

691. The prevalence rates for abuse of opiates remained low in the countries on the Arabian Peninsula, with heroin being the main opiate abused. Opiates were also the main substances causing drug-related deaths, with rates ranging from 4.6 per million people aged 15-64 in the United Arab Emirates to 44.3 per million in Bahrain.

692. Programmes for the treatment and prevention of drug abuse, as well as for raising awareness about the risks of drug abuse by injection, are increasing in number in the Middle East. In coming years, UNODC intends to expand its programmes on HIV prevention and care for drug abusers, including in prison settings.

693. In 2010, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran authorized the use of tincture of opium nationwide as part of an expansion of maintenance treatment, which also includes the use of methadone and buprenorphine. The expansion was approved after a pilot project had been evaluated by the Government. In 2009, the Government estimated that some 668,000 persons had received treatment for drug-related problems, of whom 184,000 had received some form of maintenance treatment.

694. The pilot programme initiated by the Ministry of Health of Lebanon, offering buprenorphine substitution treatment for persons addicted to opioids, continued. UNODC supported the development of clinical guidelines and operating procedures for the programme, including, in particular, monitoring activities to prevent any diversion from the treatment programme.

695. The National Rehabilitation Centre in Abu Dhabi treats patients for poly-substance abuse that includes opiates, cannabis, psychotropic substances and alcohol. The Centre doubled its bed capacity in 2009, and an outpatient facility was launched in mid-2010. The outpatient clinic treats about 450 patients a month. The authorities are planning to open a 200-bed centre by 2014, which will also include a section for women. Most patients come to the Centre voluntarily.

696. A 2010 qualitative study by UNODC examining the social and economic impact of drug abuse on families in four cities in Pakistan pointed to the profound financial, physical and psychological burden on wives of drug-abusing husbands. Most of the women interviewed had become the sole providers in their families, earning in most cases less than \$60 a month, as their drug-abusing husbands were often unemployed. The financial situation of the families of drug abusers had a negative effect on family nutrition and education and prevented spouses from obtaining adequate treatment for their drug-abusing husbands. One quarter of the spouses of drug abusers interviewed reported being subjected to physical violence

(26 per cent) or sexual violence (23 per cent) and were found to be extremely vulnerable to being infected with HIV.

697. With the exception of Israel, few countries in West Asia have reported performing regular direct or indirect nationally representative surveys of drug abuse among the general population, making it difficult to assess the severity, comparability and change in drug abuse levels in the region. Although Turkey has never performed a nationally representative survey of drug abuse among the general population, a pilot study on the prevalence of drug abuse was carried out in the Ankara region in 2010. Results indicated that, among persons aged 15-64, past-month abuse of sedatives/tranquillizers without prescription was 2.9 per cent, and past-month abuse of cannabis was 0.8 per cent. A 2010 regional study of Istanbul students found lifetime prevalence of cannabis abuse to be 3.3 per cent, MDMA ("ecstasy") abuse to be 1.6 per cent, amphetamine abuse to be 1.4 per cent and cocaine abuse to be 1.0 per cent.

698. The seventh national epidemiological survey on the prevalence of drug abuse among youth in Israel was conducted in 2009. It showed that, among other things, an increase in the proportion of persons aged 12-18 who reported having abused drugs in their lifetime.

## D. Europe

### 1. Major developments

699. There is not much evidence of a decrease in the level of cannabis abuse in most countries in Europe and indeed in a small number of countries an increasing trend in such abuse has been seen. The illicit cultivation of cannabis plants in Western and Central Europe has increased dramatically. Cannabis plants are increasingly being illicitly cultivated on an industrial scale, mainly indoors, and with the involvement of organized criminal groups. In such cases, the THC content of the cannabis plants has been high. Indoor cultivation of cannabis plants for personal use is tolerated in some countries, which is not in compliance with the international drug control conventions. Cannabis seizures in Europe have decreased in recent years, possibly as a result of increased numbers of seizures in North Africa, the key source of cannabis resin. A decreasing trend in seizures of cannabis resin was evident in many countries in Europe, while seizures of cannabis herb increased in some countries in recent years with trends varying between countries.

