

drug abuse situation and to take effective measures in the area of demand reduction.

670. According to the 2009 in-depth survey of new referrals (male) to the addiction unit of the psychological medicine hospital in Kuwait in 2009, the number of new referrals to the unit was greater than in 2008. The proportion of new cases of polydrug users is high (74 per cent). Abuse of amphetamines remains high, while cocaine abuse is very low. Substance abuse such as tramadol has increased.

671. For patients treated at the national centre for rehabilitation in Amman, the primary substance of abuse was alcohol, followed by benzodiazepines, opioids and cannabis. Abuse of Captagon and other stimulants is increasing.

672. Lebanese authorities reported that in 2009, 70 per cent of drug abusers injected drugs. According to national estimates, the majority of drug abusers are polydrug abusers. Among the 1,022 people in treatment (detoxification and rehabilitation), 10 per cent are female, and the most prevalent drugs of abuse continued to be, in descending order, cannabis, heroin, cocaine, benzodiazepines and amphetamine, according to Government sources.

673. With the support of UNODC and other international agencies, the Ministry of Health of Lebanon is launching an opioid substitution therapy programme.

674. According to a 2008 national survey, among 10 provinces in Iraq, a total of 1,462 drug addicts received treatment (52 females and 1,410 males), with the largest proportion in Baghdad (468 individuals).

675. Drug abuse by injection is increasing in many countries in West Asia, contributing to a growing HIV problem. Drug abuse by injection is one of the main driving forces behind the spread of HIV in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the two countries in the region in which the virus has spread the fastest. Up to 54 per cent of all HIV cases in Tajikistan are related to drug abuse. The same phenomenon has been noted in Pakistan and countries in the southern Caucasus.

676. In 2010, with the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNODC and WHO, the Government of Afghanistan scaled up its HIV-prevention efforts, which include the

provision of methadone maintenance therapy, training on health and social services for drug abusers in Kabul.

D. Europe

1. Major developments

677. According to EMCDDA and UNODC, the level of cannabis abuse in Europe is moving into a period of stabilization and even, in some cases, decline. Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, France, Italy, Romania, Spain and Sweden have all reported a decrease in the prevalence of cannabis abuse; the United Kingdom, too, has reported a significant decline over the past few years. Surveys of students conducted in 2008 in Belgium, Italy, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom indicate that lifetime prevalence of cannabis abuse was either comparable to or lower than that reported in 2007.

678. Trafficking in cannabis herb remains at a significant level in Europe. Cannabis herb is produced in considerable amounts in the Netherlands and in a number of other Western European countries. Most of the cannabis herb abused in Central Europe and Eastern Europe is produced in Albania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. The cannabis resin abused in Europe originates, in great part, in Morocco. Cannabis resin produced in Morocco is smuggled, mainly by boat, into the Iberian peninsula, and from there it is transported by freight or passenger vehicle to other countries in Western Europe. A particularly noteworthy development is the increase in illicit cultivation of cannabis plant in Europe, especially indoors and on a large scale.

679. Cocaine is smuggled into Europe by air and by sea. Multi-ton shipments of cocaine are transported by sea from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Suriname and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and dropped off mainly near the coasts of Portugal, Spain and other countries. Although most consignments of cocaine are bound for Western Europe, in recent years authorities have made substantial seizures of cocaine, usually concealed in containers, at major seaports in the Balkans.

680. The abuse of cocaine is spreading from Western Europe to other parts of Europe. In some countries, the abuse of cocaine may be replacing the abuse of

amphetamine and MDMA (“ecstasy”); for instance, in Denmark, Spain and the United Kingdom, increases in the level of cocaine abuse co-occurred with decreases in the level of amphetamine abuse. It is estimated that the number of cocaine abusers in Western Europe and Central Europe doubled from 2 million in 1998 to 4.1 million in 2008, with the combined cocaine consumption of those two subregions accounting for a quarter of global cocaine consumption.

681. The illicit market for opiates in Europe is the largest in the world. The abuse of opiates has reportedly been increasing in several Eastern European countries, particularly in Albania, Belarus, Croatia, the Republic of Moldova and countries along the Balkan route. The Russian Federation remains the European country with the highest number of people who abuse opioids. According to UNODC, there are between 1.6 million and 1.8 million opioid abusers in the Russian Federation, which is equivalent to 1.6 per cent of the overall population aged 15-64.

682. Almost all the heroin available on illicit drug markets in Europe originates in Afghanistan. Heroin originating in Afghanistan arrives mostly via the Balkan route, which runs from Turkey to either Bulgaria or Greece and from there to Albania or Serbia. In addition, heroin continues to be trafficked along the so-called “silk route”, through Central Asia into the Russian Federation, to be sold on the illicit market in that country or, to a lesser extent, smuggled into Western European countries.

