

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

20  
Oct  
2016



## EUROPOL COORDINATES EU-WIDE HIT ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

19  
Oct  
2016



## CICONIA ALBA ACTIONS ON COCAINE TRAFFICKING BY SEA AND AIR RESULT IN 18 ARRESTS AND 2.38 TONNES OF COCAINE SEIZED SHARE:

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

19  
Oct  
2016



## GLOBAL OPERATION CICONIA ALBA DELIVERS MAJOR BLOW TO ORGANISED CRIME

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

12  
Oct  
2016



## EUROPOL AND EMCDDA: EXCELLENT COOPERATION TO COMBAT THE ILLICIT DRUG MARKETS IN THE EU

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

20  
Sep  
2016



## COLOMBIA JOINS EUROPOL TO FIGHT MONEY LAUNDERING

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

14  
Sep  
2016



## CROATIAN NATIONAL POLICE SUPPORTED BY EUROPOL ARRESTED A HIGH VALUE ALBANIAN SPEAKING TARGET INVOLVED IN AN INTERNATIONAL DRUGS TRADE

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

21  
Jul  
2016



## 7 DETAINED IN OPERATION AGAINST BRITISH-SPANISH COCAINE TRAFFICKERS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

20  
Jun  
2016

Independent evaluation:

IMPLEMENTATION

(2013-2017)

Evaluation  
Review and Assessment



Policy Development  
EU SOCTA

## EMPACT - EU POLICY CYCLE

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT



## JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAMS - JITS

## EU POLICY CYCLE - EMPACT

05  
Apr  
2016



EUROPOL

## EU DRUG MARKETS REPORT 2016

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

01  
Mar  
2016



## EUROPOL SUPPORTS EUROPE-WIDE CRACKDOWN ON COCAINE-TRAFFICKING BALKAN ORGANISED CRIME GROUP

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

◀ FIRST

◀ PREVIOUS

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

NEXT ▶

LAST ▶

Source URL: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/drug-trafficking/cocaine-and-heroin?page=4>