700. The abuse of cocaine has stabilized in recent years, although at a relatively high level, in most countries in Western and Central Europe. The spread of cocaine abuse

in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe appears to have continued. Cocaine is the primary drug of abuse in almost one fifth of new treatment cases in the European Union, and Europe remains the world's second-largest cocaine market. Diversification of the routes used for smuggling cocaine into Europe has been noted. Although the smuggling of drugs into Europe through West Africa has decreased in recent years, the total amount of cocaine smuggled into Europe has not decreased and is at the high level of previous years. Cocaine trafficking routes leading into Europe have diversified, and cocaine trafficking via North Africa has increased. While decreases in cocaine seizures in Portugal and Spain have been reported in recent years, cocaine is increasingly being smuggled through South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, in particular along the Balkan routes. Large illicit consignments of cocaine have arrived at ports on the coasts of the Adriatic Sea and the Black Sea, from where it is transported overland to the western part of Europe. The liberalization of trade in the region and the presence of established transnational criminal networks have facilitated that expansion. Criminal organizations from various subregions, including South-Eastern Europe, have established operational bases in South America, maximizing their profits by obtaining the cocaine directly from the producers.

701. In Europe, there is no overall decreasing trend in the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants; in fact, some increases have been reported in a small number of countries. The abuse of MDMA ("ecstasy") has remained stable, with decreasing levels of abuse in some countries. In recent years, known manufacture of "ecstasy" in Europe has decreased. The illicit manufacture of amphetamine is increasing in Europe. While amphetamine remains the most abused amphetamine-type stimulant in Europe, seizures of methamphetamine in Western and Central Europe increased fivefold between 2004 and 2009, and the substance is believed to be replacing amphetamine in the northern part of the region.

702. The variety of substances abused in Europe continues to grow, with a record level of new substances identified in 2010, many of them not under international control. To address the situation, many countries in Europe have placed specific substances under national control. In December 2010, in response to the increased abuse of mephedrone, the Governments of States members of the European Union decided that the substance should be placed under national control.

## 2. Regional cooperation

703. In June 2011, operation Channel West was carried out as part of operation Channel 2011, under the aegis of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. More than 46,300 law enforcement officers and special service agents from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were involved in the operation, establishing 4,437 joint operational groups in border areas and at rail stations, airports and road transport facilities. Their joint efforts led to the seizure of about 3 tons of drugs and more than 197 kg of precursor chemicals during the operation.

704. The third stage of Operation Sentinel 2010 took place in October 2010; it was aimed at counteracting the smuggling of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Customs authorities of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan participated in the operation. During the operation, seizures amounted to approximately 42 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

705. In December 2010, the Fourth Meeting of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs in the European Union was held in Brussels, focusing on developments in the drug control situation in Europe and drug control policy.

706. Under the aegis of EMCDDA, a number of regional events have been held recently to address drug-related issues, including a meeting in Lisbon in January 2011 on policies and practice in the treatment of cannabis abuse in Europe and also the first international multidisciplinary forum on new drugs, held in Lisbon in May 2011.

707. At a meeting held in Naples, Italy, in February 2011, the Euro-African Conference of chiefs of police addressed, as a key priority, the issue of drug-trafficking routes. During the meeting, a working group on drug trafficking was established and recommendations were made to conduct joint capacity-building and training projects for law enforcement agencies, to facilitate the harmonization of legal provisions and to encourage the sharing of intelligence.

708. In March 2011, a conference of ministers of justice and of the interior of the States participating in the South-East European Cooperation Process was held in Budva, Montenegro, on the theme "Strengthening cooperation in the fight against organized crime in South-East Europe". The participants adopted the Budva Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Coordination in the Fight against Organized Crime in South-East

Europe, as well as the Common Declaration and Action Plan 2011-2013.

709. In May 2011, the Transatlantic Symposium on Dismantling Transnational Illicit Networks, organized by the European Union and the United States in Lisbon, addressed, inter alia, drug-related problems. Participants highlighted the need for cooperation at all levels, including through a number of operational initiatives such as intelligence-sharing, mutual legal assistance, mechanisms for tracing proceeds of crime and promotion of the implementation of international instruments.

710. The eighteenth European Cities against Drugs Mayors' Conference on Drugs was held in Varna, Bulgaria, in May 2011. Under the theme "Europe against drugs: unity in diversity", the participants discussed ways to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken to counter drug abuse and its related social and health consequences in European cities.

711. In the political declaration adopted at the Group of Eight Ministerial Meeting on the Fight against Transatlantic Cocaine Trafficking, held in Paris in May 2011, States made a commitment to intensifying cooperation regarding the global drug problem, including drug trafficking and transatlantic trafficking in cocaine. The Meeting adopted an action plan aimed at strengthening cooperation, calling for effective implementation of the international drug control conventions as the cornerstone of the international drug control system, improving the sharing of intelligence, intensifying maritime cooperation, addressing the destabilizing effects of drug trafficking and improving international legal cooperation mechanisms to target and confiscate criminal assets. In addition to the Group of Eight countries, the Meeting was also attended by representatives of countries from regions and subregions directly affected by transatlantic trafficking in cocaine (Latin America and the Caribbean, West Africa and the Sahel, and Europe), as well as international and regional organizations.

