



DCSA

2008



CONTENTS

FOREWORD

FIRST PART

STATUS AND TRENDS IN **WORLD** DRUG TRAFFICKING

OVERVIEW	3
NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA	5
NORTHWEST AFRICA	13
EUROPE	15
MIDDLE EAST	17
CENTRAL ASIA AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION	19
SOUTH EAST ASIA	24

MAIN DRUG TRAFFICKING ROUTES

DRUG TRANSIT ROUTES	27
COCAINE	27
HEROIN	30
CANNABIS	32
SYNTHETIC DRUGS	33
NEW ROUTES	35

SECOND PART

STATUS OF COUNTRY AND **NATIONAL** COUNTER-NARCOTIC ACTIVITIES

ROLE OF THE ORGANISED CRIME GROUP	41
NATIONAL COUNTER-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES	63
DRUG ABUSE DEATH	84

THIRD PART

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION 89



Also this year, the Direzione Centrale per i Servizi Antidroga is ready to make a thorough overview of the efforts and commitments of Law Enforcement agencies in their fight against drug trafficking.

This report intends to emphasize, once again, the international scope of this phenomenon; the first chapters are in fact completely focused on the world drug situation.

In order to assist police operators in their activity, there are two chapters on the methods of concealment - with a rich collection of pictures - and on essential chemicals and precursors. The guiding principle of these chapters is the awareness that “modus operandi” and methods of concealment can recur, maybe in different times and places, and that drug trafficking cannot exist without the illicit trafficking in precursors.

The last chapters are on trafficking trends, the counter-narcotic efforts in Italy and the initiatives promoted by DCSA in 2008.

This 27th edition intends to be an analysis of the drug phenomenon and a useful instrument for all persons committed in prevention and rehabilitation, considering that the statistics on seizures and operations subdivided according to different areas or age groups could be useful to the elaboration of new programs for the fight against drug addiction.

Unfortunately, tables show that the drug phenomenon is increasingly affecting the young population, with a significant increase in the number of minors also involved in street pushing. To this regard, a cooperation between all law enforcement services fighting against drugs, both at preventive and at interdiction level, seems to be essential. This collaboration should

take into account an information exchange – and this publication aims at contributing to this aspect – as well as new synergies between different Institutions and concrete actions for young people and their families. In this perspective, new publications will be edited by DCSA aimed at raising awareness of damage to health and of dangers related to, an even sporadic, drug abuse.

Particular mention should be given to data regarding cocaine seizures: they are clear indicators that international criminal organizations are particularly interested in the Italian market. Such crime networks closely linked with the ‘Ndrangheta and the Camorra that although the undisputable successes, pose a serious threat to the scenario of the Italian public security.

Through the analysis of all indicators it could be stated that the drug plague is still growing in an alarming way, especially cocaine and cannabis derivatives.

Moreover, a major threat is represented by heroin coming from Afghanistan, along the Silk Route and the Balkan Route and invading the rich European consumption markets.

To face this threat DCSA resorts to a closely knit network of experts posted in producing and transit areas with offices in Islamabad, Kabul, Tashkent, Teheran, Ankara, Istanbul, Budapest and Moscow.

Great attention is paid to the Balkan area, which is still, unfortunately, an exchange market and a crossroads of illicit drug trafficking because of its recent stabilization process.

Mention must also be made of the problems connected to drug trafficking, i.e. the laundering of the illicit proceeds, contaminating the financial circuits, the



so-called “Saturday night” car accidents as well as crimes committed to buy a dose.

The threat posed to law enforcement authorities is complex, multifaceted and does not allow any distractions.

The Direzione Centrale per i Servizi Antidroga is increasingly involved at the national and international level, by coordinating national investigative activities and participating in many international law enforcement cooperation initiatives.

As in the previous year, one of the main targets of DCSA in 2008 was the development and enhancement of international cooperation.

In this context, an extremely important role was played by the Drug Experts and Liaison Officers posted in the most important drug producing and trafficking areas. Their targeted and continuous monitoring activity and study of the specific criminal activities affecting the geographic area within their jurisdiction and the constant information exchange with the foreign counterparts, provided DCSA with a constantly updated picture on the threats affecting the international scenario. In this framework DCSA was able to plan and develop, together with the other partners, the most proper and effective prevention and counteracting measures.

Moreover DCSA fully cooperates with U.N.O.D.C. (United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime), with the “Paris Pact” comprising 56 countries as well as with H.O.N.L.E.A. (Heads of National Drug Enforcement Agencies) sessions, giving the possibility to the Heads of the Drug Agencies, belonging to the same geographic area, to compare their drug prevention and counteracting strategies.

Within the European Union DCSA actively

participates in the monthly meetings of the Horizontal Drug Group (HDG), MAOC-N (Maritime Analysis and Operation Centre – Narcotics), EMCDD (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction) in Lisbon, Europol and Eurojust.

In this framework the European Drug Action Plan 2009-2012 was drafted.

DCSA also participates in the works of the “Dublin Groups”, which was set up in 1990 as an advisory body in the field of the coordination of regional cooperation policies in favour of drug producing and transit countries. Members of the Dublin Group are EU countries, United States of America, Canada, Australia, Norway, Japan, the European Commission and UNODC. The Direzione Centrale also takes part in the works of the “Pompidou Group”, in the Chiefs of Police Task Force (Italy, through the Direzione Centrale per i Servizi Antidroga is the “Driver” of the European “Cospol project on Heroin Trafficking”), as well as in Europol AWFs (Analysis Work File).

At the multilateral level, DCSA actively participates in the periodical meetings of the International Drug Enforcement Conference (I.D.E.C.), organized by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and comprising the Heads of the main Drug Agencies in the world.

The key role played by the Mediterranean in illicit trafficking, drug trafficking in particular, has long been acknowledged by the international community which calls for the adoption of proper counteracting measures against such an increasingly alarming threat. The representatives of the countries and international organizations once again stressed the need and urgency

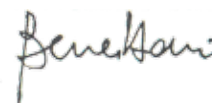


to create an “African Platform” and a “Coordination Centre for the Fight against Maritime Drug Trafficking in the Mediterranean”.

The threat posed by international drug trafficking cannot be underestimated considering the role played by organized crime and the serious harm to young people as far as their personal and social growth is concerned.

The law enforcement agencies operating in Italy and the Direzione Centrale per i Servizi Antidroga, as a coordination body, are daily committed to curb and combat this threat, in synergy with the relevant regional, national and international agencies, as it is shown by the results achieved: 22,470 operations carried out in 2008, over 42 tons of drugs seized, around 35,000 persons reported to the Judicial Authority.

Il Direttore Centrale

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Benvenuti".

