



INFORMATION RELEASE

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

06-19.05.2024

#8

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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

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«Information Release about past events in the anti-drug
sphere», #8, 2024

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In the period from 6 to 19 May 2024, 18 events in the counter-narcotics sphere were covered on the basis of information from mass media in CARICC Member States and other countries of the world (*Kazakhstan - 3, Kyrgyzstan - 4, Russia - 6, Tajikistan - 2, Turkmenistan - 1, Uzbekistan - 2*).

Published articles include information about police officers' message to parents about dangers of drugs, about meeting of heads of drug crime units of three countries (*Kazakhstan*), about lecture on basics of drug safety of modern society among foreign students, about results of CADAP activities, about lecture of interdepartmental group on "Countering the spread of synthetic and other drugs", about anti-drug campaign in Bishkek (*Kyrgyzstan*), on anti-drug and preventive activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in regions (*Russia*), about meeting of Foreign Ministers of China and Tajikistan, about meeting of the head of Tajikistan DCA with the US Ambassador (*Tajikistan*), about Turkmenistan cooperation with the EU (*Turkmenistan*), about the decree of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the National Strategy to Combat Drug Addiction and Drug Crime for 2024-2028, about experts' opinions on the anti-drug strategy adopted in Uzbekistan (*Uzbekistan*).

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



POLICE OFFICERS EDUCATE CHILDREN ABOUT DANGERS OF DRUGS



Safety of children and adolescents is one of the most important areas of police activity. Particular attention is paid to protecting children from involvement in illegal practices related to illicit drug trafficking.

Problems of involvement of adolescents and youth in drug use and distribution were mentioned by the Head of State at the Third National Kurultai as one of the five social evils.

With the development of modern means of communication, modern drugs have become more accessible and within the reach of adolescents and young people. In this regard, the police

have organized extensive work to explain the consequences of drug use and participation in its distribution.

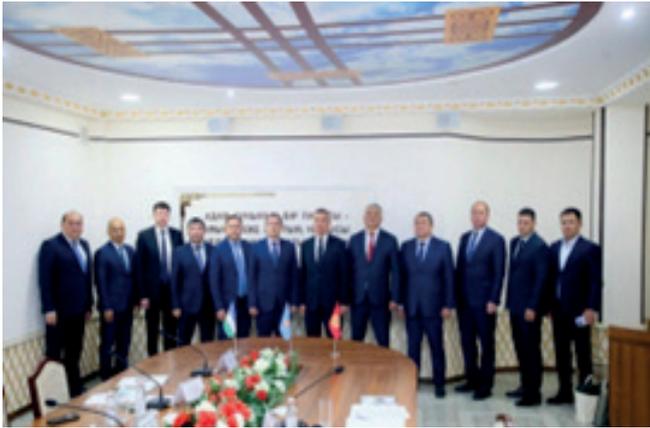
- In just four months of this year, five thousand preventive activities were carried out in educational institutions and sports organizations. These are actions, seminars, lectures, meetings, contests and sports events. Main emphasis is placed on high school students, college and university students. Preventive measures are aimed at informing children in an accessible form about harmful consequences of drug use and, in general, at forming in them a non-acceptance of illegal behavior. After all, it is young people who, due to their lack of experience, become main target of drug traffickers," the agency said.

Along with awareness-raising activities, search operations are also continuing. Service dogs are used to inspect dormitories and parcel delivery logistics companies.

As noted in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, it is necessary to warn children that criminal liability for drug distribution starts from the age of 16 and carries a large term of incarceration

<https://polisia.kz/ru/politsejskie-raz-yasnyayut-detyam-o-vrede-narkotikov/>

**HEADS OF ANTI-DRUG CRIME UNITS OF
THREE COUNTRIES MET IN TARAZ**



On 15 May Taraz hosted a meeting of heads of drug crime units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Results of interaction between the agencies of the three countries were discussed.

It was pointed out that it was important to further strengthen joint efforts to dismantle transnational organized criminal groups and illicit substance trafficking channels.