712. The European Commission hosted a conference on the theme "Building an EU consensus for minimum quality standards in the prevention, treatment and harm reduction of drugs" in Brussels in June 2011. The conference participants discussed the preliminary findings of a study by the Commission on the development of a European Union framework for minimum quality standards and benchmarks in drug demand reduction.

### 3. National legislation, policy and action

713. In December 2010, the Government of Bulgaria issued an ordinance on the terms and procedure for issuing licences to conduct activities with narcotic drugs used for medical purposes, as regulated by the Law on the Control of Narcotic Substances and Precursors. The ordinance stipulates the terms and procedure for issuing licences to conduct activities involving manufacture, processing, storage, domestic trade, import, export and transit, transfer and transportation of narcotic drugs and medicinal products containing narcotic drugs.

714. In May 2011, Croatia, with the support of EMCDDA, launched its first general population survey on drugs. The survey covered 4,000 individuals and examined the prevalence and patterns of abuse of psychoactive substances in Croatia, as well as attitudes towards drugs among different population groups. The analysis of the results and the final report are expected to be available by the end of 2011.

715. In September 2011, the Ministry of Health of France banned the sale of *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4 butanediol, two substances that metabolize in the body into *gamma*-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) (one of the "date-rape drugs"), a substance that has been a scheduled narcotic drug in France since 1999. The decision was aimed at addressing the significant increase in the abuse of the two substances.

716. In November 2010, the Parliament of Lithuania approved the National Programme on Drug Control and Prevention of Drug Addiction 2010-2016. In the same month, the Parliament passed a resolution on combating new psychoactive substances. In April 2011, the Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department was established as a Government body.

717. In December 2010, the Government of the Republic of Moldova adopted the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2011-2018 and the Action Plan for 2011-2013 to implement the National Anti-Drug Strategy. The Strategy was developed in line with European Union standards to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking and abuse. The drug policy of the Republic of Moldova is based on four pillars: primary prevention; treatment and rehabilitation; harm reduction; and drug supply reduction. In July 2011, the Government approved the creation of the National Anti-Drug Committee to oversee implementation of the Strategy.

718. In May 2011, the Council of Ministers of the Netherlands expressed its agreement on planned measures to reduce nuisance and drug tourism by linking access to so-called "coffee shops" with a membership

pass, setting a maximum number of members per “coffee shop” and restricting membership to citizens of the Netherlands over 18 years of age. If the measures are implemented, the minimum permissible distance of “coffee shops” from schools will be increased to 350 metres. However, at the time of publication of this report, the issue had not yet been regulated. While the Board notes that this would be a positive move, its position continues to be that such “coffee shops” are in violation of the provisions of the international drug control conventions.

719. The Netherlands Expert Committee on the List System of the Opium Act, in its June 2011 report entitled “Drugs in lists”, recommended that cannabis with a THC content greater than 15 per cent be placed on List I of the Opium Act. If this recommendation is implemented, the punishment for trafficking in cannabis with a THC content exceeding that level would be increased and “coffee shops” would not be allowed to sell such cannabis. In October 2011, the Government of the Netherlands expressed its intention to place cannabis with a THC concentration of 15 per cent or greater on List I of the Opium Act. As at 1 November 2011, the Board had not yet been informed of any regulation on this issue.

720. In November 2010, a new law came into force in Poland to address the rapidly growing supply of psychoactive substances not controlled under national legislation. The new law modifies the Act on Countering Drug Addiction, introducing a modified definition of “substitute drug” and prohibiting the manufacture, promotion and introduction of such substances. The law also modifies the Act on State Sanitary Inspection, enabling state sanitary inspectors to withdraw a substitute drug from the market for up to 18 months in order to assess the safety of the substance if there is a justified suspicion that the substance may pose a health threat.

721. In December 2010, the Government of Romania approved the Action Plan 2010-2012 for the implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2005-2012. The Strategy covers areas such as the reduction of illicit drug supply and demand, international cooperation, evaluation and inter-agency coordination.

722. In Serbia, the Law on Psychoactive Controlled Substances, which came into effect in January 2011, stipulates the conditions under which controlled psychoactive substances can be imported, exported, cultivated, manufactured and traded. EMCDDA is currently implementing a project aimed at strengthening Serbia’s capacity in the area of collection of data on drug-related issues, with the goal of establishing a national centre for monitoring drugs and drug addiction.

