

annually, with the average length of stay in treatment being just one month. Rates for successful treatment completion and relapse were not reported.

730. According to the Ministry of Health of Iraq, the number of drug abusers entering outpatient and inpatient treatment countrywide has steadily increased, with 1,462 individuals receiving treatment in 2008, 2,337 individuals in 2009, 5,668 individuals in 2010 and 2,761 individuals in the first half of 2011. The highest number of those entering treatment are from the southern district of Basra, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran, with trihexyphenidyl (benzhexol) being the most commonly reported substance of abuse. That substance is also found to be abused in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Board encourages the Governments of Afghanistan and Iraq, through assistance by the international community, to expand appropriate drug treatment services throughout their respective countries.

731. The Board notes with satisfaction that some countries in West Asia, such as Jordan and Lebanon, took measures to strengthen their treatment and rehabilitation centres. In particular, the involvement of both the private and public medical care sectors in order to reach the maximum number of drug abusers. In Lebanon, for example, drug addicts are treated in hospitals and by some non-governmental organizations. A study cited by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health on drug addicts treated in hospitals and by non-governmental organizations in 2011 showed that a total of 1,411 patients were receiving treatment (1,206 males and 205 females). Almost 22 per cent of the patients are treated for abuse of tranquillizers, followed by alcohol (16 per cent), cocaine, amphetamine, cannabis oil, heroin and codeine, in descending order. In addition, among the patients, there were 119 cases of polydrug abuse.

D. Europe

1. Major developments

732. Abuse of illicit drugs in Europe has stabilized in recent years, although at a high level. Yet the emergence of new psychoactive substances, so-called “designer drugs” or “legal highs”, poses a major challenge, which many Governments are addressing by placing individual substances or groups of substances under national control. Adding to the challenge is the pattern of polydrug abuse: the consumption of illicit drugs in combination with other drugs, alcohol and non-controlled substances. In 2011, a significant increase in new cases of HIV infection based on a high HIV prevalence among injecting drug users was reported by Bulgaria, Greece and Romania.

733. Bosnia and Herzegovina has become an important regional trafficking hub for narcotics shipments. Main trafficking routes pass through Bulgaria, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Kosovo,³³ then through Montenegro and Serbia to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and from there to Croatia and Slovenia and Western European markets.

734. In October 2011, the Convention of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center entered into force, and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Center became the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC). The main objective of SELEC is to provide support for the competent national authorities of Member States and enhance coordination in preventing and combating organized crime in the region. SELEC inherits the activities of the SECI Center: 12 years of operational activities, joint investigations, training sessions and strategic analysis covering the most sensitive criminal areas in the South-Eastern European region.

735. Detections of laboratories used for the illicit manufacture of amphetamines have increased, and the increased manufacturing capacity of some of these sites has been noted. The trend of methamphetamine replacing amphetamine in Northern and Western Europe appears to be continuing, and the quantity of methamphetamine seized in Northern Europe has increased significantly.

2. Regional cooperation

736. In November 2011, a dialogue on drugs was held between the European Union and the Russian Federation in Brussels. Also in November 2011, a regional ministerial conference on challenges and achievements related to regional and transnational cooperation in the fight against organized crime in South-Eastern Europe was held in Belgrade. The conference was attended by ministers of internal affairs and justice and public prosecutors from the region, as well as representatives of European Union member States and members of the European Commission. The participants agreed on the necessity of creating expert teams to monitor regional cooperation in criminal matters and judicial cooperation.

737. In November 2011, the regional anti-drug initiative, Operation Channel, carried out annually under the auspices of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), involved competent law enforcement, customs authorities and financial intelligence units of CSTO member States. In the course of the operation,

³³ All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

many tons of drugs and psychotropic substances were seized, including 11.6 tons of opium, 17.4 tons of cannabis herb, 3.2 tons of cannabis resin and 871 kg of heroin.

738. A high-level meeting of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in December 2011 decided to reinforce cooperation with the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, especially in the fields of prevention and treatment, and adopted a policy paper on licit and illicit drugs and a strategic document setting out a political agreement regarding drugs. Also in December 2011, the European Commission proposed the establishment of a European border surveillance system (EUROSUR) to enhance coordination among member States and prevent and combat serious crime, including drug trafficking.

739. In December 2011, the Council of the European Union adopted conclusions on new psychoactive substances, and in June 2012 it adopted conclusions on the new European Union drugs strategy for the period 2013-2020 to address polydrug use, the rapid spread of new psychoactive substances, ensuring access to and addressing misuse of prescribed controlled medications, the use of the Internet in the illicit distribution of drugs, the diversion of precursors, the quality of demand reduction services and the high incidence of blood-borne diseases. Combating synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances was identified by the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) of the European Union as one of the Union's priorities in combating organized crime. The European Commission was in the process of carrying out an impact assessment on a new instrument to replace Council decision 2005/387/JHA on information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances and announced that it would propose stronger European Union legislation in that regard. A number of regional and interregional forums in 2012 have focused on the challenge of emerging substances of abuse.

740. In January 2012 in Brussels, the World Customs Organization held the first Global Forum on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Threats, with representatives of customs authorities from 65 countries, as well as international and regional organizations. The Forum enabled an exchange of best practices in combating trafficking in drugs and precursor chemicals and associated money-laundering and corruption.

741. In February 2012, the seventh meeting of the European Union-Mexico Joint Council established by the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union

and its Member States and Mexico welcomed steps to reactivate the agreement on the control of precursors.

742. In February and March 2012, the first meeting on drug policy cooperation in South-Eastern Europe and the Balkans, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, focused on exchange of information and experience. The second such meeting, held in Zagreb in September 2012, focused on rehabilitation and reintegration services.

743. In March 2012, a memorandum of understanding was concluded in Brussels between INCB and the World Customs Organization. The agreement formalized the long-standing cooperation between the two bodies, with a view to enhancing international drug control efforts within their respective mandates.

744. In May 2012, within the framework of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, an international conference on alcohol, drugs and prevention in the workplace, held in Strasbourg, France, adopted a frame of reference for policies for preventing alcohol and drug use in the workplace.

745. In May 2012, UNODC launched a new regional programme for South-Eastern Europe for the period 2012-2015 on "Countering illicit trafficking and organized crime for improved governance, justice and security". The programme is aimed at combating illicit drug trafficking via the Balkan route and related problems, as well as at improving intraregional cooperation between countries along the Balkan route and countries in West and Central Asia and Europe affected by heroin trafficking from Afghanistan.

746. The fourteenth High-level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Brussels in June 2012, expressed support for, inter alia, continued cooperation between the two regions in addressing the world drug problem, highlighting the need to address prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and reduction of the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse.

