



[Customs and Drugs Report 2010

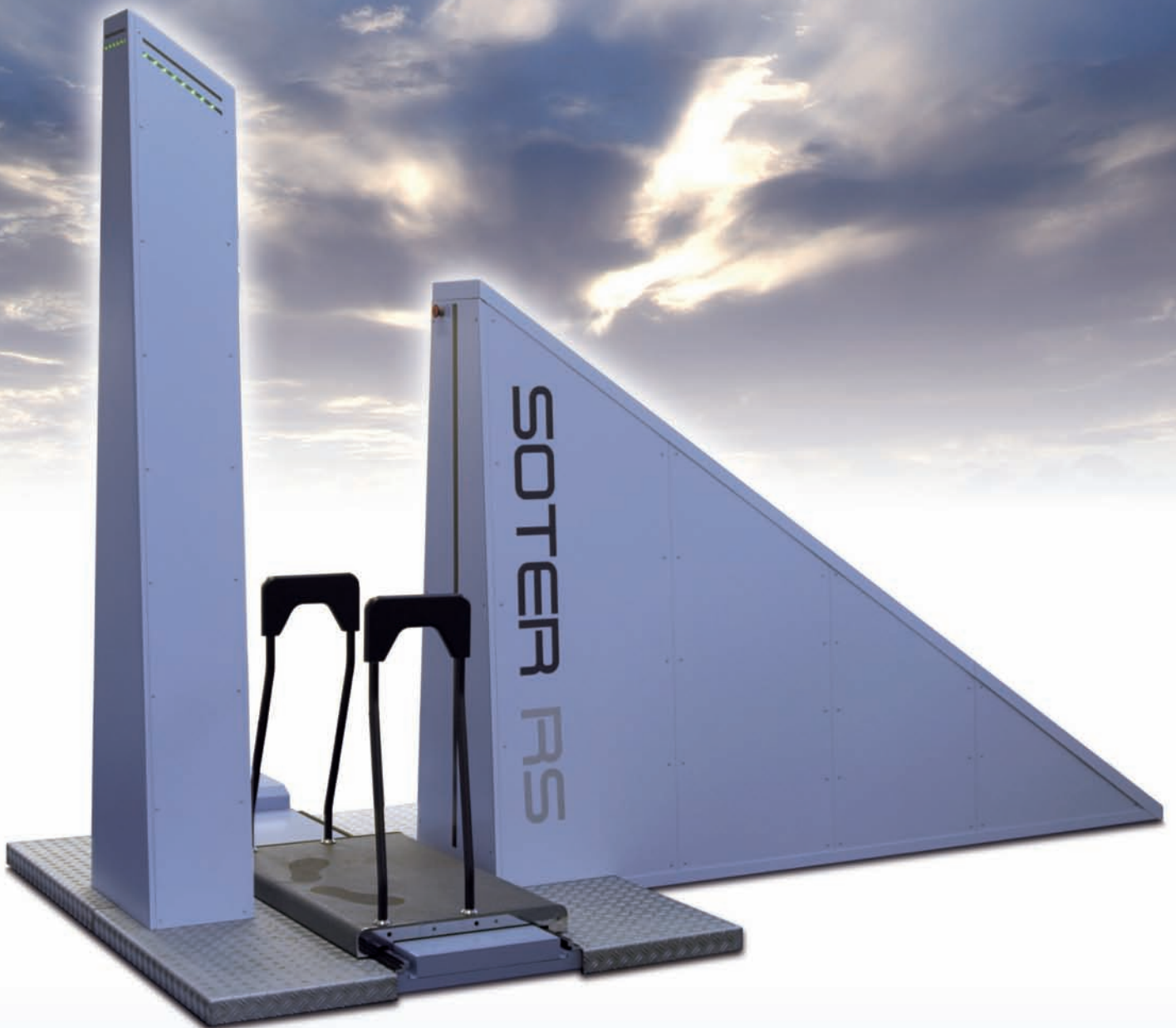


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FOREWORD

It is a great honour to present to you the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Report on international trafficking in drugs and precursors for 2010.