723. In Slovakia, the law governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was amended in February 2011, and over 40 substances identified in products freely sold as “legal highs”, mainly synthetic cannabinoids and mephedrone, were included in the schedules of controlled substances.

724. In March 2011, the Government of Sweden adopted an integrated strategy for alcohol, narcotic drugs, doping and tobacco policy for the period 2011-2015. The overall objective of the strategy is a society free of drug abuse, with reduced alcohol-related medical and social consequences and reduced tobacco use. The strategy incorporates measures on supply and demand reduction, as well as measures on treatment and international cooperation.

725. Drug Strategy 2010 of the United Kingdom, covering a four-year period, was released in December 2010. The Strategy focuses on reducing demand, restricting supply and assisting people in recovering from drug dependence. The Strategy covers prescription and over-the-counter medicines and provides for the establishment of a forensic early warning system for new psychoactive substances. A number of measures aimed at addressing precursor chemicals, organized crime, use of the Internet and money-laundering are also outlined in the document. The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse will cease to exist, its principal functions being transferred to Public Health England, a new public health service within the Department of Health.

726. In July 2011, the Government of the United Kingdom introduced a temporary ban on the import of phenazepam, a benzodiazepine not under international control. The ban will remain effective until the substance is fully controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. According to the assessment of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, phenazepam has no medical use in the United Kingdom but is widely available through illegal Internet pharmacies and is sometimes sold as counterfeit diazepam tablets known as “Valium”.

727. In December 2010, the ministers of justice of the European Union decided that mephedrone should be subject to control measures and criminal penalties. That decision was based on a report by the Scientific Committee of EMCDDA assessing the risks of mephedrone, which found that mephedrone could cause acute health problems and possibly lead to dependency and called for further research on that substance. At the time of the decision, 15 member States of the European Union had already placed the substance under national control.

728. In October 2011, the European Commission announced a number of steps to be taken to enhance the European Union drug control policy, including by, inter alia, proposing new legislation targeting cross-border drug trafficking, improving the definition of offences and sanctions and introducing stronger reporting obligations for European Union member States. The steps also include the presentation of indicators for monitoring drug markets, drug-related crime and supply reduction; examining means of strengthening European Union rules on production of and trade in precursor chemicals; and enhancing international cooperation against the diversion of precursor chemicals. The Commission recognized the need to extend and improve drug-related services, including prevention, and will promote improved implementation of key indicators in drug demand reduction. The Commission will propose strengthened legislation on new psychoactive substances aimed at enhancing the monitoring and assessment of substances, enabling a faster response to the emergence of substances, better aligning laws to cover the wide variety of substances and providing more sustainable responses to the emergence of new psychoactive substances.

729. Also in October 2011, the Council of the European Union adopted a European pact against synthetic drugs, in which it recognized the problems posed by the consumption and illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs in the European Union. The pact outlines actions to be taken to counter the production of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, tackling new psychoactive substances and training for law enforcement services in detecting, examining and dismantling clandestine laboratories.

#### 4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

##### (a) Narcotic drugs

730. In Western and Central Europe, the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants, especially indoors, has increased dramatically over the past few decades. It is an area in which the involvement of organized criminal groups is growing. As noted by the authorities of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the indoor cultivation of cannabis plants on an industrial scale has been increasing in those countries. In the Czech Republic, the THC content of cannabis illicitly cultivated indoors may be as high as 30 per cent, and a record number of 145 indoor cultivation sites were detected in 2010 (compared with 84 in 2009). In Germany, indoor cultivation of cannabis plants increased from 2009 to 2010, while outdoor cultivation decreased over the same period. Of the illicit cultivation sites detected in Germany, 22 indoor sites

and 1 outdoor site had a capacity of more than 1,000 cannabis plants. In Hungary, there was a large increase in the number of indoor sites in 2009, followed by a decrease in 2010.

731. Cannabis illicitly produced from plants grown in Albania, as well as in Kosovo,<sup>29</sup> is supplied by criminal groups in South-Eastern Europe and smuggled into Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and Turkey. Cannabis from Afghanistan, India and Pakistan is also being smuggled into Eastern and South-Eastern Europe via the Balkan routes.

732. In 2009, Afghanistan and India were often reported as countries of origin of cannabis resin seized in Europe. According to the World Customs Organization, the amount of cannabis resin reported seized by customs authorities in Europe decreased to 180 tons in 2010 from 203 tons in 2009, with Morocco being the main country of origin. Most of the cannabis resin reported to have been seized by customs authorities in Europe had been smuggled through Spain into Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The largest single seizure of cannabis resin reported to the World Customs Organization in 2010 (23.5 tons) was made in Spain on a vessel destined for the Netherlands. The amount of cannabis resin seized by customs authorities in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe increased significantly in 2010, to 813 kg (the result of eight seizures).

