

In a context where criminality respects no national border or sovereignty, it is vital to have a comprehensive approach to fighting crime and strengthen international cooperation, particularly between judicial bodies and law enforcement agencies. France, Turkey, Canada and other countries therefore play an active role in multilateral forums dealing with these issues, working to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of the different forums [2].

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DRUG SMUGGLING TO THE UNITED STATES BY PLANE

Criminal networks traffic a range of drugs including cannabis, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. As international borders become increasingly porous, global abuse and accessibility to drugs have become increasingly widespread. This international trade involves growers, producers, couriers, suppliers and dealers. It affects almost all of our member countries, undermining political and economic stability, ruining the lives of individuals and damaging communities. The end-users and addicts are often the victims of a powerful and manipulative business [2].

Drug trafficking is often associated with other forms of crime, such as money laundering or corruption. Trafficking routes can also be used by criminal networks to transport other illicit products. As criminals devise ever-more creative ways of disguising illegal drugs for transport, law enforcement faces challenges in detecting such concealed substances. In addition, new synthetic drugs are produced with regularity, so police need to always be aware of new trends and products on the illicit market.

Significant amounts of cocaine and marijuana are smuggled into the United States by private aircraft, although a large volume of both drugs enters the country by other means. Smugglers have adapted to increased

federal anti-smuggling efforts by adopting new methods that exploit vulnerabilities in the air interdiction system. The organization of federal air interdiction efforts is currently changing.

Numerous drugs are transported to the United States by air. As interdiction capabilities have increased, particularly in the southeastern United States where there has been a major build-up of radar surveillance equipment and coverage, it appears that airborne drug smugglers have modified their smuggling methods and routes to avoid detection and apprehension. According to a recent EPIC report, drug smugglers flying drugs destined for the United States have used such methods as switching to different airports, mixing transportation modes, air dropping, or shifting to other smuggling methods. It appears that air interdiction efforts have disrupted drug smugglers operations.

Air interdiction is one of several drug interdiction programs with a principal objective of controlling illegal drug smuggling into the United States. The primary goal of all interdiction programs is to deter drug smuggling, and thereby reduce the availability of imported drugs by intercepting and seizing (interdicting) illegal drug shipments coming into the United States. During a fiscal year, about \$1 billion of the approximately \$3.8 billion spent by the federal government on anti-drug abuse efforts was used for interdiction programs. Air interdiction programs are aimed at smugglers using aircraft to bring drugs into the United States. Air interdiction efforts focus on small, privately owned aircraft (also known as general aviation aircraft) as opposed to aircraft operated by commercial passenger and cargo airlines. Smugglers also use commercial airlines to smuggle drugs into this country through airports. The principal method of interdicting drugs smuggled through airports into the United States on commercial airlines is the Customs Service inspection of the aircraft and its passengers and cargo when the aircraft enters a U.S. airport [1].

How do smugglers transport drugs to the United States? Recent intelligence from EPIC indicates that drug smugglers are using alternative routes and innovative methods of transporting their drugs instead of flying directly into the United States illegally. Examples of various methods include:

- 1) flying into the Bahamas or Mexico and then bringing the drugs into the United States aboard small marine vessels or land vehicles;
- 2) obtaining intelligence on air interdiction capabilities and activities, such as gaps in radar coverage, and flying around the coverage;
- 3) adding extra fuel tanks to the aircraft, which could enable smugglers to fly from South America to the United States or nearby island nations without refueling;
- 4) making airdrops near or in U.S. territory, and then flying away without ever entering U.S. law enforcement jurisdiction;
- 5) entering the United States legally by following proper flight procedures and then attempting to bypass Customs' inspection process;
- 6) switching to different conveyances to avoid air interdiction efforts;

7) switching air smuggling routes to avoid the southeast area; and (8) filing a flight plan for a U.S. airport and, at the last minute, deviating from the plan to quickly unload the drugs [3].

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FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME IN EUROPE

This report attempts to provide an overview of the situation of organized crime in Europe, drawing on official and academic sources.

Since the late 1980s, organized crime has become a hot topic in public debate and in the political and scientific agenda all over Europe. To control organized crime, far-reaching legal and institutional reforms have been passed in all European states and special instruments have been adopted by all major international organizations, ranging from the European Union to the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

First of all, I want to give the definition of the term “organized crime”. The most common definition is that organized crime – a category of transnational, national, or local groupings of highly centralized enterprises run by criminals to engage in illegal activity, most commonly for profit. Some criminal organizations, such as terrorist groups, are politically motivated. We can find at least three different notions about the nature of organized crime. One view holds that organized crime is primarily about “crime”. According to another view, the emphasis is on “organized”. It is not so important what offenders do, but how they are linked to each other. Finally, there is a view that organized crime does not have to do primarily with specific forms of criminal activities or specific collective forms of crime, but with the concentration of power.

The second important question I’d like to discuss is organized criminal activities in Europe. For Europe as a whole the Council of Europe “Organized Crime Situation Report” lists the following crime categories: trafficking in drugs, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of persons, cybercrime (including online fraud schemes), money laundering, and “other activities” (including extortion, property crimes and smuggling), with economic crimes, mainly encompassing fraud and tax fraud, receiving special attention in a separate section. One of the significant features of the