This Report, which takes stock of and analyses drug seizures made by Customs services and joint teams in 2010, forms part of a dynamic drug enforcement approach which I wished to implement.

On 26 June 2010, the WCO Secretariat celebrated International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, an event launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). To that end, I asked all Directors General of WCO Member countries to organize a variety of activities on that day. This included operations to destroy drugs and chemical precursors seized by Customs; actions to raise public awareness about drug-related problems; heightened controls; and symposiums to show how Customs and other law enforcement agencies are marshalling their forces to combat drug trafficking. A poster promoting International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was produced by the Secretariat and made available to Members.

The success of pilot Operation "COCAIR 1", the first of its kind in Africa, initiated by the WCO, implemented in close co-operation with INTERPOL, UNODC and funded by the European Commission, was built upon and led to Operation "COCAIR 2". The

Operation took place in June 2010 with 25 participating Member countries from West and Central Africa, together with Brazil and Morocco. A review of this Operation is contained in the third part of this Report. In view of the excellent results achieved during this second Operation, Members wished to repeat this exercise in 2011.

These COCAIR Operations serve as the operational application of Project "AIRCOP" in which the WCO is playing an active role. AIRCOP is aimed at enhancing border controls and management, especially in the international airports of Africa, South America and the Caribbean. Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) are being set up and provided with access to the WCO's CENcomm secure communication tool, as well as to INTERPOL's I-24/7 system.

As part of these efforts, the Secretariat organized a Global Forum on the topic of dog and handler teams as part of the enforcement apparatus. The Forum was held from 25 to 27 January 2011, encompassing the celebrations to mark International Customs Day. This was the First Global Forum held by the WCO on this issue, which requires a continuous exchange of experiences.

The primary objective of this Forum was to share current best practices and experiences among the various countries having set up dog and handler training centres, as well as to identify shared challenges in terms of

rolling out new canine centres with the requisite training programmes and operational models to accompany them.

The 2010 Customs and Drugs Report is divided into three main parts with statistical annexes. The first part gives an overview of the major drug types intercepted worldwide. The regional approach in terms of the results achieved and the key trends noted by Members are covered in the second part. Finally, the third part presents special items, with particular emphasis on initiatives and projects implemented by the WCO Secretariat for its Members.

Overall, the number of drug seizures reported by WCO Members in 2010 decreased compared to 2009 and there was also a slight drop in the total quantity of drugs intercepted as reported by Members. This decrease can be explained by a number of factors, primarily changes in some Members' operating structures and the fact that some Members experienced difficulties in providing seizure data in time to be included in this Report. The WCO Secretariat will work with Members to obtain more comprehensive data for the 2011 Report.

Nonetheless, the figures show that 21,079 seizure reports covering a total of 764 tonnes of drugs were recorded in 2010.

Over the course of 2010, seizures of all forms of cannabis (resin, herbal and oil)

amounted to a total of 640 tonnes, a drop of over 9 % compared to 2009. Spain nevertheless remains the country having seized most cannabis resin, and Morocco is unquestionably still the primary source country of this substance.

A little over 76 tonnes of cocaine were intercepted during 2010, compared to over 65 tonnes in 2009, equating to an increase of some 15 %. As in 2009, the countries of Western Europe seized the most cocaine (45 %), followed by the United States with 35 %.

The trend noted between 2005 and 2008, showing a somewhat uncharacteristic routing whereby cocaine shipments consigned in South America and with Europe as their final destination were stored in and transited via West and Central Africa, still prevails. Nevertheless, this phenomenon declined in importance in 2009 and 2010, with countries in the Caribbean region playing a greater role.

Over 33 tonnes of opiate products were intercepted by Customs in 2010, compared to only 23 tonnes in 2009. This substantial increase can be explained by exceptional seizures of poppy straw reported by Pakistan Customs.

The origin of opiate products intercepted in the course of 2010 is essentially Afghanistan, thus confirming the trends observed for many years now.

With respect to psychotropic substances,

the overall quantity of amphetamines and methamphetamines seized by Customs services remained stable (16 tonnes of products in 2010, the same as in 2009).

The countries of the Middle East were the most effective in terms of amphetamine seizures, together with the United States in the case of methamphetamines.