733. According to the World Customs Organization, the largest single seizure of cannabis herb by customs authorities in Europe in 2010 (2.6 tons) was made in Belgium; the cannabis herb had arrived from Ghana and had been destined for Poland. According to the Organization, Albania and Serbia were the main sources of cannabis herb seized by customs authorities in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Hungarian customs authorities seized 312 kg of cannabis herb that had been concealed in a lorry arriving from Serbia; the consignment had been destined for Italy. In Albania, six seizures of cannabis herb, totalling 315 kg, were made by customs authorities.

734. Europe is the world's second-largest market for cocaine, accounting for almost a third of global cocaine consumption; Western and Central Europe account for 95 per cent of Europe's share. However, Europe's share of global cocaine seizures — currently about 10 per cent — is declining. While the amount of cocaine seized has been decreasing in European countries in which the level of cocaine seizures has traditionally been high, such as

<sup>29</sup> All references to Kosovo in the present publication should be understood to be in compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Portugal and Spain, an increasing trend in cocaine seizures has been reported in other European countries, including Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

735. Single seizures of more than one ton of cocaine were reported in some European countries, including the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The significant increase in the amount of cocaine seized in Germany in 2010 was partly attributable to a record single seizure of 1.3 tons of cocaine, which had been shipped from Paraguay. In Spain, a large cocaine-processing laboratory was identified in January 2011, resulting in the seizure of 300 kg of cocaine and 33 tons of precursor chemicals.

736. According to the World Customs Organization, the volume of cocaine seized by the customs authorities in Eastern Europe rose dramatically in 2010. Ukraine and the Russian Federation were the main countries of destination for cocaine shipments in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. In July 2010, more than 582 kg of cocaine was seized in the port of Odessa, Ukraine, having arrived from the port of Arica in Chile. Also in July 2010, customs authorities in Ukraine uncovered 1,193 kg of cocaine in a consignment that had been sent from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) were the main countries from which cocaine was shipped to Eastern Europe in 2010. Cocaine shipments from Ecuador to the Russian Federation appear to be an ongoing trend.

737. Most of the cocaine entering Europe arrives by sea, mainly in Spain, where half of the cocaine seizures in the region are made, and in the Netherlands. Spain reported the largest single seizure of cocaine by customs authorities in Europe in 2010: 2.6 tons of cocaine were detected on a vessel near the Canary Islands. However, cocaine is increasingly being trafficked through South-Eastern Europe by air freight. In May 2011, nearly 1 ton of cocaine and 160 kg of cannabis resin were seized in Albania; the cocaine had been diluted in 13 tons of palm oil and shipped from Colombia via Belgium.

738. In 2010, 6 per cent of the cocaine seized at airports in Europe had transited West Africa, whereas 93 per cent had come from the Americas. In addition, there was an increase in the smuggling of cocaine into Europe via North Africa or along the Balkan routes. Countries in the Caribbean have been increasingly used for the secondary distribution of cocaine destined for Europe.

739. Almost 90 per cent of the heroin originating in Afghanistan and seized in Central Asian countries in 2010 had been destined for the Russian Federation. Other countries in Eastern Europe receive heroin mainly from

the Russian Federation and, to a smaller extent, the Balkan routes, which remain the main corridor used for smuggling heroin into European countries. About 63 per cent of all heroin seizures in Europe are made in South-Eastern Europe. While heroin seizures in Western and Central Europe have remained largely stable since 2005, they have doubled in South-Eastern Europe.

740. There is increasing diversity in the methods and routes used for smuggling heroin into Europe. According to the World Customs Organization, in 2010 the quantity of heroin seized in Europe that had been smuggled along the northern Balkan route (via Turkey to Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and then Austria) decreased compared with the quantity that had been smuggled along the southern Balkan route (into Italy via Greece, Albania or the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), whereas the quantity that had been smuggled into Europe along the so-called "silk route" (via Central Asia) remained relatively stable. Africa is becoming the predominant transit area for smuggling heroin by air into Europe, while some heroin consignments from Turkey have been trafficked by air into Western and Central European countries.

741. The opium seized by customs authorities in Western and Central Europe was mainly from Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey. In 2010 French authorities seized opium-saturated twigs sent in several postal and courier shipments from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand. The largest seizure of opium poppy straw (661 kg) in Eastern Europe in 2010 was made by the customs authorities of Belarus; the opium poppy straw was uncovered in a lorry arriving from Poland. Seizures of opium poppy straw in small quantities were reported by customs authorities in Poland and the Russian Federation in 2010.

