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From:	Spanish Regional Chair of the Dublin Group
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**ALGERIA**

**1. Overview**

Since 2000, there have been a large number of seizures of **cannabis resin** in Algeria.

The trend in 2014 compared with the previous year shows a **13.98 % decrease** in the quantity of cannabis resin seized by the Algerian enforcement authorities (GN and DGSN) and customs staff.

As a result, **181 942.901 kg** of cannabis resin were seized over the whole year, compared with the **211 512.773 kg** seized in 2013.

Most of these drugs were seized in the Wilaya of Tlemcen, which is in north-western Algeria on the border with Morocco and an area in which large quantities of drugs are transported using traditional means: on pack animals, on foot in backpacks, or in vehicles, in loads of under 200 kg.

The **Tlemcen route** is the favoured one for bringing drugs into Algeria, although the border remains closed and security there has been strengthened by the Algerian authorities in response to the rise in drug trafficking in that part of the country. Recently, drug trafficking has also been on the increase in the Wilaya of **Bechar**. Within Algeria, the capital and the Wilaya of **Ouargla** have been seeing a rise in seizures of large quantities of cannabis resin in transit.

The following **routes** have been **identified** in Algeria by the enforcement authorities involved in fighting the drugs trade:

- 1) The Carthage road, which goes from Remchi (Tlemcen) to Ben-M'hidi and El Taref, ending at Tunis.
- 2) The route from Ghadames and Maghnia to Rouissat, in Ouargla.
- 3) The Tripolitania route, starting from El-Kerma, Oran, towards Illizi.
- 4) The Fezzan route, from El-Kazdi, in Naama, towards Illizi.
- 5) The Tibesti (Tlemcen) route to Illizi. The last three are those of the Libyan south.

After cannabis, **psychotropic drugs** form the second largest group by volume of seizures, **down** by **10.66 %** compared with 2013. A total of **1 050 612** psychotropic pills were seized in 2014.

Apparently "mules" are used to transport these pills, which may be aimed at the French market; they carry them in small quantities on commercial flights between Algeria and France.

The amount of cocaine and heroin in the country also decreased in 2014 as compared to 2013. The total amount of **cocaine** seized in the period referred to was **1 245.626 g** compared to 3 790.487 g in 2013.

The total amount of **heroin** seized in 2014 was **339.11 g** compared to 868.299 g in 2013.

At a seminar on combating drugs and drug addiction organised by the National Foundation for Health Progress and Research Development (FOREM), participants warned of the extent to which drug addiction is spreading in Algerian society. The number of **drug addicts in Algeria is estimated** at over **300 000**.

## **2. Institutional framework**

In recent years the Algerian authorities have strengthened their mechanisms for combating drug trafficking and contraband in general by means of legislation. They continue to emphasise the close link between drug-trafficking networks and terrorism in the region and that the former is one of the main sources of funding for the latter; terrorism, arms trafficking, money laundering, corruption and smuggling are all closely connected. At the same time, Algeria appears to be a **transit** zone for sending drugs to the **Middle East and Europe**, though in recent years the number of people consuming drugs in Algeria has also risen.

Algeria is part of the MedNET Euro-Mediterranean cooperation network (Pompidou Group, Council of Europe), which was set up in 2006 with the aim of developing north-south cooperation plans and activities in order to combat drugs. Other members include France, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.

Algerian legislation.

In the situation described, the following laws have been passed:

- Law No 04-18 of 25 December 2004 on the prevention and suppression of the consumption and unlawful trafficking of drugs.
- Law No 05-01 of 6 February 2005 on the prevention and combating of money laundering and of the funding of terrorism. Supplemented on 13/2/2012.
- Law No 06-01 of 20 February 2006, on the prevention and combating of corruption. Supplemented on 20 August 2011.
- Ordinance No 12-02 of 13 February 2012 amending and supplementing Law No 5-01 of 6 February 2005 on the prevention and combating of money laundering and of the funding of terrorism.

