

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

23-29.03.2020

№ 13

CARICC MEMBER STATES

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

23.03.2020 Officers of the Sochi traffic police of the Krasnodar region stopped a car driven by a 25-year-old resident of St. Petersburg at Magri station. More than **3.5 kg of synthetic drugs, including about 1.5 kg of mephedrone, 1.5 kg of amphetamine and more than 580 g of methadone (phenadone, dolophin)** were found in the driver's backpack during a personal search. A criminal case has been initiated in this regard. A preventive measure in the form of detention has been chosen in respect of the defendant.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19829273>

23.03.2020 Employees of UFSB of Russia for the Republic of Dagestan, regional FSB, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Russian FSB border department detained a native of Azerbaijan who tried to bring **5 kg of opium** to Russia in his VAZ-2110. Drugs were found during inspection of the car. The man was detained, drug was seized, a criminal case was launched on smuggling of narcotic drugs.

<http://derbentportal.ru/content/novosti/na-rossiysko-azerbaydjanskoy-granitse-zaderjali-perevozchika-narkotikov~149634>

24.03.2020 During service, inspectors of the Don Separate Battalion of the DPS Inspection Department No. 1 of the GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in the Rostov region stopped an Opel Astra car driven by a 46-year-old resident of the Moscow region at 1,085 km of the M-4 "Don" motorway. As a result of inspection of the vehicle **2 kg of methylephedron** were found under the rear seat. The drug courier was taken to the Russian Bataisk city police department for further investigation. The detainee was storing drug for further sale via caches. A criminal case has been initiated. A preventive measure in the form of detention has been taken against him. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19835557>

24.03.2020 Employees of UNK of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Vladimir region detained three gypsy people suspected of selling narcotic drugs in Moscow and Vladimir region. The detainees were residents of Pskov region, aged 31 to 41 years. During an inspection of the vehicle in which the suspects were travelling, **297.81 grams of methadone** were found and seized. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. Channels for acquisition of illegal substances are being identified and persons concerned are being checked for their involvement in earlier crimes related to drug trafficking. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19836064>

25.03.2020 In Birobidzhan, the police detained three members of an organized criminal group engaged in heroin trafficking in the Jewish Autonomous Region. More than **400 grams of heroin** were seized. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. A preventive measure in the form of remand in custody was taken against the suspects. Investigation of the criminal case is under way. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19849973>

25.03.2020 Employees of GUT MVD of Russia and UT MVD of Russia in CFO stopped an ethnic group whose members are suspected of supplying heroin to Russian territory for further sale. Three foreign nationals were detained in Moscow region, one of whom was the organizer of large amounts of heroin shipments to the Russian Federation, the other acting as a courier and carrying drugs by rail to Yaroslavl, Volgograd and Kaluga regions. Their accomplice provided storage and packaging of heroin. During a personal search of the detainees, as well as in a specially equipped cache, more than **12.5 kg of heroin** were found in packages with stamps indicating its Afghan origin. A criminal case has been initiated. A preventive measure in the form of detention has been taken against the detainees. Preliminary investigation is ongoing. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19850622>

26.03.2020 Police officers of OMVD of Russia in the Lobnya district of the Moscow region stopped a car driven by a 41-year-old resident of Moscow on Sheremetyevo highway. The car was inspected and **497 grams of heroin** were found. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. The court selected a preventive measure in the form of remand in custody. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19858924>

26.03.2020 Employees of DPS GIBDD of the Tyumen region Interior Ministry Department stopped a car driven by a resident of the Tomsk region on the federal highway "Tyumen-Omsk". While inspecting the car, a suitcase containing over **42 kg of hashish and 200 g of methamphetamine** were found in the trunk. The driver explained that he had received the suitcase from an unknown person and on his assignment he had to transport illegal substances to various regions for further distribution. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. In the course of investigation, officers of the Tyumen Region Department of the Russian Interior Ministry discovered a cache in the neighboring Sverdlovsk region, from which almost **7 kg of drugs** were seized. Investigative actions aimed at uncovering all participants in illegal activities in question are continuing. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19856881>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BRAZIL