The data in this Report was compiled using information contained in the Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) database, which has been operational since July 2000. Today, 165 WCO Member administrations have access to the CEN database (over 420,000 entries on all manner of Customs offences), an information and communication system, a dedicated enforcement website and a data bank of places of concealment. The growing number of Customs officers using this network on a daily basis bears witness to its effectiveness.

The CEN also includes applications such as the CENcomm communication tool which has enjoyed burgeoning success since 2004, the year it was introduced. Many regional or international operations were carried out in 2010 to combat not only trafficking in drugs and chemical precursors, but also in weapons, cigarettes and counterfeit goods, as well as money laundering. Some 33 operations relating to various areas of crime, but essentially drugs, were conducted in 2010, compared to 24 in 2009.

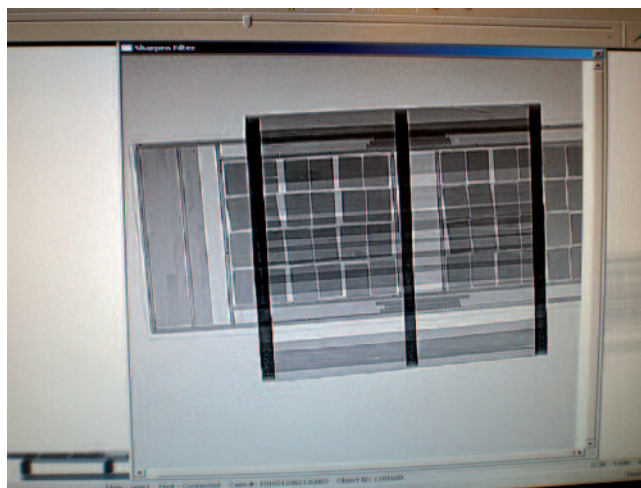
I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to WCO Members and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) which have made a substantial contribution to this Report by entering cases and validating seizure data. Indeed, analysis is only as valuable as the quantity and quality of data on which it is based. However, there is still room for even greater participation and I would therefore urge administrations to do their utmost to ensure that every drug and precursor seizure is input into the CEN.

I hope that this Report will provide valuable assistance to Customs officers responsible for combating trafficking in drugs and precursors, especially by providing them with information on new routings or *modi operandi* used by traffickers or simply by giving them a greater overall picture of the phenomenon.



Kunio Mikuriya
Secretary General
World Customs Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



» Customs and Border Protection officers in Sydney (Australia) targeted a container of wooden doors shipped from Malaysia for examination. An X-ray of 295 doors revealed anomalies in 10 of them. Further examination revealed 24 packages of white powder inside the cavity of nine of the doors, while another contained 14 packages. Initial testing indicated that the powder was heroin. 168 kg in total were detected.

(Photos courtesy of Australia Customs)



A total of 113 Members reported seizures of drugs to the CEN database, relating to 33,607 cases. The following analysis is based on data over the minimum limit: this encompasses data from 111 Members totalling 21,349 cases.

From reports Opium cultivation in Afghanistan stayed at the same level as in 2009, although overall cultivation has declined significantly since 2007. However, the figures remain high compared to those reported in the first few years of the new millennium. The UNODC estimates that opium production declined from 8,890 to 7,754 tonnes over the period from 2007 to 2009.

An examination of European seizures in excess of 25 kg shows that the quantities transported via the traditional “Northern Balkan Route” (overland via Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Austria) have decreased in comparison to the so-called “Southern Balkan Route” (to Italy via

Greece, Albania or the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The use of the “Silk Road white” (via the Central Asian Republics of Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) has been stable over the past two years.

The number of cocaine seizures decreased in 2010, while the quantity of cocaine seized increased by almost 11 tonnes to 76.5 tonnes. The increase is mainly due to the fact that U.S. CBP reported all its seizures to the CEN system. An increase in quantities seized can be seen in almost all regions.

According to reports received, the major markets for cocaine are Western Europe and

North America. In total, 46 % of the quantities seized were detected in Western Europe, with 35 % being seized in the United States.