### **3. International cooperation**

Cooperation with the Algerian authorities is organised in the framework of the protocols for cooperation between the Directorates-General of the Police and of the Civil Guard with the National Security Directorate-General (Interior Ministry) and the National Gendarmerie Directorate-General and the National Coastguard Service of Algeria (these last being Defence Ministry bodies).

The protocols address activities related to training and operational information exchange among the signatory bodies.

### **4. Evaluation and Recommendations**

#### **4.1. Evaluation**

In the light of the above, it can be stated that:

- Seizures of cannabis resin on Algerian territory fell in 2014 compared to the previous year, presumably owing to the gradual sealing of the border with Morocco through the increased deployment of personnel by the security forces engaged in combating drugs and smuggling, and support from army units.
- The international cooperation situation described in the previous point has evolved with the consolidation of narco-terrorism as a concept, it being a permanent and secure source of financing for armed groups operating in the Sahel region. Now that there is a clear link between terrorism and organised crime, Algeria has strengthened its legislation on combating money laundering and the funding of terrorism.
- As in previous periods, the fact that Europe has been identified as a destination for drugs transiting the country - given their proximity to Algeria, the countries in question are essentially Spain, France, Greece and Italy - means that closer analysis is needed of the foreign currency trafficking generated by this illegal activity and of the way in which such money is returning to the networks involved.

## 4.2. Recommendations

- Increase cooperation on training, operations and prevention to address the use of drugs and psychotropic substances, and step up cooperation on treating addiction.
- Propose amending Algeria's legislation (the code of criminal procedure) to accommodate coordination mechanisms for developing controlled deliveries, in order to identify the structure of the networks operating at the points of departure, transit and final destination of drugs, and enable comprehensive action to be taken.
- Boost international coordination mechanisms for anti-drug operations in the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on money laundering as the legislation in this area has recently changed.

## EGYPT

### 1. Overview

The number of operations increased in the final months of 2014 and to date in 2015.

- a. Hashish is not produced locally in Egypt and has usually been brought into the country over land from Morocco. A change is now under way as regards its origin, with more consignments from Lebanon being seized in the final quarter of 2014 and early 2015, having been brought by sea to ports and airports in eastern Egypt. Total seizures amounted to 60 tonnes.
- b. The destruction of marijuana crops in Sinai – suspended in the first half of 2014 for security reasons – has resumed in 2015, supported by the Egyptian armed forces.
- c. Harsher sentences and stepped-up border control have led to a drop in the amount of psychotropic substances in the country: 157 million tablets were seized in 2014, significantly fewer than the 435 million seized in 2012.
- d. Heroin originating in south-east Asia has arrived in Egypt via Red Sea ports such as Nuweiba and airports, but not in significant quantities (613 kg in 2014).
- e. Cocaine seizures are on the increase, with the drug being used in Egypt by the wealthy classes and in tourist areas. There have been a number of seizures pointing to the growing presence of Latin American groups, who are trying to enter the market.

f. New narcotic substances have appeared.

## **2. Institutional framework**

There were two types of changes to legislation:

- Harsher sentences for possession of psychotropic substances
- New substances added to the list of banned substances

## **3. International cooperation**

The ANGA (Anti-Narcotics General Administration) representative spoke of successful cooperation with several Mediterranean countries on operations that resulted in the seizure of consignments, in particular of hashish originating in Morocco.

Egyptian officials also worked with Jordanian and Israeli authorities on six operations to prevent hashish being brought into the country from Lebanon through the ports of Aqaba and Nuweiba.

In addition, the ANGA representative highlighted cooperation between the Egyptian authorities and the Home Affairs Attaché on the arrest of some Latin American citizens (Peruvian nationals) who were transporting cocaine and were caught at El Cairo Airport.

In response to questions from this Office on the impact of instability in Libya on drug trafficking in the country, ANGA confirmed that the situation there has had a 'huge' impact, and that Libya is 'saturated' with drugs – in particular hashish – which are stored there before being transported elsewhere in the region. It drew a link between drug trafficking and other forms of trafficking, such as of arms, and stated that traffickers rely on help from Libyan Bedouins and their extended populations in Egypt.