#### (b) Psychotropic substances

742. The amount of amphetamines reported to have been seized by customs authorities in Western Europe in 2010 was small compared with recent years. Between 60 and 90 sites for the large-scale manufacture of synthetic drugs, especially amphetamine and MDMA ("ecstasy"), have been dismantled annually in member States of the European Union in recent years. The illicit manufacture of amphetamine in Europe is believed to be increasing. Illicit manufacture of amphetamine in Europe occurs mainly in Belgium, the Netherlands and Poland, though some also occurs in Estonia, Germany and Lithuania. Of the 16 clandestine drug laboratories dismantled in Poland in 2010, 14 had been used for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine. Seizures by customs authorities of amphetamines originating in Estonia,

Lithuania and Poland decreased in 2010, seizures of amphetamines in Austria decreased in 2010 by 65.7 per cent compared with 2009 and the quantity of the amphetamines seized in Germany decreased for the first time in eight years. Despite those decreasing trends, an increase in seizures of amphetamines was observed in Hungary in 2010. In May 2011, a group of 10 people, including 2 physicians, were arrested in Belgrade after a clandestine laboratory manufacturing amphetamine was uncovered near the city; the bulk of the illicitly manufactured amphetamine had been destined for the Middle East, and a small proportion was to be abused by the local population.

743. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in Europe continues to be limited. However, EMCDDA reports that methamphetamine has appeared as a possible substitute for amphetamine in the northern part of the region. Over 300 sites used for illicit methamphetamine manufacture were dismantled in the Czech Republic in 2010, a decrease from the record levels of over 400 sites in 2006 and 2008; that decrease was partly attributable to the strengthened controls over pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine implemented since 2009. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine also occurs in Lithuania and Poland. Facilities for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine were also dismantled in Austria, Germany, Slovakia and Poland. Most of the 16 illicit drug laboratories dismantled in Germany in 2010 were small sites used for the synthesis of methamphetamine.

744. A significant reduction in illicit manufacture of MDMA (“ecstasy”) is reported to have occurred in recent years in Europe; the reduction has been attributed by the European Police Office (Europol) to shortages of the precursor chemical 3,4-MDP-2-P and has been linked with the emergence of new psychoactive substances. However, there are concerns that the reduction in “ecstasy” manufacture may be only temporary. There is a trend towards replacing MDMA (“ecstasy”) with piperazine derivatives such as 1-(3-chlorophenyl)piperazine (*mCPP*), as evidenced in Austria and the United Kingdom, where there has been an increase in the number of samples containing piperazines.

### (c) Precursors

745. In 2010, for the first time, two laboratories that had been illicitly manufacturing P-2-P, which is used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine, were dismantled in Poland. In Bulgaria a total of 21 tons of acetic anhydride was seized in 2010. In April 2011, 6.5 tons of acetic anhydride were seized in Hungary, resulting in the dismantling of an organized criminal

group. The “masking” of P-2-P, a liquid used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine, into the powder P-2-P bisulphate prior to importation into the European Union is a new method used by traffickers in the region. In some countries in the region, such as Poland, illicit manufacture of amphetamine involves the manufacture of P-2-P using “pre-precursors” such as phenylacetic acid and benzyl cyanide.

746. Seizures of traditional precursor chemicals of MDMA (“ecstasy”) are reported to have declined in recent years in Europe. However, there recently have been numerous seizures of 3,4-MDP-2-P-glycidate, from which 3,4-MDP-2-P, a precursor chemical of “ecstasy”, can be manufactured. Since the middle of 2010, seizures of 3,4-MDP-2-P-glycidate have been made in several European countries, including Denmark, the Netherlands and Slovakia. In some of those cases, China was identified as the origin of the shipments.

### (d) Substances not under international control

747. The illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of “designer drugs” are of increasing concern in Europe. Some 41 new psychoactive substances were identified in 2010 through the European Union early warning system, an increase over 2009 when 24 new substances were reported, and a record number for the early warning system. The substances identified in 2010 included synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, arecoline (a plant-based substance) and synthetic derivatives of substances such as cocaine, phencyclidine and ketamine. In 2010, for the first time, a laboratory for the illicit manufacture of synthetic cannabinoids was uncovered in Germany.

