

Risk of growing trafficking and illicit consumption of drugs

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***Abstract:** Currently drugs are a threat to global law as narcotics trafficking is organized and sophisticated, with transnational organizations well developed. Organizations involved obtain large sums of money, which they use to brew terrorism, but also to corrupt, intimidate and destabilize some governments. Mankind now assists intertwining two of the most feared and destructive forces of modern society: terrorism and drugs.*

***Keywords:** traffic; drugs; illicit consumption; narcotics; control measures.*

Introduction

The use of drugs is a phenomenon that has existed in all times, but once the consumer of such goods - compared to what is happening today - differentiates by the private aspect of their abusers. Proselytism was on a small scale and in many cases the person retained its social integration, the first contact with drugs occurring usually at an older age than today.

Gaining huge profits from international drug trafficking, "narcotic terrorism" has gradually become a weapon [1] and enters the social and political structure of many countries, contributing to the power of some bloody "insurrection" on the four continents.

Until recently, the drug trade was dominated by criminals, who wanted only to gather wealth and power, but about ten - twenty years ago, terrorist groups have begun to realize better the benefits of drug trafficking.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in the early years of this decade, due to drug trafficking began to be increasingly fed up with illegal funds: rural insurgents, urban terrorists, liberation movements, arms dealers, subversive groups, extremist groups of the left and right, etc.

Lack of control of drug money has a destabilizing effect on the circulation of money and exchange markets, and some terrorist groups finance their activities with funds from drugs.

1. Amplification of drug scourge

Lately there is an increase in drug-related problems and the general situation in this area has greatly worsened because both the phenomena comprise all regions of the world and the fact that if in the beginning drug abuse was a problem for a limited number of countries, currently the states that do not face this scourge are genuine exceptions.

The data provided by the UN Narcotics Commission that the world is an impressive illicit opiates, cannabis, coca leaf, cocaine and psychotropic substances, powered by a huge consumption of illicit traffic.

Influences on all levels of the drug cartels are increasing [2] and with globalization is done and ever closer and complex cooperation between criminal organizations. It highlights strongly a specialization of cartels on the different types of drugs, on the other hand, criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking are increasingly involved in other forms of criminal activities, becoming more organized and violent using more sophisticated technical equipment and communication systems, transmissions - thus controlling in general the entire circuit of drugs or drug production, to retail termination.

Daniel-Ștefan PARASCHIV

Criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking store large quantities in countries where the legal system is inadequate or penalties are small and for transit and traffic use mainly the territory of states that are not signatories to international treaties concerning drug or if they have ratified them, they have not taken measures to implement their provisions. Also preferred are territories of the countries facing civil wars, terrorist activities, political instability, ethnic conflicts, and states that cannot ensure government control over the drugs or border control systems, financial and judicial they do not work efficiently.

Most regions of the world are marked by an increase in the consumption of psychotropic substances. If in the past could be differences between countries producing and drug-consuming countries, it is now clear that such distinctions have no importance because virtually all of the producing and consuming countries have become more or less producers and the term "transit country" has lost its original meaning, becoming, as a rule, both consumer and producer.

In many states increase of drug use is justified by the lack of effective legislation and an adequate control over the movement of substances administered to relieve the suffering of sick, either in health care facilities or outpatient. Thus, in a growing number of countries there is a widespread use of products containing codeine, used in the preparation cough syrups and which, not released on prescriptions end up being sold on the open market, the effects of the uncontrolled consumption being very harmful.

Particularly dangerous is the increasing abuse of morphine consumption, especially for the treatment of pain (particularly cancer sufferers), the annual turnover of these world opioid consumed products exceeding 200 tons morphine equivalent.

With all global measures to reduce growing areas of opiates and limitation on removal of the substances used in the medical field, increased production of narcotics has had and still has a further negative effect on global ratio of continuous growth in demand and consumption of products.

Many states even signatories of the international conventions determining drug, slow to establish control measures on certain psychotropic substances and traffickers are using loopholes to divert this kind of products for illegal consumption.

Also, a large amount of drug substances on the black market comes from countries that the export control measures are weak or nonexistent, and the customs cannot do their duty properly.

2. Consumption production and drug trafficking in different regions of the world

A better understanding of the spread of the scourge that is the drug trafficking involves an analysis of the situation in different parts of the world, as each region has its specifics.

From the documentation and analysis conducted by this research, globally level, resulting a series of extremely important issues specific to different areas, as follows:

a. South America. Most South American countries – of which remarking Columbia, where it is estimated that 700 hectares are cultivated annually - grow cannabis for local consumption, but also for illicit markets in other states.

Also opium cultivation increased, occupation which is more profitable than cultivating coca bushes estimating that on the Colombian territory poppy plantations cover thousands of acres, and in Ecuador and Peru this crop occupies considerable areas.

