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## **THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE IN FRANCE**

The illegal drug trade is a growing problem in France, with various substances being smuggled into the country through different routes. Heroin trafficking is prevalent in the country, with networks involved in the trade buying the drug from neighbouring countries. Heroin is mostly produced in Afghanistan and transported to France via Belgium or the Netherlands before being redistributed across the country. The Northern Department of France, especially the city of Lille, is a major hub for heroin trafficking, while the traffic in the Alps region is controlled by Albanian mafias.

The decrease in heroin prices has led to an increase in consumption, with sniffing and smoking replacing traditional injection. The cocaine market is the second-largest drug market in France, with most of the cocaine arriving through two primary entry routes. The first route is through the port of Le Havre, where the drug arrives in containers from Ecuador or Brazil. The second route is via French Guiana, where cocaine is transported by road from Suriname and then flown to Paris using human mules or sent in cans through postal parcels. France also serves as a transit country for the cocaine trade, as some of it is transported to the UK or the Netherlands. While the COVID-19 pandemic has not had a significant impact on the wholesale market's supply, it has accelerated the use of social networks for the purchasing of such substances.

Cannabis is the most widely consumed illegal drug in France, and its market has grown considerably in recent years. Although controlled by a few kingpins, the market is difficult to detect as it is

fragmented and transnational. Cannabis mainly comes from Morocco, transiting through Spain to reach France and the rest of Europe by car, bus, or truck. Tackling cannabis trafficking remains the primary law enforcement priority for French authorities.

The pandemic has confirmed the trend towards the development of domestic cannabis production. France is also a transit and destination point for methamphetamine and MDMA (Ecstasy), mainly produced in Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands and sold in France, Spain, and the UK. The use of new psychoactive substances has been on the rise, with most being purchased online and produced in India and China. The market in France is dominated by cathinone-type substances, followed by ketamine and synthetic cannabinoids. Synthetic cannabinoids have been found to pose significant health risks to consumers, and there is evidence of illicit laboratories in France. The use of the online black market has become more prevalent, especially for rare products such as illicit fentanyl and related fentanyl-based drugs.

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## **THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL POLICE UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF MARITAL LAW**

The activity of state authorities and local self-governments in the conditions of martial law is reduced to assisting the governing bodies established in the designated territory in directly solving the tasks of state defense. The national police in the system of state bodies operating in this situation occupies a special place due to the content of tasks in the considered conditions of activity. The direct provision of internal security depends decisively on the effectiveness of its work. In order to perform the tasks successfully assigned to the police in the conditions of martial law, their duties and rights must correspond to the basic principle – new duties correspond to new rights. It is extremely important that the expansion of the police's competence during the introduction of martial law is part of the system of coercive measures. Police officers cannot cross the limits