747. The third World Forum against Drugs, held in Stockholm in May 2012, focused on human rights, the right of children to be protected from illicit drugs, illicit drug use and trafficking problems in Latin America, as well as on primary prevention. A joint statement was signed at the Forum by the representatives of Italy, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, reiterating their commitment to ensuring the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for the relief of pain, treatment

of illness and research; preventing and reducing the use of those drugs for any other purpose and reducing the consequences of such use; and calling for a balanced approach to the world drug problem, with a strengthened international partnership. The second Congress of the World Federation against Drugs, also held in Stockholm in May 2012, resulted in a statement highlighting the need to support the international drug control conventions and to promote policies aimed at limiting the harmful effects of drugs through prevention, law enforcement and treatment and recovery programmes.

3. National legislation, policy and action

748. Many countries in the region have introduced legislation to address the challenges posed by the abuse of new psychoactive substances. In Austria in January 2012, legislation entered into force that brought under control substances or groups of substances that are not subject to the 1961 or 1971 conventions and that have the potential for psychoactive effects, are likely to be abused and pose a potential health threat.

749. Cyprus introduced a generic system of classification in national drug control legislation in 2011. In Denmark, legislation entered into force in July 2012 that introduced the generic scheduling of drugs, including synthetic cannabinoids. Finland amended the 2008 Narcotics Act in June 2011 to enable the control of substances based on a risk assessment by the Finnish Medicines Agency, together with the police, customs authorities and the National Institute for Health and Welfare. In April 2012, Hungary created a schedule C to existing legislation, on which a substance can be included after a formalized rapid assessment has found that it affects the central nervous system and therefore poses as serious a threat to public health as the substances listed in the international drug conventions, and that the substance has no therapeutic use. Within one year of placement on the schedule, the risk of individual substances must be assessed, resulting in either full control or removal from the schedule; compound groups remain on the schedule as long as any substance in the group meets the above-mentioned criteria. Following the enactment of the revised drug law in Switzerland in July 2011, yearly reviews of new synthetic substances enable such substances to be brought under national control. “Temporary class drug orders” were introduced in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 of the United Kingdom as at November 2011, enabling the control of a new psychoactive substance for one year if the substance is misused, likely to be misused or could have harmful effects. In addition, a new action plan to tackle psychoactive substances, published in May 2012, is aimed

at reducing the demand for such substances by providing information about the associated risk and harms, restricting supply and ensuring effective treatment and support for lasting recovery.

750. Many countries in the region are also placing individual substances or groups of substances under national control. For example, mephedrone has been brought under control by most member States of the European Union, with the Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Slovenia and Spain, as well as Switzerland, all placing it under control in 2011, and tapentadol was placed under national control in Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Latvia and Spain in 2011.

751. In May 2011, the first national survey on the use of drugs and other addictive substances among the general population in Croatia was initiated. In July 2011, the Government of Croatia adopted amendments to the Act on the Suppression of Drugs Abuse (OG 84/11), thus enabling the introduction in the country of the unified prescription form used by physicians active in the Schengen area to prescribe medicine containing narcotic drugs for the personal use of travellers within that region for a maximum of 30 days. In October 2011, the Croatian Parliament adopted a new penal code, which entered into force on 1 January 2012. In the new penal code, the abuse of narcotic drugs is punished according to the provisions of two criminal acts covering the unauthorized possession and manufacture of, and trade in, drugs and substances banned in sports. The new penal code also provides for the criminalization of growing plants and fungi from which narcotic drugs can be obtained and of activities related to money-laundering. In the context of the process of adapting the Croatian drug demand reduction system to European Union standards, the Government in 2011 initiated the creation of a database for programmes on combating drug abuse in Croatia. The purpose of the database is to consolidate information about all of the demand reduction activities that are being implemented at all levels in Croatia.

752. In November 2011 in Denmark, the city council of Copenhagen decided that it would ask the national Government for authorization to introduce an experimental scheme concerning the legalization of trade in and use of cannabis; however, according to information provided by the Government, it had not been asked for such an authorization and had indicated that such an authorization would not be granted. In July 2012, an amendment to the drug law was to come into effect that would empower the Minister of Health to license, at the request of municipal governments, “drug consumption rooms” and regulate their operation by municipal authorities and private organizations with operational

agreements with the municipal authorities. The Government of Denmark has been informed of the position of the Board that consumption rooms are in violation of the provisions of the international drug control conventions.

753. In May 2012, a code of conduct developed by the Government of France and the chemical industry was published, with the aim of facilitating the identification and reporting of suspicious transactions of precursor chemicals.

754. In August 2012, the National Substance Misuse Strategy of Ireland was published, integrating strategies for alcohol and drug abuse for the first time. In January 2012 in Latvia, new procedures came into force for the treatment of addiction to alcohol, narcotics, psychotropic substances, toxic substances and gambling, with redesigned rules for opioid substitution treatment that allow the provision of substitution treatment and for such treatment to be offered beyond the capital city provided that certain criteria are met.

755. In December 2011, the parliament of Lithuania adopted a political resolution expressing grave concern about new psychoactive substances and calling for further preventive and improved control measures. Also in December 2011, a Government order set out conditions for the storage of precursor chemicals in order to comply with European Commission regulations.

756. In June 2012, the Republic of Moldova became the thirty-seventh member of the Pompidou Group following the adoption of Law No. 75. Currently, the Pompidou Group collaborates with the Republic of Moldova in the fields of drug treatment in prisons, drug prevention for youth and the development of systems to improve drug detection at European airports.

757. In January 2012, amendments to the national framework of the Netherlands for policy related to so-called “coffee shops” as contained in the Opium Act Instructions came into force, with the aim of reducing the size of such sites, facilitating control and combating drug tourism. Access to “coffee shops” is to be restricted to residents of the Netherlands aged 18 years or older who are members of a “coffee shop”, with membership to each site limited to 2,000 individuals per calendar year. The restrictions were applied in three southern states (Limburg, North Brabant and Zeeland) as from May 2012, and were to be implemented nationwide from January 2013. The amendments also increase the minimum distance between “coffee shops” and secondary schools and secondary vocational institutions. While the Board has taken note of this development, its position continues to be that such “coffee shops” are in violation of

the provisions of the international drug control conventions.

758. On 1 June 2012, measures to prohibit over-the-counter sales of medicines containing codeine or its salts became effective in the Russian Federation. Since 1 June 2012, the sale of such medicines by pharmacies is allowed only with a doctor’s prescription. The increased controls are a result of the fact that these medicines are often used for the clandestine manufacture of desomorphine.

759. In November 2011, the Government of Serbia established within the Ministry of Health a commission on psychoactive controlled substances, an interministerial committee responsible for providing expert advice to the Government on issues related to psychotropic substances, as well as for issuing licences for forensic laboratories.