Special attention is paid to measures to counter the distribution of synthetic drugs, including through

Internet resources and electronic payment systems.

As a result of the meeting, an agreement was reached to improve the contractual framework, operational cooperation, as well as to intensify interregional and cross-border cooperation.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/narkopolitsejskie-kazahstana-kyrgyzstana-i-uzbekistana-vstretilis-v-taraze/>

**19 MINORS HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY POLICE FOR INVOLVEMENT
IN DRUG DISTRIBUTION SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR**



The Ministry of Internal Affairs addressed Kazakhstani parents.

- Drugs can “enter” any family, even the most prosperous. Since the beginning of the year, 19 minors have already been detained by the police in Kazakhstan for involvement in drug distribution.

Although adolescents are aware of legal consequences of selling or advertising drugs, this does not always deter them from participating in trafficking in illicit substances.

On the eve of vacations, the Ministry of Internal Affairs urges parents to become as involved in their children’s lives as possible, as the role of the family in building a child’s anti-drug immunity is most important.

It is necessary to be aware of your children’s environment, to control the Internet resources they use.

Pay attention in the teenager’s belongings to packages from any medical preparations, foil, glass tubes, pipettes. All of these can serve as devices for the use of synthetic drugs.

Parents should be alarmed if a teenager’s grades have dropped dramatically, absenteeism has increased, or the social circle has changed.

Indirect signs of drug use can also include aggression, mood swings, irritability, lethargy, and apathy.

Only a combination of three or more factors can indicate that a child is at risk.

It is important to be concerned about money spending or, on the contrary, a large amount of money. Because in addition to drug use, child may be involved in distribution of drugs, attracted by a quick profit.

Suspicion should be aroused if a child’s phone or messengers have geolocation tags, photos with possible locations of bookmarks, drawings of stamps on the walls of houses or poles. Or notes with phone numbers, links to a website or a set of numbers, as well as duct tape wrapped packages with unknown substances.

We remind you that criminal responsibility for drug offenses begins at the age of 16

<https://polisia.kz/ru/19-nesovershennoletnih-s-nachala-goda-zaderzhany-politsiej-za-uchastie-v-rasprostraneni-narkotikov/>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



BASICS OF DRUG SAFETY OF MODERN SOCIETY AMONG INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Counter Narcotics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs together with officer of the Service for Combating Extremism and Illegal Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Turusbekov Ratbek organized a guest lecture for the students of Adam University on the topic “Fundamentals of drug security of modern society”.

The lecture was attended by international students as well as staff from Adam University.

Purpose of the event is to prevent the involvement of young people in drug-related crime, inform young people about the risks associated with drugs and legal responsibility for committing drug-related offenses. The lecture covered issues related to the problem of drug

abuse among children and adolescents, the most common narcotic substances, and the agency’s position on combating the spread of drug use. Special attention was paid to the importance of drug safety in ensuring the conditions of existence of modern youth and society.

Students were shown video materials about the negative consequences of drug use and distribution. Then, to reinforce the material, an interactive question-and-answer format was held, the most active participants of which were presented with memorable gifts from the Counter Narcotics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3216>

KAKTUSMEDIA

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND DONORS. RESULTS OF CADAP ACTIVITIES IN 20 YEARS



Ernest Robello, Director of the EU Central Asia Drug Action Programme, spoke about results of activities in the region.

- CADAP is a drug prevention program in Central Asia, established within the framework of the European Union’s initiative to promote the development of effective drug demand reduction policies in Central Asian countries. The main objective of CADAP is to contribute to reduction of drug use and related risks and harms.

Through our activities, we support countries of the Central Asian region by providing a platform for sharing

best practices, facilitating information and knowledge exchange, partnerships between civil society and government institutions.

We focus on improving analysis and data collection to develop sound policies for drug demand reduction interventions. Also support networks of national experts to generate and disseminate high quality statistics. It is very important for countries to understand which new drugs are entering their territory, which are available on the market and which are being used. We therefore place great emphasis on building early warning systems, especially for new psychoactive substances. CADAP supports data collection that is critical to understanding and creating more effective drug treatment and prevention services.