In 2009, Venezuela was the main source country of cocaine shipments worldwide, followed by Mexico, Ecuador and Brazil. This changed in 2010 with the main source country becoming Mexico, followed by Colombia, Argentina, Venezuela, Brazil and Ecuador. In 2010, Panama played a more dominant role as a departure country together with the Dominican Republic, Peru, Honduras, Chile, Bolivia and Jamaica.

From 2005 to 2008 the African continent was increasingly used as a transit point for

cocaine shipments originating in South America with Europe as their final destination. This changed again in 2009 and 2010 when the countries in the Caribbean region began playing a more significant role as secondary distribution countries for cocaine shipments to Europe.

Although the number of cannabis resin seizures remained at a stable level, the quantities continued to decrease as only 236 tonnes of hashish were intercepted in 2010.

Morocco remains the largest source of cannabis resin, especially for the black market in Europe. Trafficking patterns in Europe remain the same as in previous years, with most of the drugs being transported to Spain and then overland to France, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Production of herbal cannabis remains widespread around the globe, as the climate in most regions is conducive to growing the plant.

The huge increase illustrated in the graphs is due to the fact that the United States reported its drug seizures for 2009 and 2010, accounting for 323 tonnes of the herbal cannabis seized worldwide. The United States is a destination country for herbal cannabis originating in Mexico. Many of the seizures reported by the United States were made internally within the country.

The Middle East, and especially Saudi Arabia, is still the main market for seizures of counterfeit Captagon tablets. Since these tablets contain amphetamines, seizures of Captagon have been reported as amphetamine seizures in the Middle East region. In total, ten tonnes of amphetamines (Captagon) were reported mainly by Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The reason for the decline is that ecstasy production is increasingly taking place in other regions, which means that the drug

does not have to cross any borders with the risk of being detected by Customs.

Ketamine is not currently an internationally controlled substance, although some countries have included it as one of the controlled substances covered by their national legislation. Ketamine appears to be a growing problem, primarily in the Asia/Pacific region as almost 94 % of the quantities seized were detected in that region. Seizures by India accounted for 72 % of that amount.

The quantity of GBL/GHB increased in 2010 compared to 2009, but this is still less than the quantity detected in 2008. However, the 2008 figure was affected by a single huge seizure when Australia Customs detected 3,000 litres of GBL, also known as the date rape drug "Fantasy".

A new trend, identified in 2010, is the importation of designer drugs or so-called "legal highs". These synthetic drugs may produce the same effect as, for example, ecstasy. However, they are completely new formulas produced from different substances which are not considered to be illegal. Hungary, the Czech Republic, Finland and several other countries have reported that this is a growing problem. In 2010, a Customs laboratory in Finland analysed 52 different designer drugs and 13 different herbal drugs. This is in sharp contrast to the 2007 quantities of 16 different designer drugs and eight different herbal drugs and there is no denying that designer drugs have become a worrying issue. Because of the legislation in force, most designer drugs are rather misleadingly classified as prescription drugs. Fortunately, a new Drug Act is now in the process of being passed in Finland. Its objective is to permit official controls of substances which are not on the list of narcotics, but which are hazardous to health and serve no useful purpose. In late June 2010, methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) was classified as a drug in Finland following an expedited classification process

necessitated by the alarming situation in respect of this drug.

It is recommended that Thailand and China be considered as sources of methamphetamine seizures made in the postal sector.

In 2010, seizures of methamphetamines arriving from African countries were reported for the first time. Senegal, Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire were reported as the sources of one or two shipments. The majority of these seizures were made at one of the Paris airports (France) and the couriers were heading to Japan. This new trend may become more common in 2011 and other European countries may wish to consider this routing as a high risk for methamphetamine smuggling, mainly to the Japanese market.

Cocaine shipments from Ecuador to the Russian Federation appear to be an ongoing trend in the region.

It is recommended that Asian countries regard Tanzania as a possible new departure country for heroin smuggling from Africa to Asian countries.

The Asia/Pacific region is growing in importance with respect to the quantities seized in the region, as illustrated by the table. Eleven countries reported cocaine seizures in 2010, as opposed to eight in 2009.