17.03.2020 Customs of the Federal Revenue Service in the port of Santos seized **700 kg of cocaine** from 21.6 tons of meat products stored in 80 plastic barrels. The cargo was destined for the port of Hamburg, Germany. The seizure was a result of risk management and analysis conducted by Santos customs teams using dogs and a scanner. The use of the criminal "Rip-on/Rip-off" technique, whereby drug is placed in a legal cargo without the knowledge of exporters and importers, is suspected. The cocaine shipment has been transferred to the Santos Federal Police Station, which will continue the investigation. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/aco-es-e-programas/aco-es-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/marco/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-700-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos>

23.03.2020 The Federal Police (PF) is boosting arrests and detentions in Parana during the pandemic. PF's actions continue intensely across Brazil. Federal police in the port of Paranagua seized **240 kg of cocaine** concealed in a shipment of 10 tons of A4 paper. The drug was discovered by the Federal Police, supported by Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs, during an inspection in two containers. The cargo was destined for Europe.

<http://www.pf.gov.br/imprensa/noticias/2020/03-noticias-de-marco-de-2020/policia-federal-aumenta-numero-de-apreensoes-e-prisoas-durante-a-pandemia>
<https://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2020/03/23/240-kg-de-cocaina-sao-apreendidos-em-conteineres-carregados-com-papel-no-porto-de-paranagua.ghtml>
<https://agoralitoral.com.br/noticias/mais-240-kg-de-cocaina-sao-apreendidos-em-paranagua/>

25.03.2020 Military police in the port of Santos, on the coast of São Paulo, seized **326 kg of cocaine** after being informed of a truck loaded with drugs. The drug was to be loaded on a ship bound for the port of Antwerp, Belgium. The cocaine shipment was found in 12 backpacks inside a container. Three men suspected of transporting and concealing cocaine inside the container were arrested. Investigation is aimed at identifying other people who may be involved in the crime. <https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2020/03/25/pf-apreende-326-kg-de-cocaina-e-prende-tres-pessoas-no-porto-de-santos-sp.ghtml>

26.03.2020 Customs of the Federal Revenue Service in the port of Paranaguá seized **325 kg of cocaine**. The consignment was concealed among a shipment of wooden planks destined for the port of Algeciras (Spain). This is the eighth cocaine seizure at the port of Paranaguá in 2020, totalling 2 tons and 627 kg. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/marco/9a-regiao-fiscal/apreensao-de-325-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua>

UNITED KINGDOM

18.03.2020 Investigators at the National Criminal Agency (NCA) have charged a 56-year-old German citizen, a truck driver, with attempting to import Class A drugs after seizing **470 kg of cocaine** in Dover. The cocaine consignment was found by border guards who were checking vehicles entering the UK. Packages containing cocaine were concealed in car tyres that were being transported from the Netherlands in the back of a truck. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/truck-driver-charged-over-huge-half-tonne-cocaine-haul-in-dover>

INDIA

20.03.2020 Police at the Indo-Pak border near Ferozepur seized **4.29 kg of heroin**. A resident of the village of Ferozepur Chuge was arrested. Heroin was smuggled out of Pakistan. In addition, a man was found in possession of a .30 calibre pistol. The defendant has in recent years been receiving contraband from drug dealers in Pakistan. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/moga-police-seize-heroin-worth-rs-21-cr-60654>

IRAN

27.03.2020 Tehran police seized **1,027 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 868 kg of opium, 145 kg of hashish and 14 kg of other drugs** as a result of operations conducted by the police between 20 and 26 March, and confiscated 52 cars and 18 motorcycles. 14 smugglers were detained during the same period. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/157065/Over-1-ton-of-narcotics-seized-in-Tehran>

SPAIN

21.03.2020 National police seized about **27 kg of heroin** during a special operation in Marbella. One of the largest distributors of heroin in Spain, a Turkish national residing in

Malaga, was arrested, along with three other persons involved in transporting heroin from Malaga to Galicia for further sale. Heroin was found in the trunk of a van that was carrying it. <https://www.euroweeklynews.com/2020/03/21/notorious-heroin-dealer-in-spain-busted-by-marbella-police-as-they-intervene-27-kilo-shipment-in-costa-del-sol/>