It mentioned that in this regard, Egypt has changed its strategy for combating drug trafficking from Libya, strengthening cooperation with other Mediterranean countries (including Spain) in order to impede ships carrying narcotics from reaching the Libyan coast.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- a) Smooth cooperation takes place with the Egyptian Anti-Narcotics General Administration, which regularly provides information. However, in the opinion of the Home Affairs Attaché, there is a need for a more general approach to combating drug trafficking in Egypt – one which not only deals with operations carried out but also looks more closely at drug-trafficking networks, their resources and sources of funding, and where their profits go.
- b) We also recommend stepping up the authorities' efforts in the preventive phases, through social and educational awareness-raising, and improving mechanisms for treating and rehabilitating drug addicts, alongside the coercive and punitive operations/legislative amendments against drug trafficking and production in the region.

## **MOROCCO**

### **1. Overview**

The trends in drug trafficking identified in the previous report are unchanged.

Firstly, Morocco remains one of the world's major cannabis producers. Efforts to reduce the cultivated area have been countered by improved crop productivity, with several annual harvests and an increase in the proportion of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in the yield. Equally, the local yield in several European countries has increased, leading to a stabilisation, and even a slight decrease, in trafficking of the substance to Europe.

Cocaine continues to arrive from Latin America on transatlantic flights (Casablanca Airport), although other previously identified entry routes through West Africa remain in use. As in the previous report, the stabilisation in the number of seizures could also be the result of police efforts in other security-related fields. There is still concern over the role played by tourist and leisure ports, where police controls are generally more lax.

Trafficking and seizures of other types of industrially-produced psychotropic substances, such as ecstasy, have fallen, after having risen significantly in the period covered by the previous report.

## **2. Legislative amendments**

The legislation remains unchanged. Previous campaigns by some political groups for the partial legalisation of hashish have practically died out. In contrast, in early March, a party proposed that an amnesty law be passed in favour of persons convicted of growing cannabis.

The recent creation of a new police body, the Central Bureau of Judicial Investigation (BCIJ), is the most significant institutional change. Its activities will centre on the prosecution of terrorist offences and other crimes connected with or relating to national security. The National Brigade of the Judicial Police (BNPJ) is to remain the main agency responsible for combating drug trafficking.

## **3. International cooperation**

Cooperation continues between the EU Member States and Dublin Group participants and the Moroccan police authorities. Organisational restructuring within the Ministry of the Interior is apparently on the cards, and could make contacts at local level go more smoothly. In that regard, one matter to be dealt with might be that of having access to official overall figures for the region and not only to partial figures provided by various agencies.

## **4. Miscellaneous**

There were no relevant developments in any area, including as regards potentially closer ties and greater involvement with EUROPOL.

### **Recommendations:**

It would be beneficial to strengthen contacts and relations with the newly created police body to specify its scope of action for combating drug trafficking.



## **MAURITANIA**

The most recent meeting of the mini Dublin Group in Mauritania took place in the Spanish Embassy in Nouakchott on 30 March 2015. The participants were France, Spain, Germany, the EU Delegation and Japan. As the US was not represented, its cooperation programme was not discussed.

After discussions, the group approved the following report:

### **1. General situation**

Mauritania is still regarded as a transit country for cocaine (originating from America) and hashish (from Morocco), as evidenced by the large seizures of these drugs in recent years, bound for Europe, West Africa and the eastern Mediterranean.

It should be recalled that Mauritania has signed the principal international agreements on combating drug trafficking, including the Vienna Convention. The following anti-drugs laws exist: law of 18 July 1993 which lays down very stiff penalties, including the death penalty, if the offence is repeated, and law of 27 July 2005 which criminalises the laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking. The set of legal instruments against trafficking such products remains unchanged in 2015.