748. Retail outlets that specialize in selling new psychoactive substances have rapidly emerged in several countries in Europe. In 2010, EMCDDA identified 136 Internet retail sites selling new psychoactive substances, most of which were based in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, while some were based in France, Hungary and Poland. In Hungary, the rate of seizures of mephedrone increased from 1-5 seizures per month to over 100 seizures per month between April and June 2010. According to the World Customs Organization, the number of seizures of GBL reported by customs authorities continued to increase; in 2010, seizures of GBL were effected mostly in Norway and Switzerland, and the main countries of departure were the Netherlands and Poland.

749. According to the World Customs Organization, the amount of khat reported seized by customs authorities in Europe in 2010 increased to about 49 tons, and over 1 ton

of khat was seized in each of the following countries: Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. The seized khat had reportedly been shipped from countries where it is not under control, such as the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom has been reported as the main source of shipments of khat seized by customs authorities in North America; those shipments were, for the most part, detected in the postal system. According to the World Customs Organization, khat shipped from the Netherlands has been transported mainly to Germany and Scandinavian countries.

## 5. Abuse and treatment

750. Cannabis is the most commonly abused drug in the member States of the European Union: annual prevalence of cannabis abuse is estimated at 6.7 per cent among the population aged 15-64 (the rate ranges from 0.4 to 14.3 per cent in various countries). The highest annual prevalence rates for cannabis abuse among adults in the European Union were reported in Italy (14.3 per cent), the Czech Republic (11.1 per cent) and Spain (10.6 per cent), while the lowest levels were reported in Romania (0.4 per cent), Malta (0.8 per cent) and Sweden (1.2 per cent). Monthly prevalence of cannabis abuse in the European Union is on average 3.6 per cent of adults and, in 14 countries for which data were reported, one fifth of those who had abused cannabis in the previous month had abused the drug on at least 20 of the preceding 30 days. Cannabis abuse in the European Union is concentrated among persons aged 15-24 years (average annual prevalence: 16 per cent).

751. The prevalence of cannabis abuse in Europe is relatively stable or declining in some countries, although increasing levels of cannabis abuse have been reported in recent years in countries such as Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland and Sweden. According to the latest information available to the Board, in the United Kingdom, annual prevalence of cannabis abuse among adults in England and Wales decreased from 7.9 per cent in the period 2008-2009 to 6.6 per cent in the period 2009-2010. In Norway, the proportion of the population under 35 years of age who had abused cannabis within the previous 30 days decreased from 4.5 per cent in 2004 to 2.1 per cent in 2009.

752. Cocaine is the second most prevalent drug of abuse in Europe. Europe accounts for almost one third of global consumption of cocaine. The amount of cocaine abused in Europe, which almost doubled from 1999 to 2009, has stabilized in recent years. Some 90 per cent of the cocaine abuse in Europe is concentrated in Western and Central Europe, where 1.2 per cent of adults aged 15-64 have

abused the drug in the past year. The prevalence of cocaine abuse ranged from 0 per cent to 2.7 per cent in various countries, the highest prevalence rates being in Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, and lowest in Greece and Romania. According to the latest information available, in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the annual prevalence of cocaine abuse in 2009 ranged from 0.1 to 0.3 per cent of the population aged 15-64.

753. Europe represents the largest share of the global opiate market. The abuse of heroin is the biggest drug problem in Europe in terms of morbidity and mortality. The annual prevalence of abuse of opiates, mainly heroin, in Europe is estimated at 0.6 per cent of the population aged 15-64. The overall prevalence of abuse of opioids in Western and Central Europe is estimated to be stable to increasing. The number of new admissions for treatment for opiate abuse has been increasing in some countries. The number of drug-induced deaths have also increased. In Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the annual prevalence of abuse of opiates is higher than in Western and Central Europe, estimated to be about 0.9-1.0 per cent of the population aged 15-64. According to the latest information available, in the Russian Federation, there were an estimated 1.7 million opiate abusers in 2010, consuming about 70 tons of the estimated total of 73 tons of opiates consumed in Eastern Europe. In Ukraine, there are about 370,000 opiate abusers.

754. The abuse of amphetamines and MDMA ("ecstasy") has been stable in Europe as a whole, with some increases in the abuse of those substances in a small number of countries, including Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. In Western and Central Europe, the annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamines is 0.7 per cent among the population aged 15-64 and 1.1 per cent among the population aged 15-34. In Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the annual prevalence of abusers of amphetamines-group substances was 0.2-0.5 per cent in 2009. Methamphetamine abuse in Europe is limited mainly to the Czech Republic, although the abuse of the substance also occurs in Austria, Germany, Slovakia, the Baltic countries and some Nordic countries. The annual prevalence of abuse of "ecstasy" in Europe is 0.7 per cent among those aged 15-64. In most countries in Europe, the abuse of "ecstasy" has remained stable or has declined.