Regarding the coca paste, Peru remains the main producer in the world, specific plantations spreading over an area of approximately 130,000 to 200,000 hectares, followed by Bolivia with 40,000 hectares, Colombia and Ecuador.

Illegal use of the drug is favored by the absence of prohibitive regulations. The Bolivian law allows chewing coca and even manufacture by some private companies of the product known as "coca notes" or others, considered by authorities as pharmaceutical substances.

Daniel-Ștefan PARASCHIV

Consumption of coca paste in various forms (*mate, basuco, Pitillo etc.*) is common in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, and smoking these pills very harmful to health, is practiced mainly by young people and very poor people who have no money for the purchase of derivatives.

Increasing consumption of amphetamines, anxiolytics and other pharmaceuticals also in some South American countries, is a phenomenon that is dangerous, because these psychotropic substances can be bought without prescription; preparations in pharmacy are not always verified by specialists. Moreover, there are many shortcomings in the purchase and sale of drugs, many of them forged or counterfeit, subject to smuggling in these countries and abroad.

Lately there is a massive expansion of Colombian cartel activity in neighboring countries in South America. Thus, Venezuela has become the country through which large quantities of cocaine are transited. From here drug traffickers send tons of in Europe, notably on water transport and air transport, while deliveries to the U.S. are made exclusively by air transport.

Argentina, Brazil and Chile have become transit countries for trafficking drugs and zones and free ports in the Uruguayan territory are serious grounds and almost safe for handling and shipment of drugs in different regions of the world.

b. Central America and the Caribbean. Particularly advantageous geographical position of Caribbean to transport and transit quantities of cannabis and cocaine on markets of North America and even Europe.

Cannabis cultivation, especially for local consumption is significant in their respective territories, the harvesting of Jamaica continue to be delivered in large quantities in the USA and Canada. Moreover, Jamaica, where cannabis is grown for over 50 years, remains the main supplier in the area, but also a country with many consumers, especially young people.

However, increasingly more areas of Central America are planted with poppy, registering a permanent increase in opium production.

The most serious problem for this area is the cocaine trafficking extended even in Guatemala and the Bahamas, and Nicaragua (in recent years) as a result of the abolition of part of the Sandinista army and popular militias.

c. North America. U.S., Mexico and Canada face drug trafficking long time, but lately their governments have an effective drugs policy.

In the U.S., thanks to the measures taken, especially after 1990, the number of drug consumers diminishes from year to year, but instead there are increased cases of serious illness and accidents due to higher purity and the damaging effect of drugs, especially heroin, power growing of cannabis obtained derivatives, and using new methods of administration.

Abuse of drugs, particularly crack cocaine's form, however, is a particularly important issue for juvenile offenders in the U.S., but especially for those living on the periphery of society.

Although large quantities of cannabis consumed in the U.S. have their origin in Mexico, Colombia and Jamaica, in recent times this product has gained growing on more areas in the country, thus achieving a new source of supply to the vast American market of drugs.

Cannabis is the drug most used in other countries, namely Mexico and Canada. Illicit heroin produced in Mexico is almost entirely exported to the U.S., where represents about 25% of the existing market, the rest being delivered in areas of southwestern and south-east Asia and in Colombia. Cocaine and especially crack is a threat to American society and in all major cities are distributing large amounts brought by the Colombian cartels.

Mexico, a poor country, faces with the consumption of hallucinogens; there are many consumers among children, youth and the poor people on the outskirts of cities.

d. East and Southeast Asia. The largest quantities of opium in the world are produced in South East Asia, in the area there are large plantations of opium, especially at the border of Burma, in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

Drug scourge has spread to all the countries of Southeast Asia where, for centuries, swarm gang of gangsters who are involved more and more in the illegal drug trade.

Cannabis is grown mostly in Laos, Burma, Thailand; the drug is intended for consume more in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Japan and Korea.

South-East Asia has also the most complex heroin refining laboratories, only in the border area between Myanmar and Thailand there are about 25 clandestine laboratories that produce and deliver more than 10 tons per year of this drug.

China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam are countries whose territories are increasingly used for drug transit to Australia, Canada and USA and Bangkok is the most important point for boarding of couriers carrying heroin to Europe and North America, both at sea and aircraft.

The area has grown in recent years, the illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of amphetamines, especially methamphetamine.

In Japan and Korea methamphetamine is the most used drug, and in Thailand the abuse of such substances in the form of tablets, led to the production of numerous accidents with serious consequences.

e. South Asia. Most widespread crop in this region is cannabis, it can be found within the six states in the region, mainly in the areas of jungle in southeastern Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the provinces Kerala, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu in India.

Large quantities of oil and cannabis resin were seized in Nepal, which remains the supplier of such goods to Europe and Zaire.