In addition, Mauritania supported the creation of the 'G5 Sahel' group, whose members, alongside Mauritania, are Mali, Chad, Niger and Burkina Faso. The group became an international organisation when its members' Heads of State adopted its founding agreement in Nouakchott on 19 December 2014. Although it was established to coordinate international development aid for its members, the group's major successes have been security-related. An example is the Nouakchott Declaration adopted at the conference of the Ministers of the Interior on 21 May 2014, expressing the members' desire to strengthen security cooperation by creating a shared space for dialogue and exchanges on the subject of security. A platform for security cooperation was thus created, with the aim of setting up an integrated network for the exchange of operational information in the fields of security and border management (terrorism, illegal immigration, all types of trafficking).

### **2. Trafficking trends**

Cocaine trafficking: Mauritania is regarded as a transit country for cocaine, as evidenced by the large seizures of the drug in 2008 and 2009, heading for Europe.

Since then, however, there have been no noteworthy seizures, probably as a result of the establishment of a security mechanism as part of the fight against terrorism. The group also posited that this may be due to the lack of training and professional incentives for Mauritanian customs staff.

It is nonetheless acknowledged that since 2008 cocaine has been arriving from South America by air and sea at ports in the Gulf of Guinea (Guinea-Bissau, Conakry and Sierra Leone, Togo, etc.) and other West African countries such as Senegal and Cape Verde.

It is then transported to Mauritania by road or by boat, directly from Conakry, the east of Mali or Senegal. The cocaine is then transported primarily by sea for delivery in Europe via the ports of Nouakchott or Nouadhibou and the surrounding area, including the no-man's land in the south-west of Western Sahara.

#### Cannabis trafficking:

It is also and above all a transit country for cannabis originating from Morocco (as demonstrated by recent seizures, such as the 1 400 kg seized in December 2014), en route to the whole of West Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the eastern Mediterranean.

More precisely, the cannabis resin comes mostly from the Moroccan Rif, bound for Egypt and Libya (via northern Mali and northern Niger) and for countries in the Arabian Peninsula (via Chad and Sudan). Upon entering Mauritania, two main routes are used, one in northern Mauritania and the Sahara along the border with Algeria, then via northern Mali and northern Niger, bound for Libya and later Maltese ports (which, according to our contacts, are a safer port of entry into Europe), and the other to the south-east via Nouakchott, following the 'road of hope' to the Malian border.

On the first route, drugs are apparently transported from the Sahara across the area controlled by the Polisario Front, which has nine allegedly easily bribed *nahiya* (area command posts) along the Mauritanian border.

It is believed that convoys cross the Mauritanian border around Bir Moghrein and Ain ben Tili, after which they follow the Algerian and Malian borders into Libya. Temporary stores are said to have been set up in Mauritania around Bir Moghrein and Ain ben Tili.

However, the security measures put in place by the Mauritanian authorities since President Abdel Aziz came to power in 2009, as part of the fight against terrorism, also benefit the anti-trafficking mechanism, making it more difficult for drugs to transit. Since the Serval intervention in Mali, this mechanism has been stepped up considerably.

OCLCTISS and the gendarmerie are beginning to provide more regular and reliable statistics.

The following statistics are available for 2014:

From OCLCTISS:

First half of 2014

- 15 g cocaine
- 40 kg cannabis resin
- 400 kg Indian hemp
- 1 100 boxes of Rivotril tablets
- 6 vehicles
- 1 dugout canoe
- 5 000 000 ouguiyas (approximately EUR 12 000) and FCFA 200 000 (approximately EUR 3 500)

From the gendarmerie

- 88 kg Indian hemp
- 538 kg cannabis resin
- 2 722 Rivotril tablets 900 Valium

Second half of 2014

77 operations carried out by OCLCTISS, 163 suspects handed over to the judicial authorities.

Seizures:

- 250 g cocaine
- 1 400 kg cannabis resin
- 105 kg Indian hemp
- 346 boxes of Rivotril tablets
- 4 vehicles
- 541 000 ouguiyas (approximately EUR 1 400) and FCFA 200 000

### Most noteworthy cases

There were no notable changes in OCLCTISS's results for the second half of 2014.