Couriers arriving from Iran should also be considered as high-risk passengers in terms of crystalline methamphetamine (in addition to opiates), especially in the Asia/Pacific region.

The United Kingdom is the main source of North American khat seizures, amounting to 11.4 tonnes in 632 incidents. Most seizures are detected in the postal sector and the parcels normally weigh between 10 and 30 kg.

The Dominican Republic has made significant seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, as well as prescription drugs.

These are meant to be sold legally on the local market, but are then diverted to Central America and Mexico with the aim of extracting the base substance for the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Africa has been a very important transit point for cocaine shipments originating in South America and bound for Europe. A great many activities have been carried out in that region by international organizations such as the WCO, INTERPOL and the UNODC as well as by national law enforcement agencies. The WCO has conducted several successful operations in the region.

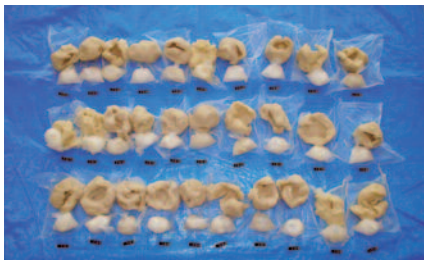
In 2010, the figures for cocaine seizures were affected by a massive seizure made by Gambian officials. On 4 June 2010, Gambian Customs and Police detected more than 2.3 tonnes of cocaine in premises in Banjul. Intelligence had shown that the cocaine had originated in Mexico and was bound for the black market in Western Europe.

Kuwait reported eight incidents amounting to 40 kg of drugs. It is interesting to note that in seven cases the hashish had arrived from Iraq. No other country in the region reported hashish originating in Iraq, however Iraq should still be considered a high-risk source country for cannabis resin.



» In October 2010, Japan Customs officers assigned to Narita International airport foiled an attempt to smuggle methamphetamines in an air consignment arriving from Benin. During a search, a total of 20 kg of methamphetamines were found inside 399 food items (fufu) made from cassava.

(Photos courtesy of Japan Customs)



INTRODUCTION

The Annual “Customs and Drugs” Report is prepared by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and is intended for the use of WCO Members and other law enforcement agencies. This year’s Report again considers the analysis of seizures on a regional basis and includes a brief global overview on each of the main drug categories in order to provide information on the current production and trafficking trends not identified by regional analysis.

The seizure data have been compiled from the WCO Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) database, which has been operational since July 2000. Today, 165 countries, involving more than 2,000 users, have access to CEN. More than 420,000 cases of Customs fraud have been entered by Member states or by their respective RILO. WCO Member states and the RILOs have contributed to this Report by entering cases and by validating seizure data.

All figures and conclusions have been compiled from the CEN as reported by **25 March 2011**. Data which have been provided later than this date will have arrived too late to be included in this Report. We are aware that there are significant gaps in the information available.

This Report includes only seizures made by Customs, joint Customs & Police Units or by other law enforcement agencies having Customs powers. As the reporting limits are not the same in all regions, the highest common limits have been used, enabling comparisons to be made. The limits are shown in the table below.