683. Europe has seen an increase in the variety of drugs being abused, which include a growing range of substances not under international control. The use of the Internet to market drugs and the capacity of the illicit drug market to adapt swiftly to changes in the legal status of psychoactive substances have played a major role in the region. Also of significance is the increase in the use of the Internet to sell seeds of cannabis plants with a high THC level, in particular seeds to be used to illicitly cultivate cannabis plants indoors.

2. Regional cooperation

684. In 2009, the European Union and China signed a new agreement to enhance precursor control and coordination, and China announced tighter controls on the manufacture of 3,4-MDP-2-P, the precursor

chemical most commonly used in Europe in the illicit manufacture of MDMA.

685. Also in 2009, two phases of the operation Channel 2009 were conducted by CSTO and the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation, with the participation of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Several European Union member States also participated in the operation, including Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain. In September 2009, representatives of law enforcement agencies of Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) took part, for the first time, in the operation (first phase).

686. The goal of the operation was to build a system of enhanced collective security to prevent trafficking in drugs from Afghanistan and the entry of precursor chemicals into Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. More than 139,000 officers from various drug control agencies of CSTO member States were involved in the operation. The joint operation resulted in the seizure of over 28 tons of drugs, including more than 790 kg of heroin, 799 kg of cocaine, 14 tons of cannabis herb and 4.5 tons of cannabis resin. In addition, over 12 tons of other opiates of Afghan origin were seized; that amount exceeded the quantity seized in previous years.

687. In September 2009, the European Commission conference on bridging the research gap in the field of illicit drugs in the European Union recommended that European Union member States and the scientific community work towards the common goals of enhancing drug-related research and sharing research findings.

688. The European Union and Governments of the region took part in various initiatives addressing the problem of opium originating in Afghanistan. For example, at the London Conference on Afghanistan held in January 2010, the parties agreed to support increased regional cooperation to combat the illicit trade in drugs in and from Afghanistan. In addition, an international forum on the theme “Drug production in Afghanistan: A challenge to the international community” was held in Moscow in June 2010, emphasizing the importance of the role played by the Russian Federation in tackling that problem in the region.

689. At the twelfth High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Madrid in April 2010, participants adopted a political declaration that recognized the importance of coordinating common political positions in the context of international forums such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, biregional cooperation in demand and supply reduction efforts, control of precursors and laundering of funds derived from drug trafficking.

690. On the occasion of the sixth summit between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, held in Madrid in May 2010, the Andean Community member States and the European Union confirmed their commitment to give greater political impetus to biregional dialogue to tackle the global issue of drugs as identified and developed in the framework of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility. In particular, a commitment was made to strengthen the European Union-Andean Community High-Level Specialized Dialogue on Drugs. The Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012 reflects the priorities established at the summit and includes as a key area the world drug problem. The Board urges the European Union to continue strengthening cooperation with the Andean countries within a framework of shared responsibility.

691. In May 2010, the Mexico-European Union Strategic Partnership announced its Joint Executive Plan. Under the Plan and within the framework of the European Union Regional Strategy for Latin America 2007-2013, the European Union and Mexico intend to explore innovative mechanisms for cooperation that build upon the Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union on Anti-Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) initiative.

692. The second World Forum against Drugs, organized by the World Federation against Drugs, was held in Stockholm in May 2010. The main themes of the Forum were new research on cannabis abuse, the influence of illicit drugs on development and democracy in sub-Saharan Africa, and drug abuse among adults and its influence on children.

693. A European pact to combat international drug trafficking, focusing on cocaine and heroin, was adopted in June 2010 by the Council of the European Union. The pact seeks to disrupt cocaine trafficking

routes by utilizing regional information exchange centres set up in West Africa, together with coordinated action by the European States and institutions along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts, as well as by streamlining the provision of technical assistance to source and transit countries.

694. In June 2010, the European Medicines Agency and EMCDDA signed a new working arrangement facilitating the exchange of information on new psychoactive substances and misused medicines.

695. The XVIII International AIDS Conference was held in Vienna in July 2010. Under the slogan "Rights here, right now", the Conference participants emphasized the necessity of protecting the human and civil rights of those living with or most vulnerable to HIV.

696. In September 2010, the seventeenth European Cities against Drugs (ECAD) Mayors' Conference on Drugs was held in Malta. The Conference discussed ways to strengthen, through international cooperation and exchanges, local, national and international efforts to combat the abuse of illicit drugs.

3. National legislation, policy and action

697. In 2009, the Government of Slovakia amended its law governing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The amendments include a list of the entities allowed to possess narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, provide for action against unauthorized cultivation of cannabis plant or opium poppy and specify the conditions for temporary suspension of a licence in cases where a licence holder is accused of a criminal offence.

698. In December 2009, the Government of Croatia amended its legislation on combating drug abuse. The amendment introduced new requirements in the areas of precursor control and the monitoring of chemical substances, and it shortened the mandatory period for holding seized drugs before they can be destroyed.

699. Also in December 2009, the Government of the Czech Republic stipulated quantity-based limits for the illegal possession of controlled drugs without intent to sell. The limits were introduced as part of a revision of the penal code with effect from 1 January 2010. Under the new law, illegal possession of controlled drugs in quantities less than the defined amount is classified as an administrative offence.