Our main task is to support development of national strategies that are in line with international drug policy. It is also very important for us to strengthen and promote a balanced approach to drug policy, to assist Central Asian states in developing legislation and implementing evidence-based prevention and treatment measures. In implementing the program, we pay special attention to human rights and gender issues.

One of the main results of CADAP is that we have achieved accessibility of services, treatment services in drug treatment centers and penitentiaries. We have supported countries to develop gender-sensitive services for women who use drugs.

It is much harder for women to admit to drug use. This is largely because society is patriarchal. All over the world, the perception of women is that they should be good mothers and wives. As a consequence, women who use drugs face more stigma and discrimination.

But it is important to realize that drug use is first and foremost a disease that requires treatment. Our goal is to provide the same quality of services, including conditions for people with substance use disorders, in health care settings and in prisons.

We work very closely with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), based in Lisbon, and in terms of social impact, we reinforce the importance of the perception of drug use. And we encourage the general public to work to reduce stigma and eliminate discrimination against people who use drugs.

Another goal of CADAP's activities is prevention of drug use among adolescents and schoolchildren. Our program contributes to the adaptation and introduction of a prevention training module into school curricula. We work closely with experts and health care providers in Central Asia to expand their capacity to provide treatment services for people who use drugs, not only heroin, alcohol and marijuana, but also other new psychoactive substances such as amphetamine-type stimulants.

It is important to emphasize that the 7th phase of CADAP is now underway, working on drug policy, data collection, prevention and treatment. Continuing the results of the previous phases, we also demonstrate the sustainability of the program, which proves the strong commitment of the European Union to continue working with the Central Asian states in terms of addressing issues of mutual interest.

https://kaktus.media/doc/501074_mejdynarodnye_programmy_i_donory_rezyltaty_deiatelnosti_cadap_za_20_let.html



INTERAGENCY GROUP HELD A LECTURE ON “COUNTERING THE SPREAD OF SYNTHETIC AND OTHER DRUGS”



On 15 May 2024 officers of GKNB, SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department of Medical and Psychological Assistance to Minors of the Republican Center for Psychiatry and Narcology held a lecture on “Countering the spread of synthetic and other drugs” in the conference hall of the Kyrgyz National University named after J. Balasagin.

Kadyr uulu Almazbek, Director of Youth Policy and Sports Department of KNU, made a welcoming speech and introduced guests from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, GKNB and RCPN.

Akylbek Joorbaev, a representative of the SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, told students that synthetic drugs are now spreading rapidly and pose a global threat to the younger generation. Also was announced a burning problem about the so-called “pharmacy drug addiction” where teenagers buy in pharmacies strong medicines of medical nature without a doctor’s prescription, and emphasized that this phenomenon poses a danger to the future generation, as it can lead to a fatal outcome. It was also explained to the students that according to the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, criminal liability for crimes related to drug trafficking starts at the age of 14 and

is punishable by 5 to 15 years of imprisonment with confiscation of property.

Azamat Amanov, a representative of the GKNB, emphasized that modern synthetic drug is the most dangerous for all people “a so-called trap into which more and more people fall, especially teenagers and young people under the age of 25. Therefore, it is necessary for parents to tell their children in detail and inform them about the dangerous consequences of synthetic drug use.

If you or your loved ones need help, you can contact the hotline 118 anonymously, summarized the GKNB representative.

Tinatin Sagymbaeva, Head of the Department of Medical and Psychological Assistance to Minors of the Republican Center for Psychiatry and Narcology, talked about the crisis of adolescence and how to treat it. - Crises increase a child’s vulnerability to risk factors. Children may seek ways to cope with stress by using these substances. Parents and guardians should pay attention to changes in children’s behavior and support them,” said Tinatin Sagymbaeva.

During the event, videos were shown, and students who actively participated in the Q&A were given gifts of eco-bags and T-shirts by the SBNON MIA.

At the end of the meeting students expressed their gratitude in organizing this event.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3235>



В БИШКЕКЕ ПРОШЛА АНТИНАРКОТИЧЕСКАЯ АКЦИЯ — ФОТО



Мероприятие провели по распоряжению главы ГКНБ Камчыбека Ташиева.