However, the national army seized 1 400 kg during the night of 17 to 18 December 2014 in the area around Ain ben Tili. There was a violent clash when the vehicles were intercepted, and two traffickers were killed.

The convoy consisted of five four-wheel-drive vehicles which had just loaded that amount from a store of seven tonnes of cannabis resin located in the Western Sahara to the northwest of Ain ben Tili, according to the initial intelligence.

The Mauritanian soldiers, acting on intelligence from OCLCTISS, used two companies and an air surveillance team.

This case is a good illustration of the trend described in paragraph 2: trafficking in cannabis and in particular the use of these new routes.

### **3. Production trends**

The country has no tradition of growing or processing drugs.

Local consumption is limited to some (herbal) cannabis derivatives, linked to traditional practices (Indian hemp).

No evidence suggests that laboratories producing synthetic drugs are operating in Mauritania.

### **4. Progress report on drug consumption**

However, it cannot be denied that the presence of drugs in transit (cocaine and cannabis resin) results in a growth in consumption in some circles. Drug-dealing is starting, possibly set up by intermediaries who receive cash from the traffickers. The Mauritians involved in the networks are mainly local intermediaries rather than drug traffickers.

A rise in drug use has been noted in the poorest areas and those where most foreigners live, such as the 5th and the 6th districts in Nouakchott and in similar parts of other big towns such as Nouadhibou and Zoueratt. It is here that the dealers have set up their logistical centres.

## **5. Progress report on international cooperation**

### **French cooperation**

Since 2008 the work of the internal security department of the French Embassy (SSI Nouakchott) has concentrated on providing significant amounts of aid (the LUCTISEM 1, 2, 3 and 4 projects) to restructure, equip and train the staff of the Mauritanian Office for Combating Illegal Trafficking in Drugs (OCLCTISS) and the gendarmerie, financed by France (Inter-Ministerial Mission for the Fight Against Drugs and Drug Addiction, or MILDT).

In the context of funding from the Interministerial Mission for the Fight Against Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (MILDECA, which replaced MILDT), from 18 to 20 November 2014 the DGSN and the SSI organised the first high-level meeting of experts on drugs and terrorism for the G5 Sahel States, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. That meeting underlined the complexity of the connections between drugs and terrorism, showing that the same criminal groups were very often involved in both.

The SSI's activity has continued in 2015 in the shape of help to the anti-drug-trafficking services, namely funding of the 105 and FSP ALCAO programmes.

The first meeting of the focal points of the security (terrorism and organised crime) cooperation platform of the G5 Sahel, set up by the Nouakchott Declaration of 21 May 2014 at the initiative of the regional internal security attaché and the SSI, took place in Nouakchott from 10 to 12 March 2015 (cofinanced by the EU delegation and MILDECA).

It will be recalled that the security cooperation platform installed in the DGSN was funded by MILDECA.

Following the meeting, the experts decided in particular to set up:

- a secure IT communication apparatus making it possible to exchange operational information;
- ad hoc training programmes;
- regular meetings of security and defence officials, etc.

Mauritania's DGSN is also responsible for coordinating the platform.

These recommendations will be amended and validated by the second meeting of G5 Sahel interior ministers from 12 to 14 May 2015 with the attendance of Mr Cazeneuve, France's Minister for the Interior.

A number of training programmes are also being organised this year:

- FSP ALCAO:
  - OCLCTISS training in human resources handling and intelligence analysis in relation to fighting drug trafficking.
  - Training in drug product identification and basic techniques in fighting drug trafficking.
  -
- PROGRAMME 105:
  - Training in investigation techniques in fighting drug trafficking. Surveillance, shadowing, searches and arrests.
  - Training in targeting containers in port area and in specific techniques for fighting drug trafficking in ports.
  - Delegation action (SSI Nouakchott):
  - Training the liaison officer in technical aids to investigation: geo-tracking, setting beacons, intercepting communications, sound recording. Purchases of equipment.