700. Hungary's first national drug control strategy was evaluated in 2009, and a new strategy — the National Strategy for Tackling the Drugs Problem 2010-2018 — was adopted in December of that year. The Strategy is built around the following three pillars: prevention and community interventions; treatment and care; and supply reduction.

701. In December 2009, the Government of Latvia amended its law on the prevention of laundering of the proceeds from crime and the financing of terrorism. The amendment specifies the operations in the area of laundering of proceeds from criminal activities that fall under the investigative competence of the State Control Service.

702. In December 2009 and May 2010, the Russian Federation considered amendments to its Criminal Code aimed at wider use of non-custodial measures for non-serious crimes, including drug-related crimes. Under the amended Russian Criminal Code, an amount of heroin in excess of 2.5 grams is considered an extremely large amount and, in case of possession without intent to sell, such possession is punishable by mandatory imprisonment of 3-10 years.

703. The Government of Lithuania has approved amendments to its Penal Code lengthening prison sentences for the illegal production, acquisition, storage, transportation, sending, selling or any other act involving first-category drugs or precursors of psychoactive substances. A prison sentence of 2-10 years is the punishment foreseen for the illegal production, acquisition, storage, transportation, sending or selling of large quantities of such substances. In 2010, the Lithuanian Psychiatrists Association disseminated a methodology for using methadone to treat opioid dependency, with the aim of assisting psychiatrists in providing evidence-based and quality treatment for opioid-dependent individuals.

704. In 2010, the Government of Luxembourg launched its Strategy and Plan of Action on Drugs and Drug Addiction for 2010-2014. The Plan of Action addresses demand and supply reduction; reduction of risk, harm and nuisance; research; and international coordination.

705. In Germany, following the adoption in 2009 of a law allowing diamorphine-based substitution treatment for addicts meeting strict eligibility requirements, a

joint national board issued guidelines in March 2010 for diamorphine-supported substitution treatment.

706. In May 2010, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland issued guidance for pharmacists on the safe supply of non-prescription medicinal products containing codeine. The guidance aims at assisting pharmacists in fulfilling professional and legal responsibilities in the supply of such products and in complying with the Pharmacy Act 2007. Further, the Government of Ireland agreed to fund a network of drug- and alcohol-free cafes providing counselling and health services for young people.

707. As part of its efforts to prevent the abuse of substances to experience “legal highs”, the Government of Ireland in May 2010 placed under control a number of substances not under international control, including *N*-benzylpiperazine (BZP), mephedrone, synthetic cannabinoids, methylone methedrone, butylone, flephedrone, methylenedioxypropylvalerone, GBL and 1,4-butanediol. An additional measure in this direction — the Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Bill 2010 — will, once enacted, criminalize the sale or supply for human consumption of substances that although not specifically proscribed under the Misuse of Drugs Act have psychoactive effects.

708. In June 2010, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the State Antidrug Policy Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period 2010-2020. It is the first comprehensive document consolidating the Government's efforts to prevent the spread of drug abuse in the country. The Strategy aims at suppression of the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, reduction of drug demand by improving the system of prevention and rehabilitation activities and development and strengthening of international cooperation in the area of drug control.

709. Demand for treatment related to cannabis abuse continues to increase in the Netherlands. In September 2010, the Government decided to regulate the so-called “coffee shops”, where the sale, possession and consumption of cannabis is tolerated, and to introduce harsher penalties for importing and exporting drugs, as well as for illicit crop cultivation and drug trafficking. However, the Board wishes to reiterate that the so-called “coffee shops” contravene the international drug control treaties.

710. In October 2010, Belgium introduced random saliva testing of drivers to detect illicit drug use. A driver who tests positive for illicit drug use can be fined or banned from driving or, in the case of reoffenders, sentenced to prison.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

Narcotic drugs

711. Illicit cultivation of cannabis plant is on the rise in Europe. In the United Kingdom, the number of detected illicit cultivation sites of commercial size jumped from 3,032 in the growing period 2007/08 to 6,866 in the growing period 2009/10. In Germany, the increased detection in the growing period 2008/09 of illicit cultivation sites with capacity for at least 1,000 plants pointed to the increasing professionalization of this activity. Austria, too, reported an increase in recent years of illicit cultivation of cannabis plant.

712. In Iceland, seizures of cannabis plants increased dramatically, from 893 plants in 2008 to 11,713 in 2009. Over 1 million cannabis plants illicitly cultivated indoors were eradicated in the Netherlands in 2008, and over 200,000 were eradicated in Belgium in 2009. In November 2009, the Government of Slovakia carried out a special law enforcement operation that resulted in the detection of a site used for illicitly cultivating cannabis plants indoors; a total of 318 plants having a combined weight of over 91 kg were seized in the operation.