760. In 2012, the Government of Ukraine adopted the National Drug Strategy through 2020. The strategy defines administrative, social, medical, legal, educational, informational and other measures aimed at preventing non-medical use of drugs, reducing the supply and demand of illegal drugs and facilitating the availability of drugs for medical and scientific use.

761. In May 2012 in the United Kingdom, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence released clinical guidelines for England and Wales for the prescribing of strong opioids for the treatment of pain for adults in palliative care, noting that published evidence suggested that pain resulting from advanced disease, especially cancer, remained undertreated and expressing the goal of helping to improve pain management and patient safety.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

762. The illicit cultivation of cannabis plant in Western and Central Europe, especially indoor cultivation and cultivation on a commercial scale, has continued to increase. The involvement of criminal groups in illicit cannabis cultivation, as reported by Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom, is a growing concern. In a study by EMCDDA of 30 countries in Europe, 16 countries indicated that indoor cultivation was the dominant method of illicit cultivation, while the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Latvia, Sweden and the United Kingdom reported increases in indoor cultivation in recent years and France reported that three quarters of cases of illicit cultivation of cannabis plant involved

indoor cultivation. Hydroponic cultivation was noted by 12 countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and the United Kingdom) and was reported to have increased in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In the United Kingdom, detections of sites of illicit cultivation of cannabis have continued to increase, coupled with a reduction in the size and scale of commercial illicit cultivation sites. Similarly, in Finland, small-scale cultivation at the household level is increasing. Slovenia reported an increase in indoor cultivation, while at the same time it noted a decrease in outdoor cultivation. In Bulgaria, an increase in the indoor cultivation of cannabis plant was reported in 2011. So-called “grow shops”, retail outlets selling products for the indoor cultivation of plants, have been identified as a potential indicator of increases in illicit domestic production of cannabis, especially indoors. According to EMCDDA, the existence of such outlets in 2009 was reported by 15 countries in Western and Central Europe, seven of which noted the existence of information on cannabis cultivation in such outlets.

763. Trafficking of cannabis herb continues at significant levels in Eastern and Central Europe. Cannabis herb is usually trafficked from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo to Montenegro and southern Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is evidence that cannabis herb produced in the region is playing an increasingly important role in the supply chain of European cannabis markets. While Albania has reported a decrease in seizures of locally produced cannabis herb, increases in cannabis plant cultivation have been reported by Bulgaria and Ukraine. Seizures of cannabis resin imported from beyond the region continue to decline, and seizures of cannabis herb remain relatively stable, although at a significantly lower level than a decade ago. The number of cannabis plants seized, however, increased dramatically between 2004 and 2010. While there is an overall stable or decreasing trend in the abuse of cannabis in the region, 1 per cent of European adults may be using cannabis on a daily or almost-daily basis, and 4 per cent of school students aged 15 or 16 report having abused cannabis at least once a week, while in France and Monaco more than one in every five students in that age group reported using cannabis in the past month. Treatment demand owing to the abuse of cannabis is increasing; between 2004 and 2009, the number of people entering treatment for the first time whose primary drug of abuse was cannabis increased by 40 per cent in 18 European countries.

764. Ukraine has reported the eradication of large areas of illicit cultivation of cannabis plant close to its border

with the Republic of Moldova, and estimated the area under illicit cultivation at 920 ha in 2010. Albania, another important producer of cannabis herb, has implemented law enforcement actions against cannabis growers and traffickers, and reported a lower estimate of production capacity; areas of illicit cannabis plant cultivation and the production of cannabis further decreased as a result of joint operations by national law enforcement institutions. During 2011, 89 cases of cannabis cultivation were recorded and 21,267 cannabis plants were destroyed. In addition, 79 people were arrested and placed under investigation for charges related to the illicit cultivation of cannabis.

765. There were no significant drug production cases reported by Croatia, with only a small number of cases of cannabis plant cultivation and intensive indoor cultivation by smaller criminal groups reported. Cannabis available on the Croatian market originates in Albania and is smuggled by organized criminal groups through Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina into Croatia and on to Western Europe along the Balkan route. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, small-scale cultivation of cannabis, mainly for domestic use, is the only known illegal production of drugs. In the first six months of 2011, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia detected 222 crimes committed in the area of “illegal production and trade of narcotic drugs”. The biggest cannabis seizure reported involved 105 kg smuggled from Albania into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 11 June 2011.

766. Seizures of cannabis resin in Western and Central Europe are continuing to decrease, with seizures of 534 tons in Western and Central Europe in 2010, which is almost half the peak amount of 1,078 tons in 2004, and the number of seizures dropping to the lowest level since 2003. In Spain, the country with the greatest amount of cannabis resin seized by customs authorities globally, seizures decreased in 2010 for a second consecutive year, to the lowest level recorded since 1997. Seizures by customs authorities of cannabis resin in Western Europe decreased from 178 tons in 2010 to 147 tons in 2011. In Finland, however, a record quantity of cannabis resin was seized in 2011; most of it was en route to the Russian Federation. The relative importance of Morocco as a source of cannabis resin for Europe, the world’s largest illicit market for the substance, is reportedly appearing to decrease, with the importance of resin from other countries, such as Afghanistan, India, Lebanon and Pakistan, appearing to increase. Nevertheless, Morocco was identified as the source country for almost three quarters of the cannabis resin seized in Western Europe by customs authorities in 2011. The volume of cannabis

resin seized by customs authorities in Eastern and Central European countries has also dropped significantly, reaching 95 kg in four seizure cases in 2011, compared with 814 kg in 44 seizure cases in 2010. The majority of the seizures were carried out on board trains coming from Azerbaijan, Tajikistan or Ukraine. The largest seizure was reported by Belarus: 131 kg of cannabis resin seized at the land border with Latvia.

767. The number of seizures of cannabis herb in Western and Central Europe has increased since 2001, doubling between 2005 and 2009 and, in 2010, exceeding seizures of cannabis resin for the first time. The amount of cannabis herb seized in Western and Central Europe has remained at about 60 tons since 2004 (62 tons in 2010), half the peak level of 124 tons in 2002. Following a decrease in seizures by customs authorities of cannabis herb in Western Europe from 2009 to 2010, the total amount seized more than doubled from 8.8 tons in 2010 to 17.7 tons in 2011. According to UNODC, over the period 2001-2010, seizures of cannabis herb by weight decreased in Western Europe yet increased in Northern, Central and Eastern Europe. The volume of cannabis herb interceptions made in Eastern and Central Europe in 2011 was more than double that of 2010, totalling 2.7 tons in 74 seizure cases. According to the World Customs Organization, Albania remains an important source country for cannabis herb seized in Eastern and Central Europe, accounting for a total volume of 2,194 kg, more than 80 per cent of the total amount seized in 2011. Almost all of the seizures of cannabis herb in Eastern and Central Europe were made while the cannabis herb was being transported by road.

