

## COMBATING ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING

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**Abstract.** This article is devoted to the problem of drug addiction spreading among a part of the youth, as well as the fight against drug addiction. It examines the current issues in the country. The experience of foreign countries in this field is considered, especially in prevention and deterrence of drug dependence among certain population groups. Measures are proposed that could potentially limit this antisocial phenomenon.

**Keywords:** drugs, drug addiction, combating, drug trafficking, crimes, proposals, smuggling.

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**Annotatsiya.** Maqola yoshlar orasida giyohvandlik tarqalishi muammosiga, shuningdek, giyohvandlikka qarshi kurashga bag'ishlangan bo'lib, mamlakatda bu dolzarb masala bo'yicha holatlar ko'rib chiqilgan. Shu sohada ayniqsa ayrim aholining giyohvandlikka qarshi oldini olish va profilaktika tajribasi xorijiy mamlakatlar misolida tahlil qilingan. Ushbu antisotsial hodisani cheklashga qaratilgan chora-tadbirlar taklif etilgan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** giyohvand moddalar, giyohvandlik, kurash, giyohvandlik savdosi, jinoyatlar, takliflar, kontrabanda.

## БОРЬБА С НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ

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**Аннотация.** Статья посвящается проблеме распространения наркомании среди части молодёжи, так же борьбе с наркоманией, и рассмотрены позиции

актуального вопроса по стране. Рассмотрен опыт зарубежных стран в данной сфере, особенно профилактики и предупреждения наркозависимости среди отдельных лиц населения. Предложены меры, которые возможно могут ограничивать данное антисоциальное явление.

**Ключевые слова:** наркотики, наркомания, борьба, наркоторговля, преступления, предложения, контрабанда.

The widespread prevalence of drug addiction largely has a social character. Its development is influenced by unemployment, uncertainty about the future, regular stress, lack of life prospects, and the desire to escape the surrounding reality, even if only with the help of narcotic substances.

Criminal policy in the field of combating illegal drug trafficking is quite ambiguous. Based on the strictness of legislation, countries can be divided into several groups.

The first group comprises countries with moderate control, including Germany, Italy, and France. These countries actively oppose drug trafficking, prescribing lengthy prison sentences. At the same time, courts may apply treatment as an alternative to criminal punishment for drug users who have committed offenses.

The second group consists of countries with strict policies, such as the United States, Japan, and China. Severe penalties are imposed for drug-related crimes.

The third group includes the Netherlands. In this country, drugs are classified into "hard" and "soft" categories. The fight is focused on potent narcotics and psychotropic substances, whereas the latter, based on cannabis, have been legalized, with possession and carrying not subject to criminal liability.

This has led to the Netherlands becoming known as the drug capital of Europe. The official policy of selling "soft" drugs resulted in a significant increase in the number of drug-dependent individuals. "Thus, from 1984 to 1992, marijuana use among Dutch teenagers nearly stabilized" [1].

According to data on the website of the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands, in 2000, out of a population of 15 million, 700,000 people, or 5%, regularly used "soft" drugs [2]. This led to an increase in crimes such as theft and robbery.

Now, consumption is only allowed in designated places or in private residences. Since the second half of 2012, a law prohibiting the sale of "soft" drugs to tourists and local residents has come into effect, as most of them subsequently transition from "soft" to "hard" drugs.

Despite the negative Dutch experience, some countries consider legalizing the use of certain types of drugs. In Costa Rica, Canada, Colombia, and Belgium, marijuana has effectively been legalized. The Czech Republic has gone furthest in decriminalization. Since January 2011, citizens have been allowed to possess 15 grams of marijuana, five

LSD tablets, 1 gram of cocaine, and even 1.5 grams of heroin.

Thus, there is a shift from drug combat policies to so-called harm reduction policies. In most European countries and the United States, codeine-containing medications are dispensed only by prescription. The introduction of such a provision in the Russian Federation is considered impractical, as it would restrict the general population's access to these medicinal products.

It is no secret that the primary reason for the emergence and spread of desomorphine is the simplicity and accessibility of its production. Therefore, it is necessary to significantly increase the price of the raw materials used to manufacture such substances. This would seriously hinder the access of the majority of desomorphine addicts to these drugs, which is why desomorphine is often called the "poor man's drug." It is also possible to substitute with analogues of medications that do not contain codeine, such as Bronchoton, Broncholin, sage, and others.

Currently, the level of drug trafficking and drug use is so high that many experts suggest legalization might reduce this growth, on the grounds that major drug traffickers would lose interest in this market and start seeking new niches for their business.