755. A survey published in 2011 of young people in Europe aged 15-24 found that 5 per cent of respondents had abused substances that were not under control, with higher rates reported for Ireland (16 per cent), Latvia (9 per cent), Poland (9 per cent), the United Kingdom (8 per cent) and Luxembourg (7 per cent). Sixty-four per cent of the respondents indicated that they would use the Internet to obtain information about illicit drugs. The

survey results indicated that the abused substances had been obtained from friends (54 per cent), purchased at specialized shops (33 per cent) or purchased over the Internet (7 per cent).

756. According to EMCDDA, an estimated 1 million people receive treatment for drug abuse in the European Union each year. In the European Union, the average age of people entering treatment for drug abuse is increasing: 20 per cent of people entering such treatment are over 40 years of age.

757. Opiates are the main problem drug among persons receiving treatment for drug abuse in Europe. According to EMCDDA statistics, in the European Union, opiates account for 51 per cent of new cases requiring such treatment; opiates are followed by cannabis (23 per cent), cocaine (17 per cent), stimulants other than cocaine (5 per cent) and other drugs. EMCDDA statistics covering 19 countries in Europe revealed that the demand for treatment for heroin abuse has been increasing in many countries in recent years and that about half of problematic opioid abusers receive opioid substitution treatment. The number of new treatment cases for which cannabis is the main drug of abuse is declining in most countries. In the United Kingdom, however, the number of people under 18 years of age who are being treated in England for cannabis abuse has increased by over 40 per cent since the period 2005-2006.

758. During the period 2004-2008, drug-induced deaths accounted for, on average, 4 per cent of all deaths among people aged 15-39 in the European Union, and three quarters of those drug-induced deaths were caused by opioids. According to the latest reports by EMCDDA, the decrease of 23 per cent in drug-related deaths in the period 2000-2003 was reversed between 2003 and 2008-2009, with over half of the reporting countries in Western and Central Europe recording an increase in the number of drug-induced deaths between 2007 and 2008. In the United Kingdom, drug-related deaths decreased by 6.2 per cent from 2008 to 2009; and the number of deaths caused by cocaine fell sharply in 2009 after peaking in 2008. Deaths caused by the abuse of cocaine in conjunction with other drugs accounted for 21 per cent of drug-related deaths. According to EMCDDA, 30-50 per cent of HIV-positive persons who abuse drugs by injection in Western and Central Europe are unaware that they have been infected with HIV; and the prevalence of drug abuse by injection in Europe is estimated at 2.5 per 1,000 adults aged 15-64.

759. Polydrug abuse remains a key problem in Europe. In many European countries, more than a quarter of the people entering treatment for drug abuse reported having

concurrently abused cocaine and heroin. In Europe, cocaine (including "crack" cocaine) was the most frequently reported secondary drug of abuse among persons entering treatment for drug abuse. Many people undergoing treatment for cannabis abuse also reported the abuse of alcohol or other drugs.

760. The European Union Integrated Project Driving under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol and Medicines, in which the degree of impairment caused by psychoactive drugs and their impact on road safety were studied, revealed that among all seriously injured drivers sampled between 2007 and 2010 in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Lithuania and the Netherlands, the most prevalent substances identified after alcohol were THC (0.5-7.6 per cent) and benzodiazepines (0-10.2 per cent). The study also found that, among drivers killed in the period 2006-2009 in Finland, Norway, Portugal and Sweden, the most prevalent substances sampled were benzodiazepines (1.4-13.3 per cent), amphetamines (0-7.4 per cent) and THC (0-6.1 per cent).

## E. Oceania

### 1. Major developments

761. An increase in the smuggling of cocaine into Oceania has posed a new challenge to drug control efforts in that region. In Australia, the number of cocaine-related offences has increased significantly in the past decade. The 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveals that the annual prevalence rate of cocaine abuse in that country is higher than ever before. Large shipments of cocaine from South and Central America continue to be detected at the Australian border. Furthermore, according to the Australian law enforcement authorities, availability of cocaine has increased nationwide, despite the fact that the price of cocaine in Australia is significantly higher than in many other countries of the region. New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga have also reported an increase in cocaine seizures.

762. Organized crime syndicates are actively involved in drug trafficking in Oceania. Evidence shows that West African drug syndicates have established a significant presence in the region by trafficking heroin and methamphetamine into Australia and New Zealand. Furthermore, Mexican, Central American and South American crime syndicates have been identified as responsible for the smuggling of large shipments of cocaine into Australia. East and South-East Asian organized crime groups continue to maintain an advantage in smuggling crystalline methamphetamine