В Бишкеке прошла антинаркотическая молодежная акция «Быть здоровым модно», сообщает мэрия.

Шествие стартовало возле Национальной филармонии и завершилось на Старой площади, в нем участвовали около тысячи человек. Для горожан организовали концертную программу с участием звезд эстрады, а известные спортсмены призвали всех вести здоровый образ жизни.

Целью акции является формирование позитивного общества, отказывающегося от наркотиков.

«Участники отметили важность привлечения внимания к проблеме распространения наркотиков и активизации борьбы с ними. Мероприятие провели по распоряжению главы ГКНБ Камчыбека Ташиева», — говорится в релизе.

<https://ru.sputnik.kg/20240519/foto-aktsiya-narkotiki-zdorove-bishkek-1085270807.html>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



POLICE OFFICERS IN KUZBASS TOLD SCHOOLCHILDREN ABOUT DANGERS OF DRUG USE



As part of the “Conscript” anti-drug campaign, an officer of drug control department and a juvenile affairs inspector of the Centralny Police Department of the Novokuznetsk Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia held a meeting with students of Lyceum No. 11.

The event was attended by 85 high school students. Police officers told the students about the harm and danger of using narcotic and psychotropic drugs, explained administrative and criminal liability for unlawful acts in the sphere of drug trafficking.

Preventive conversation did not leave the young Novokuznetsk citizens indifferent. The teenagers asked the police officers many questions, in particular about how important information about the illegal distribution of narcotic drugs can be. The police officers reminded the audience of the telephone numbers that can be used to report facts of drug manufacturing, distribution and use.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/50268523>



POLICE OFFICERS TOOK PART IN THE II ALL-RUSSIAN BAIKAL ANTI-DRUG FORUM



The event kicked off yesterday and runs through 15 May at the Youth House in Irkutsk.

The forum was attended by specialists from 55 regions of the country. Vyacheslav Baturin, Head of the Interagency Cooperation Department of the Main Department of GUNK MVD of Russia, arrived at the forum as a guest of honor.

Main topic - ways to prevent drug addiction and other socially negative phenomena among young people.

At the plenary session, which was held on the opening day of the forum, Deputy Head of GU MVD of Russia in the Irkutsk Region, Colonel of Internal Service Roman

Nynyuk, made a speech. He outlined problems of cybersecurity of minors in the modern world.

This morning, a workshop-meeting “Experience in implementation of anti-drug policy in subjects of the Russian Federation” was held as part of business program with participation of heads of staff and secretaries of anti-drug commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, representatives of drug control units of territorial bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, who shared best practices and effective mechanisms for solving the problems under discussion.

Irkutsk region was represented by Olga Nosova, Deputy Chief of Staff of GU MVD of Russia in Irkutsk region, who spoke about prospects for development of information and analytical support of anti-drug activities.

Olga Vladimirovna proposed a set of measures aimed at forming a unified interdepartmental information system on illicit drug trafficking, which will accelerate cooperation and increase the effectiveness of preventive work.

Also speaking at the section “Modern Youth Prevention Projects” was Ilya Elyasov, an operative commissioner for especially important cases of the Drug Control Directorate of the Irkutsk Regional GU MVD. Police officer spoke about a modern youth prevention podcast project aimed at promoting and popularizing healthy lifestyles in a trendy style among young people who spend a lot of time on social networks.

Organizers believe that such educational large-scale event is an excellent preventive measure, because drug addiction is the main problem of modern society, and only through joint efforts it is possible to achieve positive results in its solution.

The Forum is held within the framework of the federal project “Youth of Russia” of the national project “Education” with the support of Rosmolodezh and their subsidy “Region for the Young”.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/50268934>



POLICE OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL OF UMVD OF RUSSIA IN VLADIMIR AND VOLUNTEERS INFORMED CITIZENS ABOUT DANGERS OF DRUG USE



In cooperation with police officers, members of the Public Council at the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia for the city of Vladimir implement planned activities aimed at legal education of the population. One of priority areas of activity of public activists is to inform, especially young people, about dangers of using narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as about legal responsibility for illicit trafficking, as often as possible and in a more accessible manner.