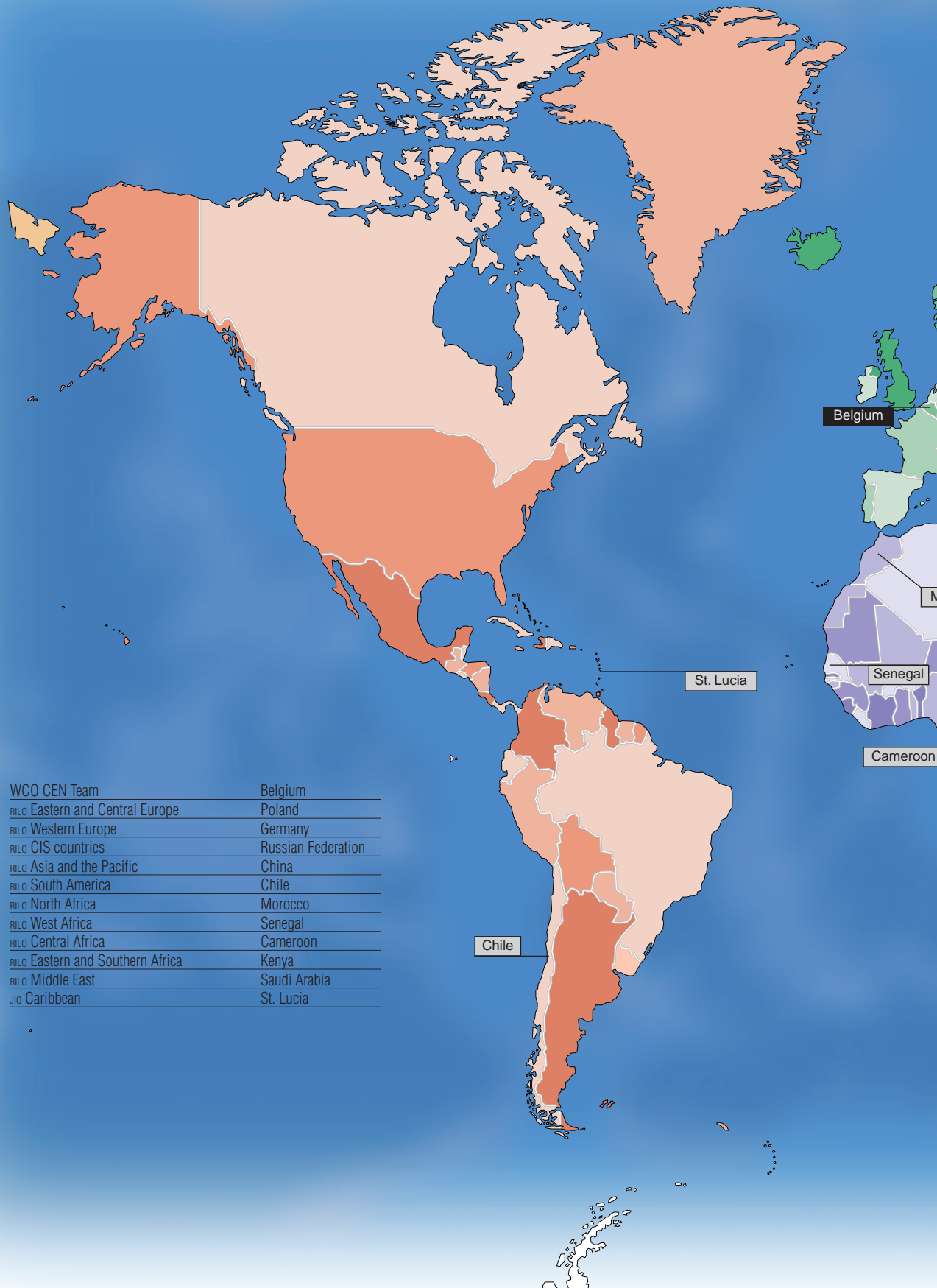
To permit comparisons between the seizures, we have converted all amounts of tablets into kilograms by using the conversion rate of one tablet to one third of a gram. Seizures reported in ampoule, capsule, unit, etc. are considered as being reported in tablet form and are therefore also converted into kilograms using the conversion rate mentioned above.

This Report and the analysis and trends that emerge from it are only as credible as the information from which it has been drawn. It is stressed that considerable care is needed when drawing conclusions from the statistics in the drugs field. Exceptionally large seizures might boost the analysis, and therefore the statistical appendices give an overview of the largest seizures made in the main drug categories.