### **Spanish cooperation**

The Spanish Guardia Civil's project within the EU's WEST-SAHEL Mauritania programme, to enlarge the dog-handling unit, continues. In 2015, eight new dog units were purchased. In 2015, training courses for trainers and dog-handlers will be completed. Finally, the expansion of the unit to other places in Mauritania including Aioun and Pk 55 (close to the northern frontier with the Sahara) will be supported by Spanish cooperation.

## **European Union cooperation**

The European Union continues to support the "integrated border management system" in Mauritania, which contributes to the fight against drug trafficking, through support to the country's national gendarmerie. The operation involves building four (4) border posts and providing them with equipment and electrical power, and also training the gendarmes posted to the mission.

The plan, jointly funded with Spain's Guardia Civil, is to:

- Implement the first joint police and customs coordination centre in Selibabi (Mauritania), which will include the forces responsible for the integrated management of the borders of Mali, Senegal and Mauritania: the gendarmerie, the police and the customs service.
- In November 2014, gendarmes in Rosso and Kaedi (on Mauritania's southern border), responsible for border control patrols, received training. There were sessions on drug trafficking, means of concealment, etc.
- In February 2015, the gendarmes of the Rosso river brigade received some motor launches gifted by the United States. The Guardia Civil trained the skippers and sailors of these vessels to patrol the Senegal River and achieve more effective control of the southern border of Mauritania.
- From 21 to 23 April 2015, the Euro-African police conference on immigration will take place in the Canary Islands; we hope to see representatives of 41 security and customs services from African and European countries.

Meanwhile the Senegalese authorities are in the process of developing a migration strategy and strengthening their border controls, coordinating with the Mauritanian authorities to develop close links between the forces responsible for border control, and coordinating their actions to achieve better results in combating all types of illegal trade, in particular the drugs trade. The last bilateral meeting took place on 22 September 2014 on the border at Rosso, with representatives from EU Member States and the two bordering countries (Mauritania and Senegal).

The following actions can be listed in the framework of the Sahelian Security College (CSS), a virtual training organisation funded by the European Union and initially designed for three Sahelian countries, namely Mali, Mauritania and Niger:

- The three countries in the organisation received the first joint training exercise, held in Niamey (Niger) from 20 to 24 October 2014, on prevention and law enforcement approaches to money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation.
- On 15 October a meeting of the management board of the CSS took place.
- From 10 to 12 March 2015 there was a meeting of the security focal points of the G5 Sahel, to discuss the accession of Chad and Burkina Faso to the CSS, with the aim of incorporating the CSS into the G5 framework, at the next meeting of the Heads of State.

At regional level the European Union is developing the West African Police Information System (WAPIS) Cocaine Route programme in Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, with a budget of EUR 5 200 000 for the period 2012-2015. The aim is to combat (organised) crime and the threats posed by terrorism, by setting up a regional police information system (WAPIS) and to establish a connection between the countries of the region and the rest of the world using Interpol's tools and services. Mauritania, though invited to participate, has not yet given the green light for this system to be set up.



## German cooperation

Since January 2013, GIZ has been implementing a project for capacity-building of the national police (RCPN project), funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. The following measures are being implemented as part of the fight against drug trafficking in Mauritania:

- In 2013 and 2014, GIZ built three border posts on the border with Senegal, and provided specialised equipment to eight border posts. GIZ has also supported the setting up of a unit of Mauritanian trainers specialising in the tasks of border police and the drafting of twelve training modules on the subject. In 2015 it is planned to give training courses in border management to about a hundred police officers currently in post.
- The RCPN project has supported the criminal file system being reformed and brought into compliance with the AFIS (Automatic Fingerprint Identification System). New fingerprint files have been developed and adopted by both the national police and the national gendarmerie. In 2014, training courses in judicial signals (taking fingerprints) were implemented for the technical and forensic police (PTS) and the officers staffing 40 police stations in Nouakchott, and in the other main towns in the country. The project also funded a complete overhaul of the offices of the National PTS Service (SNPTS) at the police college.
- In 2014, GIZ supported the drafting of training modules for training criminal police, including a training module on fighting drug trafficking.