768. Seizures of cannabis plants have continued to increase in Europe since 2004, from 1.7 million plants in 2004 to about 30 million plants in 2010, with seizures of plants totalling 42 tons in 2008 and 35 tons in 2010, most of which was accounted for by Spain (27 tons) and Bulgaria (4 tons). In the United Kingdom (England and Wales), the number of seizures involving plants increased by 12 per cent, despite a decrease in the number of plants seized. In Germany, while seizures of cannabis resin and cannabis herb both decreased by almost 20 per cent from 2010 to 2011, seizures of plants increased by almost a third.

769. While the amount of cocaine seized in Western and Central Europe has declined in recent years, there are some signs of stabilization. After increasing from about 50 tons in 2009 to about 60 tons in 2010, seizures of cocaine in Western and Central Europe remained at about half the peak amount of 120 tons in 2006. Spain continued to be the country reporting the largest quantity seized (25 tons), almost half the total for Western and

Central Europe, followed by the Netherlands (10 tons). The quantity of cocaine seized by customs authorities in Western Europe remained relatively stable at about 34 to 37 tons per year between 2009 and 2011, representing almost half of global seizures of cocaine by customs authorities. In Romania, the total amount of cocaine seized in 2011 was more than 161 kg, approximately 63 times the quantity seized in 2010 (2.6 kg). The amount seized in 2011 was mainly the result of one large seizure (157.5 kg) made in Constanta harbour.

770. Cocaine traffickers use ports in Croatia and Greece for shipments to Eastern Europe. From there, cocaine is moved to smaller harbours in Montenegro and Albania, from which it is transported by road to Kosovo and then Serbia before reaching Bosnia and Herzegovina and Western European markets. The abuse of cocaine in Western and Central Europe remains stable, although with a high annual prevalence of 1.2 per cent.

771. Ships are still the main mode of transportation for cocaine trafficked to Western Europe, representing almost 80 per cent of the quantity seized by customs authorities in 2011; however, seizures by customs authorities at airports accounted for 15 per cent of the quantity seized in Western Europe. Cocaine is increasingly trafficked to Slovenia via container from Latin America, with shipments also arriving at ports on the Adriatic Sea and then entering Slovenia via the western Balkans. Of the cocaine seized by customs authorities in 2011 in Western Europe, 80 per cent was identified as having originated in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). In 2010, cocaine deliveries to the Russian Federation arrived mainly from Ecuador. This trend continued in 2011, with two seizures carried out at the Saint Petersburg seaport, of 20.6 kg and 4.5 kg of cocaine arriving from Ecuador. Since 2009, the Caribbean region has become increasingly important in the trafficking of cocaine shipments destined for Europe. For example, the Dominican Republic was identified as the origin of 273 shipments, amounting to 3.5 tons, of cocaine seized by customs authorities in Western Europe in 2011. The significant increase, of about 50 per cent, in French seizures of cocaine in 2011 (almost 11 tons) compared with 2009 and 2010 was the result of seizures in the Caribbean. In January 2012, 1.2 tons of cocaine destined for the European market were seized on two vessels off the coast of Martinique.

772. Eastern Europe's biggest drug control problem continues to be the illicit trafficking of heroin and opiates originating in Afghanistan. Turkey continues to be a main corridor for heroin trafficking to Europe. Heroin also

continues to be trafficked through Central Asia into the Russian Federation along the northern branch of the so-called “silk route” (via Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), both for domestic use and for trafficking onward to Western European countries.

773. In 2010, about 6 tons of heroin were seized in Western and Central Europe, a decrease from the approximately 8-9 tons seized annually between 2005 and 2009, with the highest quantities of seizures made in France and Italy (each approximately one ton) and with the decline affected by decreases in amounts seized in Bulgaria and the United Kingdom. Customs seizures of heroin in Western Europe decreased from 1.9 tons in 2009 to 1.0 ton in 2011. A decline in the availability of heroin on the illicit drug market was observed in some European countries between 2010 and 2011. This observation was supported by data from Ireland indicating that the prevalence of Drug Treatment Centre Board laboratory samples testing positive for heroin marker 6-acetylmorphine was at its lowest level in December 2010, slowly increasing at the beginning of 2011. Samples testing positive for benzodiazepine peaked in December 2010, coinciding with the shortage of heroin, followed by an ongoing increase, indicating either substitution or “cutting” of heroin with benzodiazepines.

774. In 2010, a decrease in seizures of heroin was recorded in most of the countries (except the Islamic Republic of Iran) along the main Balkan trafficking route, from Afghanistan through South-Eastern Europe to Western and Central Europe, although large quantities of heroin continued to be trafficked along that route. In 2011, nearly two thirds of the heroin seized at the borders of the United Kingdom had been trafficked directly from Pakistan (in air freight and containers). At the same time, there was a reduction in the amount of heroin being trafficked to the United Kingdom via Turkey. According to the World Customs Organization, the decreasing trend since 2009 in the amount of heroin seized in Eastern and Central Europe continued; in 2011 the total amount of heroin seized was 23 per cent of the amount seized in 2010.

775. Amounts of heroin seized by customs authorities along the traditional Balkan route (Turkey, Romania, Hungary and Austria) were greater than along the southern Balkan route (to Italy via Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or Greece), with the use of the “silk route” continuing to be significant. In Romania, the quantity of heroin seized decreased by almost 90 per cent, from 108 kg in 2010 to 12 kg in 2011.

Bulgarian customs authorities alone made 60 per cent of the seizures in Eastern and Central Europe and over 85 per cent of the total volume seized. The two largest seizures were made in Bulgaria, the first at the border with Turkey at the Kapitan Andreevo checkpoint, where customs authorities discovered 96 kg of heroin coming from Turkey. The second seizure was made at the border with Romania, at the Ruse checkpoint, where customs authorities discovered 43 kg of heroin bound for the Netherlands in a lorry load. Substantial seizures of heroin were also reported by the customs authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, followed by those of Ukraine, Serbia and Albania with significantly smaller amounts. The Russian Federation reported 101 seizures by customs authorities in 2011, with a total of 138 kg of heroin.

776. Western Europe accounted for only a small portion (about 3 per cent) of the global seizures of opium by customs authorities in 2011; Turkey was identified as the source country in half of the shipments. A total of 112 tons of opium were seized in Germany in 2011, an increase of over 800 per cent compared with 2010 (12.3 tons). Buprenorphine, an opioid controlled under the 1971 Convention, is trafficked on a large scale from France to Finland, where seizures increased in 2011, while seizures of the substance between Finland and Estonia decreased. In Estonia, the trafficking of heroin and other opiates is reported to be in decline. In Latvia in 2011, two illegal laboratories for the manufacture of methadone were detected; the destination of the methadone produced was believed to be the Russian Federation.