713. According to the World Customs Organization, 68 per cent of global cannabis resin seizures by customs authorities in 2009 occurred in Western Europe. In 2009, Spanish customs authorities seized over 27 tons of cannabis resin at sea and on beaches; an estimated 93 per cent of the cannabis resin seized in Spain in 2009 originated in Morocco.

714. As reported by the World Customs Organization, most of the imported cannabis herb seized by customs authorities in Western Europe in 2009 came from Ghana; South Africa was the second largest source. It has been reported that traffickers may be using the East African route to smuggle cannabis from Afghanistan into Italy. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands were the main destination countries for cannabis herb

in Western Europe, representing 83 per cent of the amount seized in the subregion.

715. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, illicit cultivation of cannabis plant appears to be on the increase. A major seizure of about 700 kg of locally produced cannabis herb suggests that the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants in that country was significantly higher in 2009 than in previous years, when it was reported that cannabis plants were illicitly cultivated on small plots only. The country is increasingly being used by traffickers as a transit area for cannabis shipments. The amount of cannabis seized in shipments having as their final destination the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia increased significantly in 2009, to 404 kg, compared with 157 kg in 2008.

716. The flow of cocaine shipments entering Europe through West Africa declined between 2007 and 2009. According to the World Customs Organization, the amount of cocaine seized in Western Europe after having arrived from or transited through West Africa dropped from 2.4 tons in 2007 to 0.2 tons in 2009. In Western Europe, the amount of cocaine seized by customs authorities fell from 54.9 tons in 2007 to 34.9 tons in 2009. UNODC reported that law enforcement authorities in Europe seized a total of 62.7 tons of cocaine in 2008. Seizures made by the customs authorities in Spain decreased from over 36 tons in 2007 to almost 18 tons in 2009. There was also a significant drop in cocaine seizures in the Netherlands. Between 2008 and 2009, however, cocaine seizures increased both in Germany (by a factor of 1.6) and in Greece (by a factor of about 9).

717. Cocaine seized in Europe originates mainly in Colombia, although Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia are increasing in significance as source countries. Cocaine is smuggled into Europe by sea from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama, although Brazil and Suriname are increasingly being used as transit countries. In addition, Europol has identified the “northern route”, leading from the Caribbean via the Azores to the coasts of Portugal and Spain, and the “central route”, leading from South America via Cape Verde or Madeira and the Canary Islands to Europe.

718. The main European points of entry for cocaine are Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain: together they accounted for about 70 per cent of all

cocaine seized in Europe in 2008, although they accounted for only 25 per cent of the cocaine consumption in the region. That being said, cocaine trafficking routes are expanding eastward, in particular into the Balkan area. The United Kingdom has also been identified as one of the countries through which cocaine enters the European Union.

719. According to the World Customs Organization, seizures of “crack” cocaine in Western Europe in 2009 were reported mainly in the Netherlands; Suriname was the source country in most of the cases and shipment was mainly by express courier service. The amount of “crack” cocaine seized in Germany decreased from 8.2 kg in 2008 to 4.6 kg in 2009 (44 per cent). In France, 12 kg of “crack” cocaine were seized in 2009.

720. In 2009, the Russian Federation reported to the World Customs Organization 10 seizures of cocaine totalling 101 kg; that was the lowest annual quantity seized during the three-year period ending in 2009. In five of those seizures (totalling 90 kg), which were detected in Saint Petersburg and Novorossiysk, the cocaine had been concealed in sea freight shipments originating in Ecuador. Consignments of cocaine from Ecuador are increasingly being sent to the Russian Federation.

721. According to Europol, the number of nationals of Balkan countries involved in cocaine trafficking has grown in recent years. Albania, in addition to having a historical role in heroin trafficking along the Balkan route, has reportedly been used as a storage area for consignments of cocaine. The greater involvement of organized criminal groups may indicate that the infrastructure established in the Balkan area for smuggling cannabis and opiates (particularly heroin) is now being used for smuggling increasingly larger quantities of cocaine.

722. Seizures of cocaine at seaports in the Balkan area showed an increase in 2009. At the Black Sea port of Constanța, Romania, authorities seized 1.2 tons of cocaine that had been concealed in a shipment of wood loaded at Paranaguá, Brazil. Law enforcement authorities in Varna, Bulgaria, seized 1,020 bottles containing a mixture of cocaine and wine shipped from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia; the pure cocaine content was estimated at 100 kg. In Greece, 450 kg of cocaine concealed in a shipment of scrap metal were seized at Piraeus.

723. An EMCDDA/Europol analysis of the cocaine market, released in April 2010, identified innovative techniques being used to smuggle cocaine, such as incorporating cocaine base or hydrochloride into other materials (e.g. beeswax, plastic and clothing) and then extracting it at special laboratories set up inside European Union borders. According to the analysis, some 40 laboratories for the “secondary extraction” of cocaine were identified and dismantled in European Union member States in 2008. Similar laboratories have been reported in Albania and the Republic of Moldova.