As regards its involvement in the Sahel in relation to preventing and combating terrorism and fighting the drugs trade, organised crime and corruption, in 2014 Germany mainly supported two projects in a regional framework that includes Mauritania:

- Working with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Germany made a substantial contribution - of EUR 51 000 - towards the holding of a workshop in Dakar, early in the year, on the mechanisms funding terrorism via money transfer systems (hawalas).

- In the context of a UNODC anti-corruption project, Germany funded and implemented a training programme for investigative journalists (EUR 140 000) and supported the setting up of network structures linking anti-corruption centres.

### **Japanese cooperation**

At the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), the Japanese government announced that in the context of the priority areas for Japanese cooperation in the Sahel, it had committed itself to training 2 000 people, with a view to capacity-building to fight terrorism, including illegal drug trafficking.

As a measure expressing that ambition, the Japanese government gave financial support worth in total around USD 6.8 million to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the execution of a project to strengthen the capacities of criminal justice and law enforcement in the Sahel region, in seven countries including Mauritania. In the context of that project, those responsible for criminal justice and the gendarmerie in Mauritania will be trained to increase international cooperation to combat terrorism and cross-border crime.

The Japanese government also organised a workshop in Tokyo from 11 to 13 November 2014 on security in the Sahel region, entitled "Workshop on criminal justice cooperation for counter-terrorism among the Sahel states and states in North Africa", inviting from Mauritania the General Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Mr Mohamed Lemine Sidi Baba. It focused on exchange of good practice and promoting cooperation in the criminal justice field.

Japan also gave financial support to the Mauritanian office of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on 5 March 2015. The objective of the USD 3 million project is to increase the border management capacities of the staff of the territorial surveillance directorate of the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralisation, to ensure the safety of populations living in the border zone, and to improve the management of common borders between Mauritania and Mali.

That aside, Japan funds several projects that contribute to combating terrorism, executed by international organisations such as the UNDP, which also connects with fighting the drugs trade.

### **Operational recommendations**

The members of the mini group have identified flaws in the investigation strategy. The authorities do not follow up cases where trafficking is detected and there is no subsequent analysis of drug seizures. Besides that, there is a significant shortfall in terms of judicial processing and a lack of coordination between the various police bodies involved in fighting this scourge (the national gendarmerie, the national police, customs and, most recently, the road security service or GSSR); for instance there is no common database (as described below). In addition, the public prosecutor should have a bigger role in supervision and coordination. Magistrates, investigators and the services monitoring the financial system and the health and pharmaceutical services all need specialist training.

Mauritania still has very significant needs in all areas, ranging from basic personnel training to logistical support. Both the Mauritanian police and the gendarmerie have repeatedly stressed the need for technical resources for surveillance, communications, investigation and toxicological analysis. Training is an absolute priority, starting with training for the instructors themselves.

Other more specific recommendations are listed below:

- Continue to raise the Mauritanian authorities' awareness of the need to step up their commitment to the fight against trafficking and against the laundering of the proceeds of trafficking.
- Promote and support the establishment of a national drug-trafficking database with input from the police, the gendarmerie, customs and the army.
- Support the framing of a national anti-drug-trafficking policy on that basis.
- Improve and optimise the material resources of the Mauritanian security forces with responsibility in the area.

- Ensure the continuity of training by setting up a permanent centre with specialised professional trainers. Emphasise on-the-spot training for trainers. Encourage agents to specialise from the time they enter into service.
- Promote a regional cooperation framework, encourage the work of the West African liaison officers' platform based in Dakar, promote an evaluation of the national Interpol bureau and improve its capabilities, as a means of increasing international cooperation.
- Improve effective border control capacities and, in that context, encourage implementation of the Stability Instrument.
- Mauritania has no overall view of the drugs trade either locally or internationally. That makes it difficult to draw up a strategy to combat the phenomenon. The OCLCTISS does not centralise data on the subject sufficiently; the Mauritanian gendarmerie and customs do not keep it regularly informed of drugs cases. As a result, the OCLCTISS does not really know the full extent of drug trafficking.
- In addition to the action taken, there should be a special focus on Mauritania's chief ports, Nouadhibou and Nouakchott, as there are few or no checks there and they are a major loophole in the anti-drug smuggling effort.
- Support the G5 Sahel structure, which could become a new arena for regional cooperation in combating the drugs trade among the Sahel countries.

