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NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE (based on mass media reports)

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CARICC MEMBER STATES

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



RUSSIA CAN START PRODUCING CANNABIS-BASED PREPARATIONS

FGUP "Moscow Endocrine Plant" expressed its readiness to organize production of cannabis-based products in Russia. This will be possible if the current legislation is amended.

According to Vademecum, the Ministry of Industry and Trade said that in order to start production, it would be important to confirm advantage of such drugs over those already present on the market. The Ministry of Health should approve this decision.

Production of cannabis-based medicines may indeed be necessary - in some cases, existing medicines do not work or are ineffective. A number of marijuana derivatives have been successfully used in global clinical practice.

Currently, trafficking of drugs on schedule of narcotic drugs is prohibited in Russia, and they cannot be used for medical purposes. The Ministry of Health does not yet support the idea of legalizing such drugs. Meanwhile, medical marijuana has already been legalized in many countries, including Israel and Thailand.

<https://med.vesti.ru/articles/lekarstva-i-preparati/v-rossii-mogut-nachat-proizvodit-preparaty-na-osnove-konopli/>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN



PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN PROPOSED TO CREATE SCO ANTI-DRUG CENTER

Tajikistan proposes to establish an anti-drug center in Dushanbe in the format of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). This was stated by the President of the Republic Emomali Rahmon at plenary session of the High-level Conference on "International and Regional Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and its Financing through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime" on May 17.

The Tajik leader also considers it necessary to create a special group of representatives of law enforcement agencies of countries of the so-called Northern Drug Trafficking Route with the support of the UN to study the problem.

"Last year alone, we conducted 67 operations against drug smugglers," he said.

Mr. Rahmon believes that drug smuggling through Tajikistan, which is part of the

Northern Route, tends to weaken.

Drug trafficking, along with human trafficking and smuggling of cultural and historical monuments and values, is one of the main sources of terrorist financing, Rahmon said. He pointed out that "all types and forms of terrorism financing are criminalized in Tajikistan".

<https://easaily.com/ru/news/2019/05/17/prezident-tadzhikistana-predlozhi-sozdat-antinarkoticheskiy-centr-shos>



DCA: TAJIKISTAN HAS BECOME "BUFFER" ON NORTHERN DRUG TRAFFICKING ROUTE

DUSHANBE, 17 May — Sputnik. Tajikistan serves as a buffer along the Northern route of Afghan drug trafficking, Tajik Drug Control Agency (DCA) head Mr. Sherkhon Salimzoda said.

A conference on "Preventing financial flows from drug trafficking and crime for regional security and sustainable development" was held in Dushanbe on Thursday under the auspices of the United Nations. The event took place on during the conference "International and Regional Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and its Financing through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime".

Tajikistan understands Afghanistan's problems and is doing everything it can to restore its social structure and economy, but the growing activity of the Taliban and Islamic State militants threatens security of the entire Central Asian region, he said.

"The issues of illicit drug trafficking are more relevant than ever for the world community, as it constantly feeds international terrorism and transnational crime," said the head of the DCA. He noted that combating illicit drug trafficking should be consolidated, supported by the entire international community, being an integral part of the "fight against international terrorism, transnational crime".

In turn, Ms. Natalia Gherman, head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, said that no country in the world is immune to the financing of terrorism.

In her opinion, information exchange and legal assistance as well as financial intelligence cooperation are needed in analysis and investigation process. She noted that there were three important measures in countering financing of terrorism: political will of States; institutional frameworks; and operational aspects.

<https://tj.sputniknews.ru/country/20190517/1028926714/akn-tajikistan-stal-buferom-severnomy-marshrutenarkotrafik.html>

OTHER COUNTRIES

UKRAINE

LENTA.RU VERKHOVNA RADA SUPPORTED LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

The Verkhovna Rada Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations supported a petition for legalization of medical marijuana in Ukraine, - Ukrainian Truth reports.

"The decision of the working group, which we adopted, was the following: we submit the bill, it is adopted in the first reading, we take it as a foundation, further we will consider what the visions of the development of this direction are," - said the Chairman of the Committee Mr. Grigory Nemyrya.

It is noted that the decision was made following results of consideration of the electronic petition "Legislation to regulate cannabis for science and medicine - to protect constitutional rights of citizens", which was supported by more than 25 thousand citizens on the website of the Verkhovna Rada.

Ulyana Suprun, head of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, expressed support for the petition. She noted that cannabis helps to alleviate suffering of patients and to normalize health of patients with a number of serious diseases and conditions, and its use in medicine with certain reservations "normal world practice".

Medical marijuana is legalized in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Thailand. It was allowed in Israel at the end of January.

https://lenta.ru/news/2019/05/15/ukr_trava/

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