

Drug trafficking is one of the **EMPACT** priorities, Europol's priority crime areas, under the 2018–2021 EU Policy Cycle.

With a retail market estimated to be worth at least EUR 5.7 billion annually, cocaine is Europe's most commonly used stimulant. Use of the drug may be declining slightly, but availability may be increasing.

## PRODUCTION

Coca-bush cultivation appears to be on the rise in the only countries it is produced in: Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. Exactly how much cocaine is produced is not clear, with varying and sometimes mutually contradictory estimates being produced.

## TRAFFICKING ROUTES AND METHODS

Cocaine is trafficked to Europe by both sea and air, primarily via Colombia, Brazil and Venezuela. The Caribbean and West Africa are important transit areas, while Central America appears to be becoming more important. Cocaine is also trafficked via routes for other drugs, such as cannabis via North Africa and heroin through East Africa. Cocaine is smuggled into Europe in many ways, from air couriers and express packages to private yachts and jets. The use of maritime containers is of increasing concern. A huge array of concealment methods is used, including those that require chemical extraction.

## ORGANISED CRIME

The range of criminal organisations involved in cocaine trafficking is wider than ever. Within Europe, there is significant cooperation among OGCs. Outside Europe, West African groups are particularly active in transporting cocaine to Europe with air couriers. Other trafficking groups, such as those from the Balkans, are reportedly emerging as an additional significant threat.

NUMBER OF ITEMS FOUND: 84

SEARCH



TYPE

Article/Story, Event, How-To Guide, Landing Page, Multimedia, News/Press Release, Operation, Page, Publication/Document

TARGET GROUP

SEARCH

CLEAR ALL



## COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES SEIZE OVER 19 TONS OF COCAINE IN OPERATION TAYRONA

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



## INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING NETWORK DISRUPTED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



## INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING BETWEEN SOUTH AMERICA AND EUROPE DISRUPTED BY POLICE: 48 ARRESTED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

06  
Dec  
2018



## DRUGS IN EUROPE: A BOLD LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE

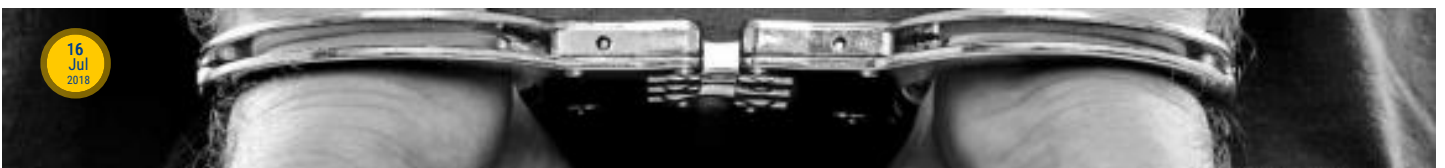
EVENT



14  
Sep  
2018

## 8 300 OFFICERS JOIN FORCES TO TACKLE CRIME FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



16  
Jul  
2018

## DRUG DEALER GANG MODIFIED VEHICLES TO SMUGGLE NARCOTICS ACROSS EUROPE

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



08  
Mar  
2018

## 100KG OF COCAINE AND 150KG OF MARIJUANA SEIZED IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OPERATION DISMANTLING BALKAN CARTEL

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



23  
Jan  
2018

## EUROPOL REVIEW 2016 - 2017

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT



18  
Dec  
2017

## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL NETWORK INVOLVED IN SYNTHETIC DRUG TRAFFICKING DISMANTLED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



06  
Dec  
2017

# EUROPOL STRATEGIC REPORT: HOW ILLEGAL DRUGS SUSTAIN ORGANISED CRIME IN THE EU

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

06  
Dec  
2017

BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS



HOW ILLEGAL

## HOW ILLEGAL DRUGS SUSTAIN ORGANISED CRIME IN THE EU INFOGRAPHIC

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

06  
Dec  
2017

## HOW ILLEGAL DRUGS SUSTAIN ORGANISED CRIME IN THE EU

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