777. Little progress was made in the past year in tackling drug trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country which continues to be a transit corridor for international trafficking of narcotics. Organized crime groups linked with drug trafficking continued to operate through the country’s territory. Local illicit drug consumption remained relatively low compared with other European countries. Bosnia and Herzegovina remains at an early stage in the fight against drug trafficking, as well as in taking effective action on reducing drug demand. Effective, sustainable and institutionalized mechanisms for cooperation and strategic coordination between different law enforcement agencies are still being developed, and the performance of law enforcement agencies in the fight against drug trafficking remains uneven. The Board urges the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to establish an office to coordinate national drug control activities as a matter of priority and to continue its efforts to strengthen drug control in both of

its constituent entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska.

(b) Psychotropic substances

778. Customs seizures of amphetamines in Western Europe tripled from 615 kg in 2010 to 1,827 kg in 2011, although they were still lower than in 2009 (3,028 kg). Europe continues to account for the majority of laboratories seized worldwide for illicitly manufacturing substances in the amphetamine group; the number of amphetamine laboratories seized in Europe increased from 43 in 2009 to 62 in 2010. It has been reported that the capacity of amphetamine manufacture in the Netherlands and Belgium may have increased by a factor of five to six, and in Poland by 30 to 160 per cent. The quantity of amphetamine powder seized in Western and Central Europe decreased from a peak of 8 tons in 2007 to 5 tons in 2010, with Germany accounting for almost a quarter of the amount seized, followed by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Poland. The number of amphetamine tablets seized in Western and Central Europe, however, doubled from 170,000 in 2008 to 345,000 in 2010, with 96 per cent of those seizures taking place in Spain. Most amphetamine seized in Europe is manufactured in (in descending order of significance) the Netherlands, Poland, Belgium, Bulgaria and Turkey, and the Netherlands remains the main source or distribution country for the majority of amphetamine consignments seized in the Central and Eastern European region (31 kg out of a total of 57 kg). The volume of amphetamines seized in Central and Eastern European countries decreased significantly in 2011 compared with 2010, falling to 57 kg. Customs authorities in Poland seized a total of 49 kg, far ahead of the quantity of amphetamine-type stimulants seized in Ukraine (3 kg) and Bulgaria (2 kg). The largest seizure of amphetamines (31 kg) was made in Olszyna, Poland, close to the German border, in a private vehicle coming from the Netherlands. Five seizures of amphetamines, with a total weight of 11 kg, were made in 2011 by the customs authorities of Belarus and the Russian Federation.

779. Methamphetamine has been reported as increasingly present in the illicit amphetamine market in some Nordic and Baltic countries, although amphetamine is far more commonly available in Europe. In Poland, which saw a decrease in 2011 in illicit amphetamine laboratories, there was some increase in the number of illicit methamphetamine laboratories detected; that was also the case in 2011 in the Czech Republic. The number of illicit methamphetamine laboratories seized in Europe decreased from 361 in 2009 to 328 in 2010. The majority of them (307) were seized in the Czech Republic, with an

increase in the number of detections of such facilities in Austria and Bulgaria. The number of seizures and the quantity of methamphetamine seized in Western and Central Europe have continued to increase since 2001; there were about 7,300 seizures and 500 kg each year in 2009 and 2010, an increase from almost 300 kg in 2008, mainly owing to increases in 2009 in Sweden and Norway, the main countries for seizures of methamphetamine. Customs seizures of methamphetamine fell by more than 50 per cent in 2011 to 64 kg, from 142 kg seized in 2010, after having increased significantly from 2009 (30 kg). Thailand continued to be the main source country for methamphetamine seized by customs authorities in Western Europe in 2011 (28 out of a total of 67 seizures). African countries were also significant source countries in that regard, although to a lesser degree than in 2010. Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa together accounted for 10 per cent of the quantity seized.

780. After several years of decline, especially in 2009, MDMA ("ecstasy") has made a possible resurgence in Europe since mid-2010, according to Europol. Seizures of "ecstasy"-group substances more than doubled, from 595 kg in 2009 to 1.3 tons in 2010. In Romania, the number of tablets seized in 2011 was approximately 2.5 times the number seized during the previous year. No "ecstasy" laboratories were reported to UNODC as having been seized in Europe in 2010, yet several were detected in 2011. It has been suggested that this trend is possibly connected to the emergence of slightly modified precursor chemicals that are not controlled at the international level. EMCDDA reports increasing availability of MDMA in "ecstasy" tablets, after having decreased in recent years, with production methods apparently now based increasingly on safrole or on chemicals such as 3,4-MDP-2-P-glycidate, which are structurally similar to the controlled precursors traditionally used in the illicit manufacture of "ecstasy". In 2010, 3 million "ecstasy" tablets were seized in Western and Central Europe, a 50-per-cent increase compared with 2009 but significantly less than the peak of almost 23 million tablets in 2002. France, the Netherlands and Spain each accounted for about one fifth of tablets seized, followed by Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom. In Germany, the amount of "ecstasy" tablets seized more than doubled from 2010 to 2011. Customs seizures of MDMA ("ecstasy") in Western Europe increased from 109 kg in 2009 to 206 kg in 2010 and to 466 kg in 2011, with over half of the total amount seized by French customs authorities. The World Customs Organization reported only five seizures of "ecstasy" made in 2011 in Eastern and Central Europe (three by Poland, one by Serbia and one by Estonia), totalling 21 kg. The Netherlands was identified as the main source

country for illicit shipments of “ecstasy” to other European countries, representing about 80 per cent of the total amount seized by customs authorities in 2011.

(c) Precursors

781. Non-controlled substances are continuing to replace controlled precursor chemicals, through masking or substitution, although this was rare in Europe before 2010. Europol reported several large seizures between 2009 and 2011 of *alpha*-phenylacetonitrile (APAAN) consignments and the dismantling of laboratories for the conversion of APAAN into 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P), a precursor chemical used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine and methamphetamine. In addition to the illicit manufacture of P-2-P in Europe, trafficking of the substance continues.

(d) Substances not under international control

782. Illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of new psychoactive substances continue to pose a serious threat in Western and Central Europe. In 2011, a record 49 new psychoactive substances were reported to the European Union early warning system. All of the substances identified were synthetic; they included 23 synthetic cannabinoids and 8 synthetic cathinones. Five new chemical families of synthetic cannabinoids were detected; those substances make up the largest group monitored through the early warning system. Seven substances that were medicines, metabolites or precursors of medicines were also identified. In 2011, public health warnings were issued through the European Union system about adverse health effects related to a number of substances. In the United Kingdom, 19 per cent of Internet test purchases of new psychoactive substances, sold as “plant food” or “research chemicals”, contained a substance under national control (20 per cent, 18 per cent and 22 per cent of samples contained, respectively, cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids or piperazines).