Cannabis cultivation is done extensively in Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia.

Cannabis cultivation in Morocco covers over 50,000 hectares, the country is the main supplier to Europe - drug loading points being major ports of North Africa and Eastern Europe.

In Egypt and Kenya there are cultures of intensive opioid and airports in West Africa, as ports in the same region are used by international criminal organizations to receive and transmit shipments of heroin from Asia, the main runners are selected from among Nigerians.

f. Europe. Heroin and cocaine continue to be responsible for a high percentage of health problems, the morbidity and mortality associated with drug use in Europe. In many respects considerable progress has been made, even if unevenly, but it could be compromised by changing circumstances or the inability to continue to develop the measures.

Different "products" of cannabis are available on the European market, increasing domestic production leading increasingly to replace imported resin with indigenous production products.

Cocaine, amphetamines, ecstasy and synthetic catinonele can be considered competitive products and to a certain degree, interchangeable by the consumer. In this context, it is likely that the availability of substances, and the price or quality to influence consumer choices, leading to observable volatility on the current market of stimulant substances.

Although extensive cocaine use is limited to certain countries in the South and West, the drug remains in terms of overall figures, the most illicit stimulant substance commonly consumed in Europe.

Since the 1970s, heroin use, particularly by injection, was the source of many negative consequences related to drug use in Europe. Given the problems resulting from heroin use (including overdose deaths, the spread of HIV and hepatitis C among injecting drug users) and associated crime, drug European policy focused mainly on addressing issues related to this drug. Also, even if those problems still exist, their level is

low, noticing the impact of effective policies practiced, reflected especially in long-term decline in heroin consumption, especially by injection.

Decreasing indicators on trends of drug use in general, by injection suggest, moreover, that this particularly dangerous behavior is in decline. Overall, just over a third (36%) of those entering treatment for heroin-related problems currently carried injecting drug use as the main way [3].

3. Romania in the circuit of drugs

Before 1990, Romania was a country of transit of narcotics from the East to Western Europe and to a very limited extent, outlet or drug use.

They were later smuggled drugs in Romania to be placed on consumers and transit operations have increased both in number and volume.

Located in geographically terms at the crossroads of main roads linking drug consuming countries and production countries, Romania is a favorable transit for drug traffickers. Road leading from Afghanistan, passing through Istanbul, Sofia, Bucharest and Belgrade, and heading for Western Europe make up the so-called "Balkan route".

National networks have been established for the distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from international trafficking networks, which led to the alarming increase in the number of consumers, especially among young people.

Using drugs - including morphine, heroin and hallucinogens such as LSD - is associated in all countries with social deviations which are, on the one hand, robberies, extortion, bribery, assaults and murders, and on the other hand, poverty, unemployment, homelessness, illiteracy, etc.

Legislative gaps, lack of training and the tolerance of the authorities to control border traffic of psychoactive substances in Romania, lowering living standards, traffickers policy to first offer free products or low-priced, made Romania to become very fast a consuming country, a country where drug trafficking is becoming more organized and the number of drug users increased from year to year [4].

In order to address the criminal activity of drug traffickers, the police and the courts have permanently improved means and methods of fighting for the capture and conviction of them.

In this regard, the Law 143/2000 with subsequent amendments, allows the use of methods successfully used in Western countries. Thus, the use of undercover agents, controlled deliveries of drugs, wiretapping and surveillance operations represent only part of the means successfully introduced in our country to prevent the activities of drug traffickers.

Conclusions

The issue of drugs is vast thanks to the lenient attitude manifested over time, which allowed drug trafficking and consumption to reach alarming proportions today.

Despite measures taken internationally and by states nationwide, including our country, many networks of traffickers, sometimes with the complicity of "white collar", manage to distribute drugs to a large number of people, especially young people who become dependent and because of the neuropsychological disorders that occur due, commit serious offenses under the criminal law, to obtain money needed for the purchase of growing "doses".

Taking into account the negative consequences for risk addiction and the danger of crime increase, it is necessary to intensify the drug issue criminological study, for finding the most effective ways to combat this scourge, so that you can get to the top "pyramid" in each case subject to criminal investigation, which would allow the dismantling of trafficking networks as a whole and not just taking action against small retailers that have a direct connection with consumers caught or who denounced by requiring specialized organ detoxification support.

Daniel-Ștefan PARASCHIV

Nobody knows exactly how many drug addicts there are. Official statistics obtained by the authorities and which are often overcome, recognize that the number of those involved is much higher.

Dependence on tobacco, alcohol and barbiturates is a global problem concerning the health and welfare of millions of people, but far more serious is the commonly use of narcotics "countries" whose prevalence is increasing, despite the efforts of some countries to control the phenomenon.

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