724. Most of the heroin smuggled into Western Europe is transported along the Balkan route from Afghanistan and Pakistan through the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and countries in South-Eastern Europe. The Government of Italy has reported that traffickers may be using the East African route also to smuggle heroin from Afghanistan. The main mode of transport used in smuggling heroin into Western Europe was overland by road or rail, although the World Customs Organization has highlighted the growing significance of air traffic routes in this activity. According to the World Customs Organization, South Africa was the main source of heroin seized in 2009 along air traffic routes in Western Europe.

725. UNODC estimates that about 25 per cent of all the heroin manufactured in Afghanistan is smuggled each year along the northern route, i.e. through Central Asia (Tajikistan, Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan), with a final destination of the Russian Federation. Based on seizures made at border crossings, most of the heroin is transported through Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and from there through Kazakhstan into the Russian Federation. The heroin is smuggled mostly overland by road and often in small quantities.

726. According to the World Customs Organization, customs authorities in Eastern European and Central European countries seized a total of 3.5 tons of heroin in 2009, compared with 4.9 tons in 2008. Europol and EMCDDA report that European law enforcement authorities seize between 8 and 15 tons of heroin each year. The main country of destination for the heroin shipments was Germany, followed by Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, the Netherlands and Greece. Heroin continues to be smuggled almost exclusively overland in vehicles. Although most of the seized shipments of Afghan

heroin originate in Turkey, in 2009 — for the first time — Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic were reported to be the countries of departure for such shipments (27 kg and 11 kg respectively).

727. The customs authorities of the Russian Federation seized a total of 510 kg of heroin in 2009, according to the World Customs Organization. The largest single seizure of heroin involved 196 kg and was made at the Yarag-Kazmalyar border crossing. The consignment, which was being transported from Azerbaijan on a truck, had originated in the Islamic Republic of Iran and was bound for Belarus.

728. Western Europe saw a slight decrease in seizures of heroin by customs authorities in the period 2008-2009; an estimated 1.9 tons of heroin were seized in 2009. The largest seizures in 2009 were made in France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. While Sweden reported a decrease in seizures of heroin, increases were reported in Austria, Germany, Greece and Norway.

729. Illicit cultivation of opium poppy occurs to a limited extent in some Eastern European countries. In Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation, opium poppy is illicitly produced to supply local markets with poppy straw derivatives.

730. Almost 100 kg of opium were seized in Western Europe in 2009. The main country of departure of the seized opium was the Islamic Republic of Iran, while Germany and Sweden were the main countries of destination.

Psychotropic substances

731. In 2008, Europe accounted for about one third (8.4 tons) of global seizures of amphetamine; that amount was only slightly below the amount seized in 2007 (8.7 tons). Seizures of amphetamines by customs authorities in Western Europe increased from 2.7 tons in 2007 to 3.0 tons in 2009, the main country of departure being the Netherlands. The main countries of destination of amphetamines seized in Western Europe were Denmark, Finland, Germany, Mozambique, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Increases in amphetamine seizures were reported in Germany and the United Kingdom, while in the Netherlands seizures declined. In 2009, the Estonian authorities reported as an emerging trend the smuggling of amphetamine from the Russian Federation.

732. The number of methamphetamine seizures reported in Europe continued to decrease. In 2009, Sweden and Ukraine reported the largest single seizures of methamphetamine (13 kg each); the shipments were concealed in cars entering from Latvia and Lithuania respectively. In Sweden, 154.3 kg of methamphetamine were seized in 2009, and there was a significant rise in the proportion of seizures identified as originating in Lithuania; it was noted that the drugs that were seized had been manufactured from P-2-P rather than from ephedrine.

733. According to EMCDDA, MDMA (“ecstasy”) is illicitly manufactured mainly in European countries, above all in the Netherlands and Belgium and, to a lesser extent, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom. UNODC reported in 2009 that the Netherlands was mentioned most frequently (38.5 per cent) as the source country of seized “ecstasy”; it was followed by Belgium (9.5 per cent). For “ecstasy” shipments, the main countries of destination in Western Europe in 2009 were Germany, Malta and Norway. In 2008, Western Europe and Central Europe accounted for 20 per cent of global seizures of “ecstasy”, whereas South-Eastern Europe accounted for only 4 per cent and Eastern Europe for 1.5 per cent. The amount of “ecstasy” seized in Western Europe decreased from 1.1 tons in 2007 to 0.1 tons in 2009. That development was reflected in the amount of “ecstasy” seized in Europe as a whole, which fell from 3 tons in 2007 to 1 ton in 2008.

734. UNODC reported that the availability of MDMA (“ecstasy”) tablets in Europe had declined since 2007, although tablets sold as “ecstasy” increasingly contained greater amounts of substitute psychoactive substances not under international control, including BZP, 1-(3-chlorophenyl)piperazine (*mCPP*) and 1-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine. In the European Union, 50 per cent of tablets sold as “ecstasy” in 2008 contained *mCPP*, compared with 10 per cent in 2006. In the United Kingdom, an analysis of “ecstasy” tablets over the period 2006-2009 showed a decrease in MDMA content and an increase in piperazine content.