783. The number of Internet-based retail sites selling psychoactive products and shipping to European Union member States increased from 170 in January 2010 to 314 in January 2011 and 690 in January 2012. About a third of them were hosted on servers based in the United States, and a fifth of them were hosted on servers based in the United Kingdom. About two thirds of the sites identified had some type of disclaimer or product warning, and there was an increasing use of measures to restrict access to such sites and to protect the identity of buyers and sellers. Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) and *Salvia divinorum* were the two most frequently identified

products, available from 128 and 110 online sites, respectively. A 2011/12 study in England and Wales found that 0.9 per cent of adult respondents had purchased drugs over the Internet the most recent time they had taken drugs, compared with 0.7 per cent the previous year.

784. Mephedrone accounts for an increasing proportion of the illicit drug market in some European countries. Although not under international control, mephedrone has been placed under control in most European Union member States, yet it continued to be offered for sale over the Internet, although on fewer sites and at higher prices. In 2010/11 in the United Kingdom, over 120 websites advertising mephedrone and naphyrone for sale were closed down; those substances had been classified nationally as class B drugs in 2010. In Hungary, mephedrone was the most frequently seized synthetic substance in 2010, and increasing prevalence of injection of mephedrone and other cathinones was reported in the period 2010/11. In the United Kingdom, 286 of the 2,564 seizures made in Northern Ireland in 2010/11 were of mephedrone, considerably more than those of amphetamines (128 seizures) and “ecstasy” (150 seizures) and only slightly fewer than seizures of cocaine (304 seizures). In England and Wales in the period 2010/11 (both before and after the national control of mephedrone), annual prevalence of mephedrone abuse among people between the ages of 16 and 59 was 1.4 per cent, similar to “ecstasy” abuse and representing the third-most-abused drug within that age group. Among those aged 16-24, it was as frequently abused as cocaine (4.4 per cent). In 2011, there was a large increase in the detection of laboratories illicitly manufacturing mephedrone in Poland.

785. Customs seizures of khat continued to increase in Western Europe, from 49 tons in 2010 to almost 54 tons in 2011, with 95 per cent of the seizures in Germany (23.8 tons), Sweden (12.8 tons), Norway (8.3 tons) and Denmark (6.6 tons). A large increase in seizures of khat (1.4 tons) was reported in Malta in 2011. In 2012, the Government of the Netherlands placed khat under national control in List II of the Opium Act.

5. Abuse and treatment

786. With an average annual prevalence of 5.2 per cent, cannabis is still the most commonly abused drug in Europe, followed by cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants and opioids (specifically heroin). Experts in numerous countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe have reported an increasing trend in the abuse of cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants, including

“ecstasy”, while the abuse of opioids and cocaine is reported as stable. Annual prevalence of cannabis in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe is estimated at 2.6 per cent, that of opioids at 1.2 per cent and that of opiates at 0.8 per cent. Annual prevalence of abuse of cocaine in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe is estimated at between 0.1 and 0.3 per cent of the population, abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants at between 0.2 and 0.5 per cent and abuse of “ecstasy” between 0.5 and 0.6 per cent.

787. In the European Union, annual prevalence of abuse of cannabis among adults is 6.7 per cent, ranging from 0.3 per cent to 14.3 per cent depending on the country. On average, 3.6 per cent of adults in Western and Central Europe abused cannabis in the preceding month, with the highest levels reported in Spain (7.6 per cent) and Italy (6.9 per cent). The stable or decreasing trend in cannabis abuse in Western and Central Europe appears to be continuing in general,³⁴ especially among young adults, although still at a high level, and an estimated 1 per cent of all European adults may be using cannabis on a daily or almost-daily basis. Annual prevalence of cannabis abuse among younger adults (15-24 years old) in Western and Central Europe averages 15.2 per cent, with a range from 0.9 per cent to 22.3 per cent. With monthly prevalence averaging 8 per cent, more than one in 10 people between the ages of 15 and 24 in France (11.8 per cent) and Italy (11 per cent), and almost one in five in Spain (17.2 per cent) reported abuse of cannabis within the previous month. A comparison of WHO Health Behaviour in School-aged Children surveys for 2005/2006 and 2009/2010 indicates an overall stable or decreasing trend in most countries in Europe in lifetime prevalence of cannabis abuse among students aged 15 and 16, yet an increasing trend in 30-day prevalence. In Switzerland, 10.4 per cent of youth and young adults (13-29 years old) had consumed cannabis in the previous six months, a decrease from 11.1 per cent in 2007 and 13.3 per cent in 2004, while the prevalence of daily or almost-daily abuse remained stable at about 1 per cent over the period 2007-2010. “Youth in Europe”, a research-based drug abuse prevention programme initiated by European Cities against Drugs, published findings indicating a decrease in lifetime prevalence of cannabis abuse among young people (15-16 years of age) in Iceland, from 17 per cent in 1998 to 3 per cent in 2011. In Germany, annual prevalence of cannabis abuse among young people aged 12-17 years decreased from 9.2 per cent in 2001 to 4.6 per cent in 2011, yet remained relatively constant among those aged 18-25 at about 13.5 per cent in 2011.

³⁴ Poland, however, reported a large increase in cannabis abuse in 2010.

788. The level of abuse of cocaine remains relatively stable, with an average annual prevalence in Western and Central Europe among adults of 1.2 per cent, and a range of 0.1 per cent to 2.7 per cent (2.1 per cent among people aged 15-34). A decrease in annual prevalence of abuse of cocaine among adults has been seen over the past few years in countries with high prevalence rates, such as Denmark, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom. In France, however, the annual prevalence of cocaine abuse among adults has continued to increase, from 0.3 per cent in 2000 to 0.9 per cent in 2010, while lifetime prevalence among 17-year-olds decreased to 3 per cent in 2011 from 3.3 per cent in 2008, after having increased from 0.9 per cent in 2000.

789. The abuse of opioids in Western and Central Europe is reported to be stable, at an estimated average annual prevalence of 0.4 per cent. Heroin abuse in Europe may be declining or stabilizing, while the abuse of synthetic and semi-synthetic opioids appears to be increasing in some countries. Synthetic and semi-synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and buprenorphine may be displacing heroin in some countries in Northern and Central Europe, notably Estonia and Finland. Opioids account for almost half of new treatment cases and cause the majority of drug-related deaths in the region; 5 per cent of those entering treatment specified opioids other than heroin as the primary drug of abuse. In Estonia, which according to EMCDDA has the highest per capita level of drug-related deaths in the European Union, three quarters of those entering treatment reported fentanyl as the primary drug of abuse, and in Finland more than half of those entering treatment cited buprenorphine as the primary drug of abuse.