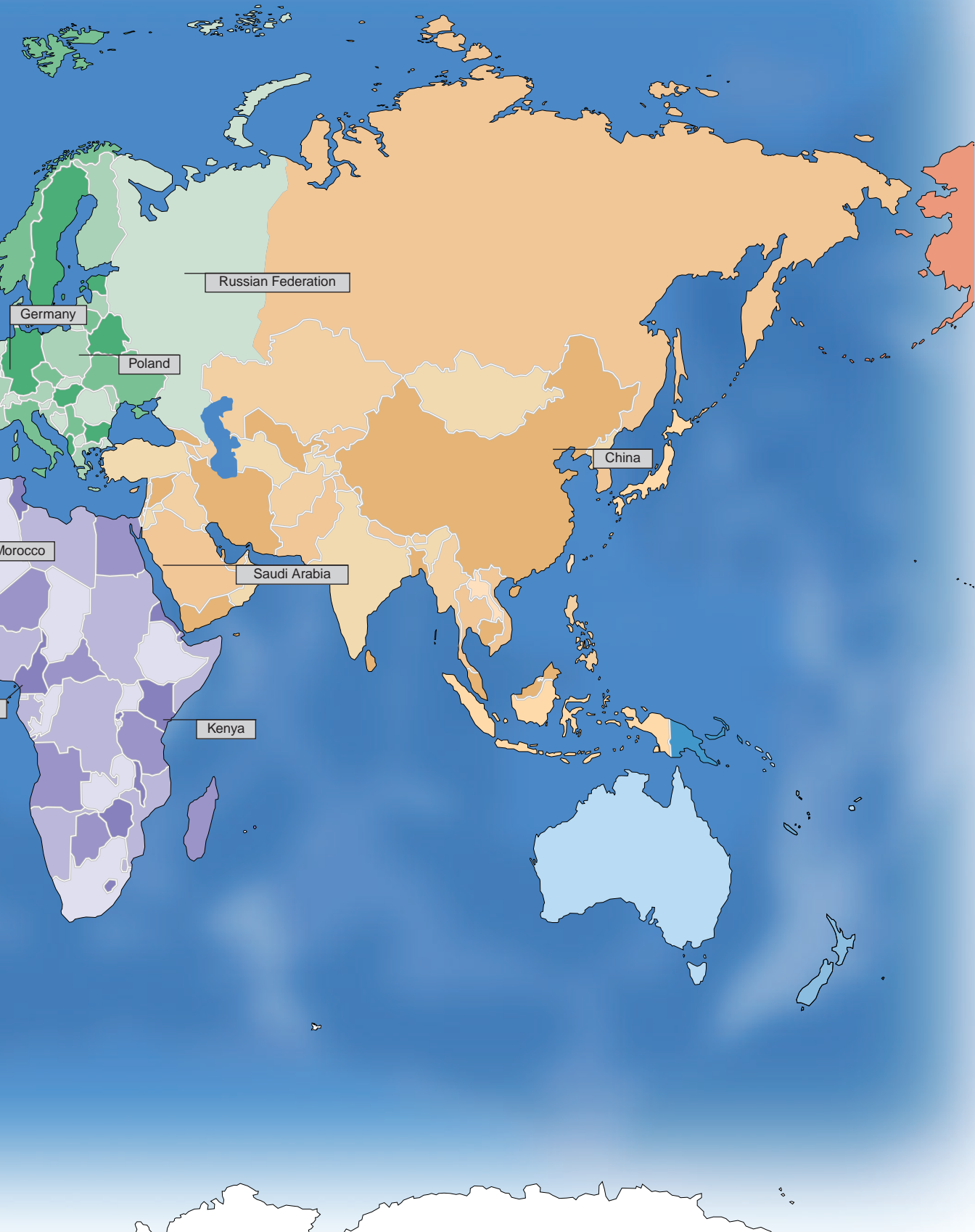
» Denmark Customs detected 3 kg of heroin inside oranges and rotten aubergines. The two Dutch couriers had arrived in a rental car. They were extremely nervous and were consequently selected for a thorough inspection.

(Photos courtesy of Denmark Customs)

Drug type	Minimum limits
Cocaine	100 grams
Opiates	100 grams
Cannabis	1 kg
Khat	10 kg
Psychotropic substances	50 grams



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WCO Mission Statement

The World Customs Organization is internationally acknowledged as the global centre of Customs expertise and plays a leading role in the discussion, development, promotion and implementation of modern and secure Customs systems and procedures. It is responsive to the needs of its Members and its strategic environment, and its instruments and best-practice approaches are recognized as the basis for sound Customs administration throughout the world.

WCO Vision Statement

The World Customs Organization is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Member Customs administrations, thereby assisting them to contribute successfully to national development goals, particularly in the areas of trade facilitation, revenue collection, community protection and national security.

