

23. The continued illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, including MDMA (Ecstasy), has made the monitoring of trade in the precursors of those substances all the more important. Diversions and attempted diversions of *ephedrine* and *pseudoephedrine*, both precursors for methamphetamine, continue to be uncovered in the Americas, Asia and Europe. The Board therefore notes with satisfaction that the Governments of most of the countries that are major manufacturers and exporters of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine now provide their export data to the Board, and trusts that those Governments that do not yet provide such data will make more determined efforts to do so in the future.

24. For other substances used in the illicit manufacture of MDMA and other amphetamine-type stimulants—*piperonal*, *isosafrole*, *safrole*, *3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone* (*3,4-MDP-2-P*), *1-phenyl-2-propanone* (*P-2-P*) and *phenylacetic acid*—a number of major exporting countries provide relevant information, including Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. As diversions or attempted diversions of those substances continue to be uncovered, the Board encourages all Governments that trade in those substances to collect and submit data on their imports and exports, since better knowledge of the global trade patterns assists in the identification of diversion attempts (see section B below).

(b) Data on imports of, and licit requirements for, specific substances

25. As in previous years, a large number of Governments have supplied statistical information on imports and licit uses of, and requirements for, controlled substances. As traffickers use ever more diverse routings to divert the precursor chemicals that they require for the illicit manufacture of drugs, the reporting of such import data is important for all Governments, not just those in regions where the illicit manufacture of drugs takes place.

26. Information about imports of *acetic anhydride* is available for a large number of countries and territories (46) as a result of the international tracking of that substance through Operation Topaz, including the import data for 14 countries and territories in Asia and 10 countries in Latin America, where illicit manufacture of heroin also occurs. Globally,

16 Governments have furnished data on licit requirements. It is expected that, as a result of Operation Topaz, more information will become available.

27. The Board is also pleased that a large number of Governments (51) have reported information regarding imports of *potassium permanganate* for 2000, on Form D as well as through Operation Purple. Guatemala has reported imports of potassium permanganate for the first time for 2000. An additional six countries or territories (Hong Kong SAR of China, Monaco, Myanmar, New Zealand, Slovenia and United Republic of Tanzania) reported licit requirements for potassium permanganate for 2000.

28. A large number of Governments have reported detailed information on *ephedrine* and *pseudoephedrine* imports for several years. The rate of reporting on imports by countries in Europe and North America was similar to that of previous years. Among the countries and territories in Asia that provide data on imports of ephedrines are the major importers Japan and Indonesia and the trans-shipment points Hong Kong SAR of China and Singapore. In contrast, some countries in Asia that are known to be major importers of ephedrines do not yet furnish such import data to the Board. Given the widespread abuse of methamphetamine in the region, the Board will continue to communicate directly with the Governments concerned to urge them to collect the data and to provide such data to the Board.

29. With regard to other precursors for amphetamine-type stimulants—*piperonal*, *isosafrole*, *safrole*, *3,4-MDP-2-P*, *P-2-P* and *phenylacetic acid*—the Board appreciates that the Governments of Austria, Bulgaria, Guatemala, Mexico and Poland have reported imports of some of the substances for the first time for 2000. The Board hopes to see more countries supply information on trade in those important precursors.

B. Scope of control

30. The responsibilities of the Board under article 12 of the 1988 Convention include the assessment of substances for, inter alia, possible inclusion in Table I or Table II of that Convention, or transfer from one Table to another thereof.⁴ Pursuant to those responsibilities, the Board communicated its assessment of *acetic anhydride* and *potassium*

permanganate to the Commission at its forty-fourth session, recommending that both substances be transferred from Table II to Table I of the Convention. The full assessment of acetic anhydride and potassium permanganate is published in the reports of the Board for 1999⁵ and 2000⁶ on the implementation of article 12.

31. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its forty-fourth session in March 2001, taking into account the comments submitted by the States parties and the comments and recommendations of the Board, decided to transfer both *acetic anhydride* and *potassium permanganate* from Table II to Table I of the 1988 Convention. That decision was communicated by the Secretary-General to all States parties to the 1988 Convention, as well as to all States non-parties, in his note verbale dated 11 June 2001. The transfer of acetic anhydride and potassium permanganate from Table II to Table I of the Convention therefore became effective with respect to each State party 180 days after the date of that note verbale, that is, on 8 December 2001.

32. The Board wishes to remind all Governments that the provision of export notifications for both *acetic anhydride* and *potassium permanganate*, as provided for under article 12, paragraph 10 (a), to an importing country is now a treaty obligation when so formally requested by the Government of the importing country concerned. Exporting countries and trans-shipment points should therefore ensure that pre-export notifications for those substances are sent to the Governments that have requested such notifications through the Secretary-General.

C. Prevention of diversion: findings and actions taken

1. Examination of actions taken by Governments to detect and prevent diversion of precursors for the illicit manufacture of drugs

33. The number of Governments that regularly send pre-export notifications, upon request by the importing country through the Secretary-General, or inquiries concerning the legitimacy of individual transactions has continued to grow, in particular for *acetic anhydride* and *potassium permanganate*. Pre-export notifications continue to be one of the most effective means of rapidly verifying the legitimacy of individual

transactions involving precursor chemicals. The majority of diversions and attempted diversions of such chemicals, in particular under Operation Purple and Operation Topaz, had been discovered through the sending of pre-export notifications (see section 2 below). The Board therefore calls on all importing countries to consider requesting, where appropriate, pre-export notifications for the substances listed in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention.

34. At the same time, as mentioned in its report for 2000,⁷ the Board has repeatedly encouraged major exporting countries and trans-shipment points to consider requesting pre-export notifications where substances in Tables I and II are imported for subsequent re-export, since traffickers often use circuitous routes involving imports and re-exports through third countries when attempting to divert the precursor chemicals into illicit channels. In that connection, the Board notes with appreciation that the Government of the United States, a country that is a major exporter of a number of controlled precursor chemicals, including *acetic anhydride*, has notified the Secretary-General in accordance with article 24 of the 1988 Convention, of its request to receive pre-export notifications for that substance. In 1995, the United States had already invoked article 12, paragraph 10 (a) of the Convention, requesting pre-export notifications for *ephedrine* and *pseudoephedrine*. The Governments of other major exporting countries and trans-shipment points, such as China, the Czech Republic, India, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and States members of the European Union, have also previously invoked article 12, paragraph 10 (a), of the Convention to request such pre-export notifications. In addition, efforts are currently being made by the Government of Australia to establish a system for pre-export notifications to be introduced for acetic anhydride and *potassium permanganate*.

35. As of 1 November 2001, the Governments of 34 countries and two territories had requested pre-export notifications pursuant to article 12, paragraph 10 (a), of the 1988 Convention. In addition, the European Commission had invoked that article on behalf of all 15 States members of the European Union (see annex I, table 5), bringing the total number of Governments that had made use of that provision to 51. Of that total, the Governments of 31 countries and two territories and the European Commission, on behalf of