790. The abuse of amphetamines in Western and Central Europe remains stable, with an average annual prevalence among adults of 0.5 per cent and a range of between 0 and 1.1 per cent. Among people aged 15-34, the average annual prevalence of amphetamine abuse was 1.1 per cent, double that of the general population. In many countries, especially in Northern, Central and Eastern Europe, amphetamine is the most abused stimulant and, in many of those countries, it is the second-most-abused illicit drug, after cannabis. Annual prevalence of amphetamine abuse among those aged 15-34 has decreased in the United Kingdom, from 6.2 per cent in 1998 to 1.8 per cent in 2009/10, and in Denmark, from 3.1 per cent in 2000 to 2 per cent in 2010. Methamphetamine is increasingly available in countries in Northern and Western Europe, with increasing levels of abuse reported in Germany, Norway and

other Scandinavian countries; in Lithuania, methamphetamine has become the most commonly abused amphetamine-type stimulant. Levels of “ecstasy” abuse in Europe have been stable in recent years, with an average annual prevalence of 0.8 per cent, yet there are indications of a possible resurgence.

791. According to EMCDDA, although the levels of abuse of new psychoactive substances are not substantial, there is a potential for an increase. In Ireland in 2010/11, the annual prevalence of abuse of new psychoactive substances was 4 per cent among adults and 10 per cent among younger adults (aged 15-24). In Poland, annual prevalence among students aged 18-19 of abuse of so-called “legal highs” increased from 2.6 per cent in 2008 to 7.1 per cent in 2011; monthly prevalence was 2.5 per cent. In the United Kingdom, there were increases in hospital admissions and medical appointments owing to new psychoactive substances, as well as reports of health problems caused by the regular use of such substances. While overall drug-related deaths in the United Kingdom fell by 14 per cent from 2009 to 2010, deaths caused by emerging substances of abuse increased significantly, from 6 cases in 2008 to 44 cases in 2009. In England and Wales in 2011/12, annual prevalence of abuse among adults of mephedrone was 1.1 per cent, a decrease from 1.4 per cent the previous year. Among younger adults (aged 16-24), the annual prevalence was 3.3 per cent, the same as for “ecstasy”, which nevertheless represents a decrease from 4.4 per cent in 2010/11. In Italy, a large increase was seen in 2010 in the abuse of tranquillizers and sedatives, while Spain saw a large decrease in the abuse of tranquillizers and sedatives. In the United Kingdom, in Northern Ireland, the abuse of antidepressants increased.

792. The European School Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2011 survey of students aged 15-16 years in 37 countries found that lifetime prevalence of abuse of illicit drugs was 18 per cent in 2011, an increase from 11 per cent in 1995 but a level that has been stable since 2007. Significant decreases in lifetime prevalence of abuse of illicit drugs were seen in Ireland, from 37 per cent in 1995 to 19 per cent in 2011, and in the United Kingdom, from 42 per cent in 1995 to 29 per cent in 2007, while the largest increase — a 9-per-cent increase — was recorded in Monaco. An age of onset of abuse of 13 years or younger was reported on average by 4 per cent of respondents for inhalants, 3 per cent for cannabis and between 1 and 2 per cent for non-prescription tranquillizers or sedatives, amphetamines or “ecstasy”. The survey found that 8 per cent of students in France had tried cannabis by the age of 13 years, and that 15 per

cent of students in Croatia, and one in 10 students in Latvia and Slovenia, had used inhalants at the age of 13. Annual and lifetime prevalence of cannabis abuse were fairly stable at 13 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively. The largest increases in annual prevalence were seen in France (from 24 to 35 per cent) and Monaco (from 21 to 33 per cent), and large increases were also seen in Poland (from 12 to 19 per cent) and Portugal (from 10 to 16 per cent). In France and Monaco, more than one in five students (24 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively) reported having used cannabis in the past 30 days, followed by the Czech Republic and Spain (both 15 per cent). Of students surveyed, 4 per cent had abused cannabis at least once a week during the survey period. The survey found that the lifetime prevalence among students of non-prescription use of tranquillizers or sedatives remained relatively stable between 1995 and 2011, at about 7 to 8 per cent.

793. The most frequently cited substances of abuse for those entering treatment in Western and Central Europe were opioids (48 per cent), cannabis (25 per cent), cocaine (15 per cent) and stimulants other than cocaine (6 per cent). The most frequently reported other drug of abuse was cannabis. Between 2004 and 2009, the number of people entering treatment for the first time whose primary drug of abuse was cannabis increased by 40 per cent in 18 European countries. Amphetamine was reported as the primary drug of abuse in 5 per cent of new treatment cases in Europe in 2009; however, amphetamine accounted for a much larger proportion of new treatment cases in Sweden (28 per cent), Poland (25 per cent) and Finland (17 per cent). Methamphetamine was the primary drug of abuse reported for almost one third of new treatment cases in the Czech Republic and almost two thirds of such cases in Slovakia, and has increased during the past decade. In Ireland from 2005 to 2010, the number of new treatment cases increased by over 50 per cent and, while the proportion of treatment requests involving opiates, mainly heroin, fell slightly in 2009/10, the number of cases involving cannabis as the primary drug of abuse increased by over 80 per cent from 2005 to 2010, with cannabis overtaking heroin to become the most common primary drug of abuse in new treatment cases in 2010. New substances of abuse were reported as a main problem substance for the first time in Ireland in 2009 (17 cases), increasing to 213 cases in 2010, which exceeded the number of cases reported for amphetamines, “ecstasy” and inhalants combined. In the United Kingdom, in England, the number of people under the age of 18 being treated primarily for abuse of heroin and cocaine decreased by 33 per cent

and 23 per cent, respectively, between 2009/10 and 2010/11; similarly, the number of young adults (aged 18-25) entering treatment because of abuse of heroin and/or crack cocaine fell by more than 50 per cent between 2005/06 and 2010/11. Nevertheless, the number of young people under the age of 18 being treated primarily for abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding "ecstasy") increased by 150 per cent between 2009/10 and 2010/11, owing to the placement of mephedrone under national control in 2010. Over half (58 per cent)³⁵ of young people under the age of 18 accessing treatment in England for substance abuse, including alcohol abuse, cited cannabis as the primary drug of abuse, although there was a slight reduction in the number of cases compared with the previous year.