Precursors

735. In the past few years, European Union member States have become targeted by traffickers in search of acetic anhydride. From 2007 to 2009, seizures of acetic

anhydride in European Union member States totalled 159 tons, accounting for almost 60 per cent of global seizures of the substance. Most of the acetic anhydride seized in those member States had been diverted from licit trade within the European Union. While the European Commission and member States of the European Union seek ways to strengthen control over acetic anhydride, the substance continues to be diverted in the region.

736. Suspicious shipments of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from South Asia and South-East Asia and destined for Belize, Guatemala and Mexico continue to be trans-shipped in European countries, in particular Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. Authorities in European countries have also stopped suspicious shipments of those two substances to Africa.

737. There have been no seizures of 3,4-MDP-2-P in Europe since 2007. The agreement signed by the European Union and China, which has traditionally been a source of 3,4-MDP-2-P, may have contributed to that. An increase in seizures of safrole-rich oil has been reported in Europe and there is concern that that substance could be increasingly used in the illicit manufacture of MDMA (“ecstasy”).

Substances not under international control

738. Mephedrone was recently placed under national control in Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United Kingdom. In May 2010, the Council of the European Union called for an assessment of the risks arising from the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and use of mephedrone. According to a joint Europol/EMCDDA report, mephedrone is legally sold in the region, both in bulk and small quantities, through the Internet and at shops specializing in the sale of psychoactive substances (“smart shops”). The number of websites selling mephedrone is thought to have doubled between December 2009 and March 2010.

739. Eleven European Union member States have reported to Europol having seized mephedrone in quantities ranging from 2 g in Italy to 320 g (including a single seizure of 4,400 tablets) in Germany. Over the past two years, seizures of mephedrone in Sweden and the United Kingdom have increased. In the Netherlands, over 130 kg of mephedrone were seized

in 2009 when two tableting sites and four storage locations were raided.

740. Pursuant to a 2008 Council of Europe decision to ban BZP, that substance was recently placed under national control in Austria, Cyprus, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

741. During 2009, a total of 24 new psychoactive substances, all of them synthetic, were identified through the European early warning system. The substances included 9 synthetic cannabinoids, 5 phenethylamines, 2 tryptamines, 4 synthetic cathinones and 2 substances with medicinal properties.

742. According to the World Customs Organization, 43.4 tons of khat were seized in Western Europe in 2009; that was 6 tons less than in 2008. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom are the hubs for almost all smuggling of khat, which is cultivated and produced primarily in East Africa. Khat shipped to the United Kingdom is generally transported on to Finland and Norway in air passenger baggage or by air mail, while khat shipped to the Netherlands is generally transported by vehicle to Germany and the Scandinavian countries. The main countries of destination for the khat shipments seized in 2009 were Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

743. In the United Kingdom, naphyrone and its related compounds became class B drugs in July 2010 pursuant to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. In Ireland, there was an increase in 2010 in reports of a new drug known as “whack” being sold at drug paraphernalia shops; the drug is reported to contain new cocaine-type substances and is thought to cause psychotic reactions.

5. Abuse and treatment

744. Although cannabis resin remains the most commonly abused drug in Europe, recent years have seen an increase in the abuse of cannabis herb. According to EMCDDA, the average annual prevalence of cannabis abuse stands at 6.8 per cent (or more than 22 million individuals) of the population aged 15-64 living in the European Union. National figures vary, ranging from 0.4 to 14.6 per cent; the European countries with the lowest prevalence rates are Bulgaria, Greece, Malta and Romania, and those with the highest are the Czech Republic, France, Italy and Spain. On average, 22.1 per cent — or more than 74 million European adults — have reported lifetime

prevalence of cannabis abuse, with national estimates situated between 1.5 and 38.6 per cent. The Board notes with concern that 2.0-2.5 per cent of Europeans aged 15-34 abuse cannabis on a daily or near-daily basis and that over 1 per cent of adults in Europe abuse cannabis daily or almost daily.

745. Cocaine remains (after cannabis) the second most-abused illicit drug in Europe, although levels vary greatly between countries. According to EMCDDA, the average annual prevalence of cocaine abuse in the European Union countries stands at 1.2 per cent, or an estimated 4 million people aged 15-64. The European countries with the lowest annual prevalence rates are Romania (0.0), Greece (0.1) and the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (0.2 each), while those with the highest rates are Spain (3.1), the United Kingdom (2.4), Italy (2.2) and Ireland (1.7). The annual prevalence of cocaine abuse has increased in recent years in Albania, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark and Norway. In Italy and Spain, the rate has stabilized in recent years, while in the United Kingdom the prevalence of cocaine abuse among adults decreased over the past year.