Acknowledgements

The World Customs Organization is very grateful for the specific contributions to this annual report provided by: All Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices and their National Contact Points including use of their bulletins; International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). ICPO/INTERPOL and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

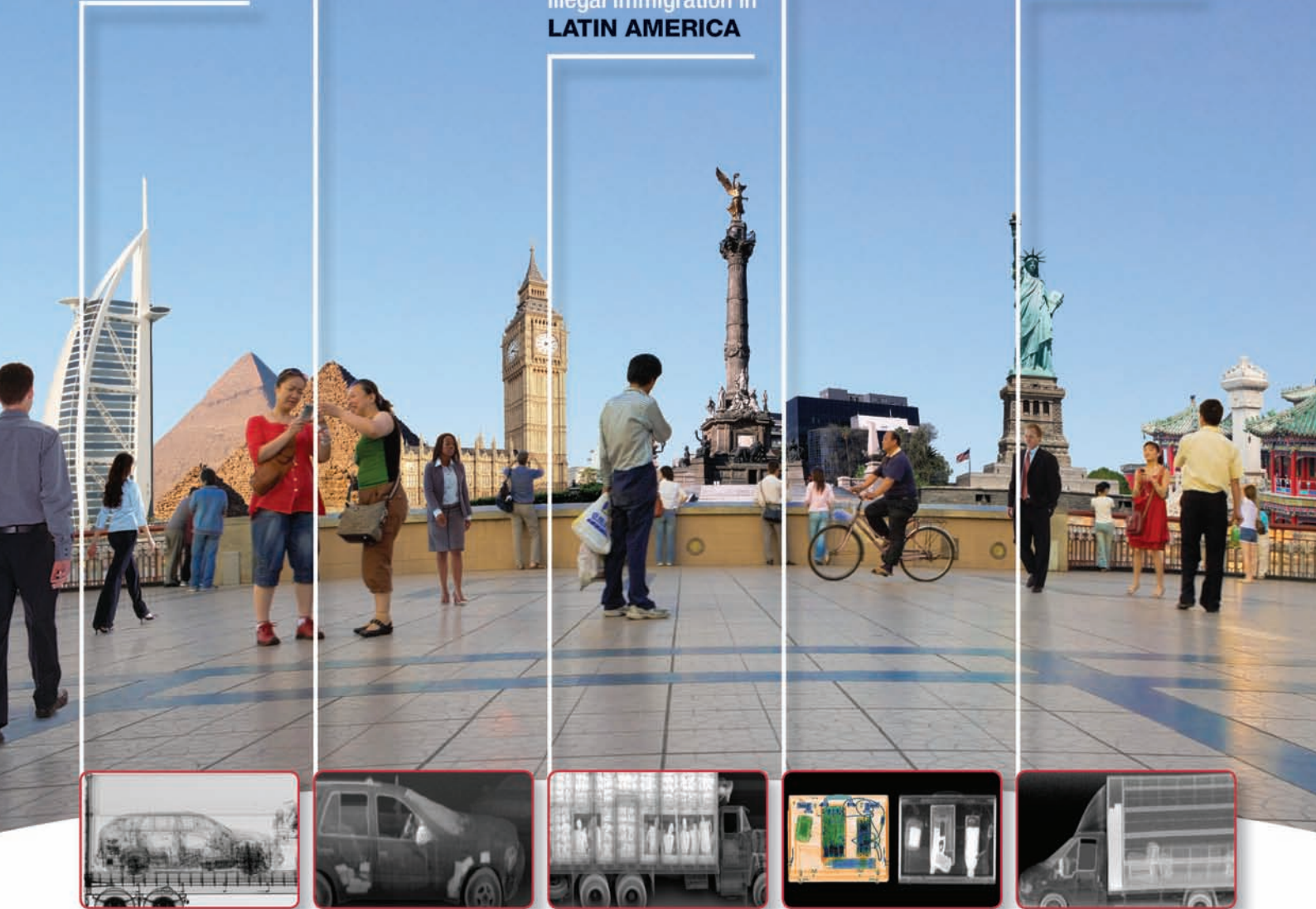
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