On the eve of prevention action “No to Drugs!” was held in Vladimir by police officers, district police commissioners and traffic police inspectors together with Natalia Kulikova, a member of the Public Council at the city Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, and volunteer children. Focusing primarily on young people, the organizers of the prevention event informed citizens about the devastating effects of illicit substances on the human body. During direct communication with teenagers and their parents, the social activist emphasized that the use of drugs, most of which are now synthetic substances, eventually leads to complete degradation of personality, serious health problems, and often - to death.

Police officers, in turn, warned of common tricks used by criminals to send messages in popular messengers offering “quick and easy” earnings, which, as a rule, mask activities related to drug trafficking.

Handing out information leaflets, organizers of the campaign called for an active and healthy lifestyle, lively and positive communication in the real world, not virtual space.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/50311849>



OFFICERS OF UNK MVD OF THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC URGED SCHOOLCHILDREN TO LEAD HEALTHY LIFESTYLE



Alkhan-Kalinsky secondary school No. 1 of Groznensky district of the republic hosted a meeting of officers of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Chechen Republic with the students of the educational institution the day before.

During the meeting, Muslim Tataev, Head of Department of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Chechen Republic, told the schoolchildren about the measures taken by the internal affairs bodies to prevent and counteract the spread of drug addiction among

young people, as well as about criminal liability for committing crimes related to drug trafficking. According to him, drug addiction is a dangerous disease not only for the person themselves, but also for the whole society.

Attendees listened attentively, asked questions of interest, and at the end of the meeting thanked the guest for a useful and informative conversation.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/50371544>



ANOTHER PREVENTIVE MEETING OF DRUG POLICE OFFICERS WITH SCHOOLCHILDREN TOOK PLACE IN TVER



A joint educational project of police officers, volunteers and the Russian Bar Association “Believe? Don’t Believe!”. This time the preventive intensive took place in gymnasium No. 12 of the regional center.

Colonel Mikhail Lebedev, head of the regional Drug Control Department, and law students in a question-and-answer format dispelled popular misconceptions of teenagers related to drug distribution.

Participants were offered to answer questions about why they become drug dealers, whether a person is liable if he or she is a simple implementer, what weight of a drug is sufficient for criminal liability, and what weight the guys

themselves consider significant, and many other questions related to the involvement of young people in the drug environment.

During the event, participants were told how the scheme to draw young people into drug distribution works and how not to fall victim to it.

At the end of the meeting, organizers of the event handed out anti-drug prevention leaflets to the schoolchildren and called on them to be vigilant.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/50391778>



POLICE OFFICERS IN CHUVASHIA TOGETHER WITH THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE REPUBLIC AND THE ANTI-DRUG COMMISSION ORGANIZED A FESTIVAL AIMED AT LEGAL EDUCATION OF POPULATION



The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Chuvash Republic together with the National Library and the Cheboksary Anti-Drug Commission held a festival aimed at legal education of the population. Participants of the creative competition, which was held for the fifth time this year, were invited by the organizers to raise in theatrical productions topical themes of countering fraud, extremism and drug trafficking. The festival was attended by 6 theater groups and studios of various educational institutions of the capital of the republic. Olga Cheprasova, Acting Deputy Head of the City Administration and Head of the City Anti-Drug

Commission, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Temnov, Head of the Cheboksary Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, and others greeted the aspiring artists.

The jury, which included representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Chuvash Republic, evaluated the compliance of the theater groups' productions with the goals and objectives of the festival, artistry, originality of the concept and creative implementation. The winners of this year's competition were students of the Cheboksary Cooperative Institute, in second place - the theater group of the Law Faculty of the Cheboksary State University named after I.N. Ulyanov, young artists from Lyceum No. 2 of Cheboksary - "bronze" award of the festival. Cheboksary - "bronze" award of the festival.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/50396121>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

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Международное
информационное
агентство «Казинформ»CHINA SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF SCO
ANTI-DRUG CENTER IN TAJIKISTAN

China supports Tajikistan's initiative to establish Anti-Drug Center of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Dushanbe. This was stated by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi after talks with Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhridin, Kazinform agency correspondent reports with reference to TASS.

