

Europe

79. The Board commends the Governments of Slovenia and Turkey for an operation that resulted in the seizure of 13 tons of acetic anhydride smuggled out of Slovenia in 2007. As Slovenia did not report any imports of the substance from outside the European Union, it is possible that the seized consignment had been diverted from the European Union market.

Oceania

80. New Zealand seized 25 litres of acetic anhydride in 2006. Small amounts of the substance were also found in four laboratories in Australia manufacturing on a small scale “home-made” heroin from morphine tablets.

D. Substances used in the illicit manufacture of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

Methaqualone

81. The illicit manufacture of methaqualone in South Africa declined in 2006, although the number of laboratories clandestinely manufacturing methamphetamine and methcathinone increased. In 2007, the Indian authorities stopped a 5-ton shipment of anthranilic acid that was to be sent to Kenya, as that country has no legitimate requirement for the substance. Seizures of anthranilic acid and *N*-acetylanthranilic acid were reported by India, Romania and the United States. **In view of the existing drug abuse and trafficking situation in Africa, the Board calls upon the Governments of countries in the region to remain vigilant with regard to all shipments of anthranilic acid and *N*-acetylanthranilic acid.**

Lysergic acid diethylamide

82. Countries in South America and Central America continued to be involved in attempted diversions of precursors of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). In 2005, the authorities of the Netherlands Antilles and Panama seized two shipments of ergocristine, a non-scheduled substance that can be used as a precursor of LSD. The trend continued in 2006, when the authorities of

Panama seized 5 kg of ergotamine destined to Colombia. **The Board calls on the Governments of all countries in the Americas to continue to closely monitor shipments of ergot alkaloids originating in Europe, in order to prevent their diversion for use in the illicit manufacture of LSD.**

IV. Conclusions

83. The Board notes that the number of countries and territories having provided information on their annual estimated legitimate requirements for the four selected precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants has increased to 100. The Board also notes that such data, which are regularly updated on its website (http://www.incb.org/incb/precursor_estimates.html), have helped Governments to identify suspicious shipments and to prevent diversions. **The Board encourages all Governments to submit the requested information on their estimated annual legitimate requirements, to regularly review their needs and to inform the Board of any amendments necessary.**

84. The online system for pre-export notifications (PEN Online) has proved to be an efficient tool for the rapid exchange of information on shipments of precursors. The number of States and territories having registered with the system increased to 90 during the reporting period. **The Board encourages all Governments to register with and to utilize the PEN Online system.**

85. The Board notes the positive results achieved by the Project Prism Task Force and by the participating States during Operation Crystal Flow in 2007. In addition to preventing the diversion of large amounts of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, the operation also revealed that Africa and West Asia were particularly vulnerable to the diversion of substances used for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. **The Board calls on the Governments of countries in those regions to strengthen their existing controls over the movement of precursors and to establish adequate mechanisms for verifying the legitimacy of shipments and for providing timely replies to enquiries from exporting countries and the**

Board. Exporting and transit countries are urged not to release shipments of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or preparations containing those substances to countries in Africa, the Americas or West Asia until the legitimacy of those shipments has been duly confirmed.

86. There is evidence that traffickers are attempting to obtain large amounts of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. **The Board reiterates its recommendation to all Governments to control pharmaceutical preparations containing scheduled substances in the same way as they control the scheduled substances themselves. The Board again encourages exporting countries to provide pre-export notifications for all requested exports of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine preparations.**¹²

87. Diversion from domestic distribution channels and smuggling across borders are now commonly used methods of obtaining precursor chemicals for use in clandestine laboratories. **Therefore, the Board urges Governments to take measures, in addition to their controls over international trade, to adequately monitor the licit manufacture and distribution, as well to prevent the accumulation in quantities exceeding their legitimate requirements, of all precursors used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular the precursors 3,4-MDP-2-P, P-2-P and phenylacetic acid.**

88. **While attempts to divert ephedra extracts apparently decreased in 2007, the Board encourages all Governments to remain vigilant and to duly investigate any shipments of that substance going to or transiting through their territory.**

89. Because of strengthened precursor monitoring, trafficking organizations are seeking out non-scheduled substances, including derivatives specially designed to circumvent existing controls. **The Board invites Governments to use the updated limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances that was released to all competent authorities in June 2007. It also invites Governments to put in place mechanisms**

for alerting them to suspicious transactions involving such substances and to provide the Board with detailed information on any seizures of non-scheduled precursors.

90. Few suspicious shipments of potassium permanganate have been identified in international trade. Colombia continues to seize large amounts but without any clear indication of the source of the substance seized. **The Board calls on Governments of countries in the Americas and on the regional members of the Project Cohesion Task Force to urgently devise strategies to address the smuggling of that substance into the cocaine-manufacturing areas of South America. The Board stands ready to assist Governments with such activities within the scope of its mandate.**

91. The Board notes the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan and Governments of neighbouring countries to tackle, through joint law enforcement operations, the smuggling of acetic anhydride into the region. The Board looks forward to being informed of the results of those initiatives.

¹² Ibid., para. 134.