746. Western Europe comprises the world's largest illicit market for heroin, with approximately 60 per cent of the total illicit supply of heroin in Europe being accounted for by four countries (United Kingdom, Italy, France and Germany). European countries, including the Russian Federation, account for almost half of the heroin abused worldwide. The annual prevalence of opiate abuse in Europe was about 0.5 per cent in 2008, a level similar to that of previous years. The Russian Federation has the highest level of opiate abuse in Europe (1.6 per cent in 2007). Estonia and the United Kingdom (Scotland only) are reported to have the highest annual prevalence of opiate abuse (1.5 per cent) in Western Europe and Central Europe. While heroin abuse in Western Europe is reported to be decreasing, the number of opioid-related deaths increased in more than half of the countries in the subregion between 2006 and 2007. Heroin abuse was reported to have increased in recent years in the Russian Federation, although a decline was reported for 2009. According to UNODC, the number of heroin abusers in that country is estimated at 1.5 million.

747. Some countries of the region have shown a trend towards stabilization or even a decline in the abuse of

amphetamines and MDMA ("ecstasy"). In the United Kingdom, the annual prevalence of amphetamine abuse among young adults in England and Wales declined from 6.2 per cent in 2000 to 2.4 per cent in 2010. Amphetamine is abused more commonly than methamphetamine in Europe. Recent population surveys indicate that annual prevalence of amphetamine abuse in Europe ranges from 0 to 1.3 per cent. According to EMCDDA, the average annual prevalence of amphetamine abuse among the European Union countries stands at 0.5 per cent of the population aged 15-64, or about 2 million people. The European countries with the highest annual prevalences of amphetamine abuse are Estonia (1.3), Denmark (1.2) and the United Kingdom (1.0). The largest number of amphetamine abusers is found in the age group 15-34, with an estimated 7 million people. The abuse of methamphetamine in the region appears to be limited to the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

748. According to EMCDDA, about 2.5 million European adults, or 0.8 per cent of the population aged 15-64, abused MDMA ("ecstasy") in the past year. "Ecstasy" abuse is common among young adults: 2 million persons, or 1.6 per cent of the persons in the age group 15-34. With an average age of 24 years, abusers of "ecstasy" are among the youngest groups of drug abusers undergoing treatment and often report polydrug abuse involving "ecstasy" in combination with cannabis, cocaine or amphetamines.

749. In the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, there is increasing abuse of GBL, a solvent that is converted in the body to GHB, a substance in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention that is associated with drug-facilitated sexual assault. To counteract that problem, GBL was placed under national control in the United Kingdom in 2009.

750. In an EMCDDA report released in June 2010, it was found that drug abuse by injection has stabilized or is declining in most European countries. EMCDDA estimated that the average prevalence of drug abuse by injection in the European Union is about 2.5 cases per 1,000 adults. The prevalence of drug abuse by injection is particularly high in Eastern Europe (1.5 per cent).

751. According to the Government of Ukraine, more than 4,000 patients received treatment in 2009 through the substitution therapy programmes in that country. The primary goal of those programmes is to expand

access to antiretroviral therapy treatment among injecting drug abusers who are HIV-positive.

752. The number of people undergoing treatment for drug abuse and reporting heroin to be the primary drug of abuse increased in 19 European countries between 2002 and 2007. The primary drug of abuse identified by people undergoing such treatment was opioids, mainly heroin (48 per cent), followed by cannabis (21 per cent) and cocaine (17 per cent). In Europe, demand for treatment relating to the abuse of opiates decreased slightly over the past decade, contrasting with an increase in demand for treatment relating to the abuse of cannabis and cocaine. The proportion of Europeans undergoing treatment for cocaine abuse increased from 3 per cent in the period 1997-1998 to 10 per cent in the period 2007-2008. In a report by EMCDDA, it was indicated that in 16 European countries opioid substitution treatment was available to at least half of opioid abusers, while in 10 countries such treatment was available only to a minority of opioid abusers.

753. Drug-related deaths accounted for 4 per cent of all deaths of people aged 15-39 in Europe, with opioids involved in about three quarters of those cases. The number of drug-related deaths in Italy fell from 1,002 in 1999 to 484 in 2009. In Germany, 1,331 deaths related to the abuse of illegal drugs were reported in 2009, representing a decrease of 8 per cent compared with the previous year. In the United Kingdom, 2,182 drug-related deaths were reported in 2009, an increase of 11.8 per cent compared with 2008. In Ireland, the number of drug-poisoning deaths rose from 178 to 274 during the period 1998-2007, with more than half of those deaths involving heroin or other opiates. In the same period, the percentage of drug-poisoning deaths in which cocaine was involved increased significantly in that country, from 3 to 23 per cent. Benzodiazepines accounted for more deaths by poisoning in Ireland than any other substance during that period.

754. In the Netherlands, over 2,500 medical cases relating to drug abuse were reported in 2009; nearly one third of those cases occurred at large dance events. Cannabis, MDMA (“ecstasy”), GHB and cocaine were the drugs most frequently abused, with GHB accounting for 20 per cent of the total number of cases and heroin and “crack” cocaine accounting for 8 per cent. Thirty-nine per cent of the cases involved

young adults between 18 and 24 years of age, many of them having abused “ecstasy” or hallucinogenic mushrooms (containing psilocybin).