794. In Belarus, by December 2011, 12,967 people had been registered on the Narcological Register as having a drug dependence problem. Of those, 2,574 of them were registered for the first time in 2011 (2,274 were registered in 2010). Opiates were the most abused drug among registered drug users in Belarus, and opiate abuse accounted for 62.8 per cent of newly registered persons. In 2011, the majority of registered drug abusers in Belarus used homemade opium produced either from poppy straw or seeds. Among those newly registered, there were more cases of pharmaceutical morphine misuse and fewer cases of heroin abuse compared with 2010. The number of registered persons abusing opiates increased by 6.5 per cent in 2011, the number of cannabinoid abusers increased by 8.1 per cent, and the number of persons that abused sedatives and tranquillizers increased by 5.7 per cent. In 2011, 3.6 per cent of those newly registered abused amphetamine, an insignificant change compared with the previous year.

795. The number of drug abusers in Bosnia and Herzegovina appears to be increasing, especially among the younger population. It is estimated that there are 7,500 injecting drug users in the country, which represents approximately 0.3 per cent of the population aged 15-64. Surveys suggest that the average age of injecting drug users is 30 years, about 91 per cent of them are male, and the vast majority inject heroin. One third of surveyed injecting drug users reported needle-sharing within the previous month. Between 30 per cent and 70 per cent of the prison population is estimated to be dependent on drugs. According to local authorities, the market for synthetic drugs, especially "ecstasy", is expanding, particularly in urban areas.

³⁵ If alcohol is excluded, the rate of treatment for cannabis would be 86 per cent.

796. The most easily available and therefore the most commonly abused drug in the Russian Federation is cannabis, which is smuggled mainly from Central Asia but also produced locally. In addition, the current drug abuse situation is characterized by large-scale non-medical consumption of heroin, desomorphine, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants. The Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation reported about half a million officially registered drug-dependent persons. Recent trends include the replacement of heroin by less expensive and more readily available drugs, such as acetylated opium (produced from poppy straw and often disguised as food poppy) and desomorphine derived from licit codeine-based medications.

797. According to the Federal Drug Control Service, the number of desomorphine users in the Russian Federation is growing. Desomorphine consumption increased dramatically from the level of five years earlier: whereas in 2006 only just over 2 kg of the drug was consumed, in 2011 the figure was nearly 100 kg. The mortality rate from desomorphine abuse among drug addicts — mostly young people — is beginning to rival that from heroin. It is estimated that, over the past two years, between 5,000 and 7,000 people have died from desomorphine. In some areas of the country, up to 90 per cent of people identified as drug dependant for the first time used desomorphine.

798. The number of drug-induced deaths (estimated at 7,237) in Europe in 2010 remained stable, as did the number of deaths from drug overdose. Opioids were involved in about three quarters of drug-related deaths, and a substantial proportion of all drug-related deaths occurred in connection with the abuse of multiple substances, with alcohol, benzodiazepines and other opioids and cocaine often found in addition to heroin. Among Europeans aged 15-34, drug overdoses accounted for 4 per cent of all deaths. Decreases in drug-related deaths were reported in Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. Some increases in drug-related deaths were reported in Estonia and Finland, owing in both countries to increases in deaths resulting from opioids and in Finland also to increases in deaths associated with amphetamine-type stimulants, tranquillizers and sedatives.

799. Following significant increases in 2011 in HIV case reports and prevalence among injecting drug users in Greece and Romania, a joint enquiry by EMCDDA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control found that most countries reported no change in the rate of newly diagnosed cases or prevalence of HIV among injecting drug users in 2010/11. Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Romania

reported slight increases, however, while other countries reported increases in injecting risk behaviour or low coverage of prevention services among injecting drug users.

E. Oceania

1. Major developments

800. The rates of abuse and illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants in Oceania are still among the highest in the world. This trend is particularly well documented in Australia and New Zealand, although methamphetamine abuse is reported to be stable or declining in those countries. While domestic illicit manufacture in Australia and New Zealand is widespread, the recent crackdown on precursor chemicals used in domestic manufacture has caused the price of amphetamine-type stimulants to rise, which has in turn attracted the attention of foreign traffickers seeking to take advantage of the potential for profits. The result has been that incidents of seizures of methamphetamine have increased, owing to higher interdiction rates. However, the lack of information on drug control from other countries in the region, in particular the Pacific island States, many of which have not ratified any of the international drug control conventions, means that a comprehensive and effective understanding of the drug trafficking situation is lacking. Nevertheless, research indicates that methamphetamines are available and that there is much abuse by youth, even in fairly remote areas.

801. Cocaine abuse is also increasing, and large seizures have been reported in the region, in particular in Australia. This trend is in keeping with indications from previous years that traffickers are targeting Australia and New Zealand as markets with high growth potential. The increasing prevalence of “legal highs” poses serious challenges for Australian health, law enforcement and regulatory agencies owing to the large number of substances available, confusion about their legal status and the complexity related to their manufacture and supply; it is also a notable trend in terms of developing drug abuse patterns. While cannabis is still the illicit drug of choice in the region, evidence suggests that new stimulant-type drugs are becoming more popular among younger age groups.

802. The Board welcomed the decisions by the Governments of Nauru and Niue to accede to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and urged both Governments to build on that momentum by

acceding to the other two international drug control treaties.

803. However, the fact remains that nine States in Oceania have yet to become parties to all three of the international drug control treaties, and this continues to be a matter of grave concern for the Board, particularly in the light of increased reports of trafficking in and illicit manufacture of drugs in the region. High prevalence rates for the abuse of cannabis and knowledge of illicit methamphetamine manufacture in Oceania make it an area particularly susceptible to organized crime. The Board continues to urge all States concerned, namely the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, to accede without further delay to any of the three international drug control treaties to which they are not yet parties. Those States may easily become used by traffickers who want to supply the Australian and New Zealand markets.

2. Regional cooperation

804. A number of regional conferences have been organized in the region, allowing for greater coordination and cooperation on issues related to drug control.

805. The 2012 meeting of the Regional Security Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum was held in Fiji in June. The meeting's discussions focused on transborder issues, in particular transnational organized crime; border management and counter-terrorism; national and regional law enforcement challenges; and human security, human rights and governance issues.

806. Trafficking in precursor chemicals in Oceania continues to be a major source of concern for officials in the region. As part of efforts to tackle this problem, a joint meeting of the Project Cohesion and Project Prism Task Forces was convened in Canberra from 4 to 7 October 2011. Task Force members from Australia, China, Germany, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as representatives of the European Commission, INTERPOL and the International Narcotics Control Board secretariat, attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed operations and activities conducted under the auspices of those two Projects, and Task Force representatives gave an overview of the latest trends observed in their regions with regard to cocaine, heroin and MDMA (“ecstasy”). A number of future actions were agreed, including an information-gathering exercise and improved reporting of seizures related to non-controlled substitutes. It was also agreed to pilot