27.03.2020 A ship carrying **7.5 tons of narcotics, mostly hashish**, was intercepted during a special anti-drug operation carried out by customs surveillance officers in Balearic waters near Ibiza. People on the boat were detained and the boat was towed to the port of Ibiza. <https://www.mallorcadiario.com/mvc/amp/noticia/550844>
<https://twitter.com/EmpleadoAeat/status/1243532357388435460>

28.03.2020 In an international investigation, the National Police, with the assistance of the Panama National Air Service, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Intelligence Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration of the Peruvian National Police, arrested four persons involved in smuggling and distributing large amounts of cocaine in Europe in the city of Aviles, Asturias region. Cocaine was smuggled using a sophisticated system of air vents in hulls of ships travelling from South America to Europe. Two perpetrators were arrested in an attempt to extract a shipment of cocaine from a merchant ship originating in Peru. This is the first police operation of its kind to be conducted in Spain. Two other members of the organization have also been arrested. The investigation began with information that professional divers were being used by a Colombian drug cartel to inject drugs into hulls of large vessels and then remove them at destination ports. Such activities were carried out in the ports of origin and destination of the cargo, fully submerged in water with special diving equipment. The method excluded risks of detection of drugs by controlling and supervising bodies. Once the ship was set sailing to its destination, the same people moved to Europe, in this case Spain, and performed the same drug extraction operation. With this method, a large quantity of narcotic substance was smuggled, always around **100 or 200 kg**. The investigation thus led to the discovery of a vessel that had departed from Callao (Peru) and was on its way to the municipality of Aviles in Asturias, with a significant amount of cocaine (no weight indicated) disguised in its hull. https://www.policia.es/prensa/20200328_1.html#
 Video: https://www.policia.es/videos/wmv/20200328_1.mp4

MEXICO

27.03.2020 Members of the National Guard and the Mexican Army, during an operation in Peñamo, Tamaulipas, located on the border of Michoacán State and Guanajuato Municipality, seized about **1,638 kilograms of marijuana** hidden in two vehicles. Four people were arrested. The vehicles came from the state of Nayarit and headed for Matamoros, Tamaulipas, a city in north-eastern Mexico considered to be a Gulf cartel influence area. Drugs were placed in 134 packages in several boxes. Suspects have been transferred to federal jurisdiction. <http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2020/03/nearly-2000-kg-of-marijuana-heading-to.html>

THE NETHERLANDS

25.03.2020 Cocaine smuggling through the port of Rotterdam is getting out of control. The latest trend is that criminals or so-called "evacuators" who take drugs out of port and hide for a long time in containers on the spot. Since December 2019, the police and customs

have already detained 57 people. In 2019, the amount of cocaine seized at the port doubled compared to the previous year and reached 34 tons, totalling €1.7 billion. An increase in supply in recent years has fuelled violence, corruption and drug crime in the country and increased pressure on the port's investigative services. There is also a growing risk for customs, port and transport workers, who are under pressure from the drug mafia. A new method used by criminal networks and observed by the police, customs and companies in the port of Rotterdam is as follows. Offenders set up a temporary camp in an empty container, where they live for several days sometimes. During this time they wait for a moment when it is possible to open a container with drugs. They then move cocaine consignments from the containers to an empty container that has already been released by Customs, and then immediately withdraw the consignments. Finding an empty container in which to stay and finding the drug container is only possible with the help of port staff. Such corrupt workers are regularly detained by law enforcement agencies. Customs and police have arrested people with sleeping bags several times and found sleeping places inside empty containers. "Evacuators" infiltrate the port in a variety of ways - by threatening, bribing port staff to gain access to containers or damaging fences. Inland traffic is increasingly being used by the drug mafia. In the past few months, there have been two incidents in which inland ships have landed delivery personnel on a moored sea vessel. In both cases, "evacuators" have been caught and drugs have been found on ships. Crew members of internal vessels were arrested and the vessels confiscated for further investigation. The main problem with "evacuators" is that the police must immediately release them if they are not caught with drugs or weapons. The offence under article 461 of the CC (entry into a restricted area) is subject to a fine of €80. In fact, offenders, including port staff, were detained six times with drugs. The municipal authorities and the NARC Customs Service, FIOD, the Maritime Port Police and the Public Prosecution Service have designed a new strategy to address this problem. Criminals now receive a 2,500 euro fine from the mayor. Meanwhile, legislation changes aimed at increasing responsibility for this crime are being considered. <https://www.telegraaf.nl/nieuws/1992656900/cokeboef-hamstert-in-haven-rotterdam>