I disagree with this view, as legalization of drugs would increase the crime rate. Under the influence of drugs, six times more murders and assaults are committed. Legalization would weaken healthcare systems, increase the spread of diseases such as AIDS, and make drugs widely accessible.

Another method of counteracting drug trafficking and drug use overall is promoting a healthy lifestyle. Besides registering drug addicts, programs that encourage the desire to undergo treatment rather than merely threatening criminal punishment are necessary, providing housing, employment, and assistance in reintegration into society. Work with families is essential, with parents bearing responsibility for raising their children.

International drug trafficking is highly organized. Traffickers employ top professionals in legal, financial, and logistical fields. They use the most advanced equipment and technology for the production, transportation, and distribution of their drugs, as well as for laundering money.

Major drug traffickers can now manage and finance their entire operations without direct contact with the drugs themselves, often living on yachts or in countries where the law effectively cannot reach them, thanks to satellite communications.

They remain untouchable because it is rarely possible to link them to specific drug smuggling operations or to establish evidence of their guilt regarding their whereabouts. With their unlimited wealth, drug lords can buy protection from criminal prosecution.

The flow of heroin from Asia, cocaine from South America, cannabis from North Africa, and synthetic drugs from European bases cannot be stopped. Larger and more frequent seizures at customs may indicate greater success in tracking drug shipments. However, these seizures most often signal an increased flow of drugs.

True success in drug seizure within a country can only be genuinely measured if elements such as street price and purity are included in the equation. If prices are low and purity is high, large seizures only confirm greater drug availability.

Regarding law and order, we observe that in some developed countries, police forces and customs authorities cooperate in the war on drugs much more effectively than ten or even five years ago. However, they are still insufficiently equipped and suffer from personnel shortages.

At a time when we congratulate ourselves on managing without customs officers as our borders converge, we are discarding a trained resource that will increasingly be considered necessary for prosecuting major drug criminals.

If we cannot match drug traffickers in providing the best available equipment for technical, electronic, and chemical analysis, we will be fighting with one hand tied behind our back.

The Commission's report to the Council and European Parliament on the European Union's Action Plan on Drugs for the period 1995–1999 is a factual, restrained, but rather dull document. Of course, it contains positive elements.

Among them is the emphasis that effective drug control requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, but it insufficiently defines which issues require the highest priority or convincingly calls for more efficient use or increased allocation of resources.

The Commission remains polite in the face of the waste of funds allocated to crop substitution goals; it does not make clear distinctions between ring leaders among drug traffickers, wholesalers, retailers, and small-time dealers. It does not argue for at least an equal distribution of funds for prevention and rehabilitation.

It cannot even, on the basis of assumptions, indicate a lack of unity on drug issues within its own departments and between the Council and the Commission, which have different powers under the Treaty on European Union. It completely fails to recognize that our current drug policy has been unable to cope with the growing power of drug traffickers and to curb the ever-increasing influence of illicit money in our society. In short, there is no sense of urgency.

Therefore, it is important that this Parliament and its Committee on Civil Liberties help identify the key problems and put forward additional and consistent recommendations for improving the situation [3].

The European Commission's report covers three areas:

- actions to reduce demand;
- actions to combat illegal drug trafficking;
- actions in the international sphere.

The law of December 31, 1970, constitutes the legal basis of France's drug policy. Its goals are:

- to strictly suppress drug trafficking;
- to prohibit drug use, but also to offer alternatives to repressing use;
- to provide free and anonymous care for users who seek treatment.

This law clearly distinguishes two aspects: suppression of use and illegal drug trafficking. Regarding illegal drug use, the 1970 law has sparked lively debate since its adoption between prohibitionists and advocates of decriminalization. At the governments' request, three successive reports (Pelletier 1978, Trautman 1990, Henrion 1995) were prepared concerning the drug policy approach and, specifically, the 1970 law [4].

In conclusion, it should be noted that any measures taken to combat illegal drug trafficking contribute to saving human lives and to the economic, social, and moral revival of the country.

Drug addiction is a global problem that with each passing day consumes more and more human destinies. This disease destroys the personality within a person, turning them into a zombie with only one need — to obtain a new dose of drugs in order to escape reality into their own world of illusions.

Drug trafficking destroys the economy, social sphere, increases crime rates, undermines the moral foundations of society, produces a large number of youth negatively influenced by it, and provokes conflicts. It is a threat to the national security of the entire world.

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