/islands/update-more-than-two-tonnes-of-marijuana-seized-at-port>

ECUADOR

09.02.2020 Counter-narcotics agents from the Port and Airport Research Unit (UIPA) and the Regional Training Centre for Dogs (CRAC) discovered about **3 tons and 244 kg of cocaine** during a special operation called "Port Tsunami" at a container terminal in the Guayaquil seaport, inside four containers of canned tuna. The cargo was destined for



Belgium, France, Hamburg (Germany) and Poland. <https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/en-cuatro-contenedores-agentes-del-uipa-y-crac-hallan-3-244-bloques-de-cocaina/>

16.02.2020 Agents from the Ports and Airports Research Unit (UIPA) and the Regional Training Center for Dogs (CRAC) off the coast of the Canton of Playas, where the quarantine ship "CMA CGM Mekong" which was transiting from the port of Guayaquil through the port of Manzanillo, Mexico, to its final destination in South Korea, found three bags at the door inside a container. The bags contained 100 packs of **cocaine hydrochloride weighing 113 kg** in total. The container had damaged seals. <https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/operacion-antinarcoticos-tamesis-desarrollada-en-alta-mar-deja-la-incautacion-de-113-000/>