- We also support establishment of the SCO Anti-Drug Center in Dushanbe," Wang Yi said.

He said that during bilateral meeting the colleagues agreed to maintain security and stability in the region, deepen anti-terrorist cooperation and

strengthen border control for security of two countries.

- These are shared responsibilities and interests of the two parties," he said.

Chinese Foreign Minister also stressed that two sides will "strengthen exchanges and consultations to fight against outside interference" and work together to "prevent provocation of a color revolution".

In turn, Mukhriddin called the Tajik-Chinese security cooperation relevant against the background of rapid global changes, as well as new challenges and threats.

- There is close coordination and constructive dialog between specialized services in this area," said the Foreign Minister of Tajikistan.

The initiative to establish the SCO Anti-Drug Center was stated by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon in 2019 in Dushanbe at the high-level conference "International and Regional Cooperation in Combating Terrorism and Sources of its Financing, including Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime". According to the Tajik leader, creation of a separate anti-drug organization will increase effectiveness of joint actions of competent bodies of the SCO countries.

Wang Yi arrived in Dushanbe on 18 May on an official visit at the invitation of Muhridin. Earlier, he was received by President Rahmon, and with the head of state Wang Yi discussed prospects of cooperation between the countries. Rahmon noted that the Republic is interested in increasing cooperation with China in the spheres of green and digital economies, and also noted that this year is an important year for bilateral relations "taking into account the upcoming contacts and meetings at the highest and highest levels". A program of cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of Tajikistan and China for 2025-2026 was also signed during the visit.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Wang Yi will pay an official visit to Kazakhstan after Tajikistan, and will also attend a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries, which will be held in Astana on 21 May.

<https://www.inform.kz/ru/kitay-podderzhal-sozdanie-v-tadzhikistane-antinarkoticheskogo-tsentra-shos-e952e4>



MEETING BETWEEN DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY AND AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On 6 May 2024 Director of the Agency and Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Tajikistan met at the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

At the beginning Director of the Agency Major General of the Drug Control Service Zafar Samad informed Ambassador Manuel Micaller about bilateral and mutually beneficial cooperation of the Agency with the U.S. Embassy, as well as about activities of law enforcement agencies of the Republic in the field of combating drug trafficking and drug abuse prevention.

During the meeting parties discussed the state of drug control in Tajikistan and the region, and expressed concern about challenges and threats associated with trafficking in synthetic drugs.

In conclusion, parties expressed their readiness to further develop and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of drug control and drug abuse prevention.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2024/05/07/the-director-of-the-agency-and-the-ambassador-of-the-united-states-of-america-met/>



TURKMENISTAN



TURKMENISTAN IDENTIFIES PRIORITY AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH THE EU



At the first session of the conference “30 Years of Cooperation between Turkmenistan and the European Union: Working Together for the Future” Turkmenistan identified priority areas of cooperation with the EU.

The conference is timed to coincide with the visit to Turkmenistan of Ms. Terhi Hakala, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov and Ms. Hakala spoke at the opening ceremony and answered some questions from Ms. Beata Peksa, European Union Ambassador to Turkmenistan.

Meredov, answering a question about Turkmenistan’s priorities in cooperation with the EU, said that education has always been and will always be a high-priority sphere. He noted that this is the area where there has been very fruitful cooperation for a long time.

He added that capacity building is important within the framework of cooperation.

Meredov emphasized that security is also an important area of focus.

Security is indivisible, the minister said. Global security, regional security and national security are interrelated.

Meredov also noted that Turkmenistan is always in favor of global peace and security. According to him, it is important for Turkmenistan to cooperate and share experience in this area.

“Within our capabilities, we contribute to combating terrorism, global crime and drug trafficking,” he continued, adding that Turkmenistan is interested in continuing cooperation within the framework of existing agreements.