25.03.2020 Customs confiscated **400 kg of cocaine** during an inspection in the port of Rotterdam. Drugs were hidden in a container of corn seeds from Chile, which was destined for Germany. The cargo was to be delivered to a company in Osterhaut, which was not responsible for the smuggling. Investigation is being carried out by the NARC team through Customs, FIOD, the Seaport Police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. Cocaine seized has been destroyed. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/03/25/douane-onderschept-400-kilo-cocaine>

27.03.2020 Customs intercepted several cocaine shipments in the port of Rotterdam during inspections. A total of over **1,204 kg of cocaine** were seized:

- 1) About **1,170 kg of cocaine** were found in a container carrying a shipment of mangoes from Brazil. The cargo was destined for a company in Zwaag;
- 2) **Cocaine consignments of 20 kg and 14 kg** were found in two cooling refrigerated containers that came from Brazil with lime juice. These containers were destined for a company in Rotterdam.

Investigation is carried out by the NARC team through Customs, FIOD, the Seaport Police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. Drugs seized have been destroyed. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/03/29/douane-onderschept-meerdere-partijen-cocaine>

PORTUGAL

22.03.2020 A group of GNR's Vila Real de Santo António Coastal Police **seized 3.7 tons of hashish** during an operation against drug trafficking in Tavira. During the operation, the police force, with the support of SIVICC (Integrated Coastal Management System), detected two suspicious inflatable boats that crossed into Cabanas de Tavira. A caravan was waiting on the coast for drug dealers to unload the bales. Once they saw the agents, the criminals managed to escape. At the scene police confiscated two boats, a van and 113 hashish bales. They were able to identify the person allegedly involved in drug unloading.

The case is being investigated by Criminal Police (PJ). <https://www.portugalresident.com/gnr-police-seize-3-7-tonnes-of-hashish-in-tavira/>

USA

22.03.2020 Office of the District Attorney for Worcester County, Massachusetts, reported an arrest of three people following an investigation involving state police, local police and federal drug agents. Among those arrested were two residents of Worcester, age 31 and 36, charged with fentanyl and cocaine trafficking, and a 25-year-old resident of Lawrence, charged with fentanyl trafficking. A total of **950 g of fentanyl and 120 g of cocaine** were seized during searches.

<https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2020/03/22/3-arrested-in-worcester-drug-bust-after-warrants-lead-to-fentanyl-cocaine>

23.03.2020 Authorities in Craven County, eastern North Carolina, detained two U.S. citizens who were charged with cocaine trafficking. During a search of one of the detainees' car and his home, several guns, \$175,000 in cash, **16 kilograms of cocaine, and crystalline methamphetamine** were seized. Seized drugs are valued at \$3 million. A further investigation led to the detention in Greensboro of another major cocaine dealer.

<https://www.witn.com/content/news/Two-nabbed-after-16-kilos-of-uncut-cocaine-seized-569028091.html>

UKRAINE

27.03.2020 Employees of UNP of the National Police in Dnipropetrovsk region detained a 21-year-old resident of Pavlograd at the post office, who made wholesale orders for drugs through a messenger. He received drugs through courier mail, packed them in doses and sold them to consumers via "caches". **200 grams of synthetic drugs** and a gun were seized from the man during a personal search. On the same day, during inspection in an apartment and garage rented by the suspect, almost **5 kg of "spice," "mixes," "MDMA" and other drugs of synthetic origin were found and seized, as well as 535 g of amphetamine, 1 kg of marijuana, 40 tablets of ecstasy and 143 LSD stamps.** Seized drugs are worth about 3 million hryvnia. Policemen are working to identify other people involved in organizing the drug supply channel in Dnipropetrovsk region.

<https://www.057.ua/news/2711363/na-dnepropetrovsine-policejskie-nakryli-kanal-postavki-narkotikov-iz-harkovskoj-oblasti>