755. An independent study in the United Kingdom found that there was a substantial decrease in the number of young adults entering treatment for the abuse of heroin and “crack” cocaine — from 12,320 in the period 2005-2006 to 7,427 in the period 2009-2010. However, the study also found that there was an increase in the number of persons — in particular young adults — entering treatment for cannabis abuse: in the period 2009-2010, 4,400 of those persons under the age of 25 listed cannabis as the main drug of abuse, compared with 3,300 in the period 2005-2006.

756. Eastern Europe is one of the few areas of the world where HIV prevalence is on the rise, with severe and spreading epidemics reported in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The prevalence of HIV infection among adults in Ukraine is the highest in Europe: over 1.6 per cent. The use of contaminated equipment for drug injection was reported as the source of infection in over 50 per cent of the newly diagnosed HIV cases in Eastern Europe. In Eastern Europe, the number of persons who abuse drugs by injection is currently estimated at 3.7 million, roughly 25 per cent of whom are believed to be infected with HIV. In Ukraine, prevalence of HIV infection among persons who abuse drugs by injection is estimated at 38.5-50.3 per cent. According to the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, of the 555,272 drug abusers registered in 2009, 386,279 abused drugs by injection; and 50,994 (or 13.2 per cent) of those who abused drugs by injection were HIV-positive. The Board highlights the importance of providing assistance in drug abuse and HIV prevention, treatment and support among people who abuse drugs by injection and in prison settings in the region.

757. Polydrug abuse has been identified as a central element of the European drug problem and it is of particular concern given the unpredictable effects of combinations of drugs. The Government of Italy has reported a growing tendency towards polydrug abuse, often in association with alcohol consumption. In the Netherlands, 15 per cent of drug-related medical cases involved combinations of drugs; and in Ireland, 70 per cent of cases involving treatment for drug abuse

in 2008 were reported to involve more than one substance.

E. Oceania

1. Major developments

758. In Australia, traffickers are increasingly using the Internet to obtain not only precursor chemicals but also equipment used for the illicit manufacture of drugs. Recently, the Australian customs authorities launched an operation to monitor importation from Internet pharmacies based overseas. The operation dismantled an organized criminal group that ordered pharmaceutical products containing pseudoephedrine from overseas-based Internet pharmacies, with the intention of reselling them to illicit drug manufacturers.

759. The Government of New Zealand has given high priority to the fight against the illicit manufacture and abuse of methamphetamine. The national action plan to tackle illicit manufacture and abuse of methamphetamine, launched in October 2009, has led to the identification of new trafficking trends, the seizure of precursor chemicals and the dismantling of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in New Zealand. While most of the clandestine laboratories were small, they posed a significant risk to communities. In New Zealand, organized criminal groups were increasingly utilizing women and teenagers to smuggle methamphetamine and its precursors into the country.

760. Recent seizures in Oceania led to increasing concern over the use of some countries of the region as trans-shipment areas for smuggling drugs and precursors. The Oceania Customs Organisation highlighted the geographical risk factors leading to the use of those countries as transit areas for illicit drug shipments. In addition, the lack of comprehensive legislation and effective border control, as well as the fact that many States of the region are not yet parties to international drug control treaties, make these countries more vulnerable to drug trafficking. In July 2010, the Board held bilateral consultations with the Government of Papua New Guinea. The Board urged the Government to immediately take the steps necessary for Papua New Guinea to become a party to the 1988 Convention. The Board urges all States

concerned, such as Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, to accede to the international drug control treaties without further delay and to strengthen national legislation and border control.

2. Regional cooperation

761. Regional meetings in Oceania continued to play an important role in bringing countries together to address drug control issues. At the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network, held in Samoa in December 2009, participants highlighted the need for States in the region that were not yet parties to the international drug control treaties to ratify those instruments. The annual meeting of the Regional Security Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum was held in Fiji in June 2010. The issue of transnational crime, including trafficking in drugs and precursors, remained high on the agenda. There was consensus among participants that the region remained vulnerable to threats posed by transnational crime and that countries in the region must respond collectively and promptly. Recommended actions included enhancing national legislation, strengthening law enforcement capacity and improving regional cooperation in drug control.

762. Lack of structures for monitoring and reporting on drug-related issues is a long-standing problem for many countries in Oceania. The Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network brings countries in Oceania together to share information and expertise on drug-related issues. At the fifth Meeting of the Network, held in Vanuatu in July 2010, representatives of 11 States of the region and international organizations, including UNODC, reviewed the latest developments and trends in drug and alcohol abuse at the national and regional levels and reiterated the need for strengthened and coordinated efforts to collect, analyse and report drug-related data. They also identified the urgent need to develop and implement effective legislation. The Board acknowledges the efforts of the Network in promoting drug-related research and information-sharing in the region and encourages participating countries to continue their monitoring and reporting with respect to drug-related issues in the framework of the Network.