Meredov pointed to the need for a systematic and structured dialog to ensure global security.

He mentioned climate change as an area deserving a higher priority for cooperation and emphasized that the fuel and energy complex and transportation are clearly areas where engagement will be prioritized.

<https://www.newscentralasia.net/2024/05/14/turkmenistan-oboznachil-prioritetnye-oblasti-sotrudnichestva-s-es/>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

КУРСИВ**UZBEKS WILL BE IMMUNE TO DRUG ADDICTION**

Uzbekistan will start building “immunity to drug addiction” among the population. This is stated in the decree of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the National Strategy to Combat Drug Addiction and Drug Crime for 2024-2028.

According to the document, the National Drug Control Center will be established under the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

New propaganda and educational and preventive programs will be introduced in educational institutions.

A system will be improved to provide quality drug treatment services, improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addiction.

According to the program, the country will introduce comprehensive operational-search, investigative and expert-forensic measures to eliminate new illegal forms of drug trafficking. There will also be control over the use of narcotic drugs in medical institutions and pharmacies.

In addition, a State Commission for the Control of Narcotic Drugs will be established under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Commission will monitor implementation of the measures set out in the strategy and coordinate countering of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

The National Drug Control Center will coordinate the State Commission and ensure its information and analytical activities.

Earlier it was reported that drugs from Russia and Kazakhstan were seized in the capital and Tashkent region.

<https://uz.kursiv.media/2024-05-07/sredi-uzbekistanczev-sformiruyut-immunitet-protiv-narkomanii/>

KUN. UZ**EXPERTS ASSESSED ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY ADOPTED IN UZBEKISTAN**

International experts welcomed the National Strategy on Combating Drug Addiction and Drug Crime for 2024-2028 adopted in Uzbekistan.

Priority tasks of the strategy include the formation of “immunity against drug addiction” among the population, development of a system for providing quality drug treatment to the population, and the elimination of new illegal forms of drug trafficking.

UN Assistant Secretary-General Alexander Zuev:

The National Anti-Drug Strategy for 2024-2028, developed on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, is an important milestone in development and modernization of an effective system for combating cross-border crime in order to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals until 2030.

The National Strategy pays particular attention to identifying promising multilateral international legal instruments to which Uzbekistan may accede in the future.

Undoubtedly, this will contribute to further strengthening of Uzbekistan’s image in international arena, while maintaining positive potential of the republic in the field of combating drugs.

The National Strategy will serve as the next major stage of strategic and multi-vector cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Nations.

Mark Colhoun, Secretary of the UN International Narcotics Control Board:

The International Narcotics Control Board views the adopted National Anti-Drug Strategy of Uzbekistan for the period from 2024 to 2028 as an important step to further strengthen ongoing initiatives to enhance national, regional and international cooperation in the field of drug control.

Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Deputy Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

The National Anti-Drug and Drug Crime Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2024-2028 is an up-to-date document that will truly make it possible to deal with the drug problem at both national, regional and international levels.

Sami Ryhänen, Head of the Transnational Threats Department, OSCE:

OSCE welcomes adoption by the Republic of Uzbekistan of the National Anti-Drug Strategy for the period 2024-2028, which reflects Uzbekistan's commitment to combating drug trafficking and use. For many years, the OSCE has been closely cooperating with the Republic of Uzbekistan in combating drug trafficking and strengthening regional cooperation. We express our gratitude to Uzbekistan for its interest in the OSCE's comprehensive approach to addressing the drug problem in the region.

Ahmet Metin Turanli, Head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Türkiye:

Because of the transnational scale of drug crimes, cooperation and coordination in this area are becoming more important than ever. We express our confidence that Uzbekistan's national strategy to combat drug trafficking, prepared and approved under the auspices of the President of the Republic, will give a new impetus to strengthening cooperation in countering drug crimes around the world.

<https://kun.uz/ru/news/2024/05/12/eksperty-otsenili-prinyatuyu-v-uzbekistane-strategiyu-po-borbe-s-narkotikami>



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