## TUNISIA

### 1. Overview

#### *1.1. Production and trafficking*

We maintain the hypothesis put forward in previous years, that Tunisia is not a drug-producing country, but rather a country of transit and consumption. The transit is mainly of cannabis to Europe, in moderate amounts, and to Libya and Egypt. This can be inferred from the limited data available on seizures and the activity of the Tunisian security forces in this area.

In a new development, the Minister for the Interior, Mr Ben Jedou, has published data on the seizures of narcotics by the Tunisian security forces in the first six months of the year, quantifying them as 11 000 kg of hashish and 12 000 pills, without giving further details.

Most known seizures of hashish occur during the inspection of vehicles travelling on public highways in governorates near the borders with Libya and Algeria. It is thought that this substance enters Tunisia via the Tunisian/Algerian border either for local consumption or for transit to Europe, Libya or Egypt. Evidence has been gathered on cases of trafficking by sea in the territorial waters bordering Libya.

A police operation succeeded in January 2013 in breaking up an organisation which planned, innovatively, to carry cocaine from South America by air with a stopover in Tunisia or Libya, though no such operation had materialised.

Subutex tablets are brought illegally into Tunisia, usually coming from Europe by air or sea, carried by individuals who hide it in their luggage; it seems that so far these are small-scale operations, given the quantities seized.

We do not have any further detailed information from official bodies of the Tunisian Interior Ministry regarding numbers of seizures, substances concerned or persons involved for 2014, besides those given at a press conference by the Ministry of the Interior for the first half of 2014.

## ***1.2. Consumption***

In the absence of official data from the Tunisian authorities or reliable statistics, our assessment is that drug use in Tunisia is still fairly limited, with the majority of consumers believed to be aged between 18 and 35, and hashish being the substance consumed.

## **2. Legal and institutional framework**

Following the approval of the new Tunisian constitution on 26 January 2014, numerous initiatives have been announced to modernise the legal framework applicable to prevention and law enforcement in relation to drug use. Although there has been no legislative initiative to adapt the current legal framework (Law No 52/92 of 18 May 1992) regarding production, consumption and trafficking in narcotics, there were various civil society initiatives in the first half of 2014 calling for the law to be amended, particularly with regard to decriminalising consumption, which is currently an offence under Tunisian criminal law and carries a prison sentence.

On 5 March 2014 the Minister for Education, Fathi Jarrey, announced at an ordinary meeting of the NCA, within the Committee for Educational Affairs, that a programme had been set up to tackle the consumption of drugs and alcohol in educational establishments, in response to public concerns in Tunisia about the apparent increase in consumption by young Tunisians.

### **3. International cooperation**

#### **3.1. Technical assistance**

Nothing to report.

#### **3.2. Statistics**

Nothing to report.

### **4. Recommendations**

In view of the scant official data provided by the Tunisian authorities, it is difficult to make a precise assessment of the situation in Tunisia and to issue recommendations on prevention of drug addiction and combating drug trafficking; consequently, the first recommendation would be for the authorities to improve the transparency of information in dealing with these matters.

Other recommendations could be as follows:

- Draw up a national strategy to combat drug addiction using a multi-sectoral approach, circulate it to Tunisia's civil society and international partners, and then implement it.
- Encourage the participation of members of the Tunisian security forces, dedicated to combating organised crime, in seminars and activities organised by international bodies and countries of the Mediterranean basin.
- Promote international police cooperation in combating serious crime, normally encompassing criminal organisations engaged in drug trafficking. For this it is necessary to modernise the old structures and operational procedures of the Tunisian Ministry of the Interior, with regard to both combating organised crime and police cooperation.