

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

13  
Nov  
2015



## GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION LEADS TO 303 ARRESTS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

24  
Sep  
2014



## OPERATION ARCHIMEDES INFOGRAPHICS

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

24  
Sep  
2014



## ORGANISED CRIME NETWORKS TARGETED IN HUGE LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATION IN EUROPE

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



EUROPOL

OPERATION



## OPERATION ARCHIMEDES

OPERATION

19  
Dec  
2013



### EUROPOL CONFERENCE ON COCAINE TRAFFICKING VIA CONTAINERS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

18  
Dec  
2013



### 37 ARRESTED, €2.3 MILLION & 42 KG COCAINE SEIZED AFTER CHECKS AT 37 EUROPEAN AIRPORTS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

28  
Nov  
2013



### CONFERENCE TO TACKLE COCAINE TRAFFICKING IN THE CARIBBEAN

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

11  
Dec  
2013



### CONFERENCE ON COCAINE TRAFFICKING VIA CONTAINERS

EVENT

21  
Oct  
2013



### 71 ARRESTED AS POLICE SMASH HEROIN TRAFFICKING RING IN ITALY

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

27  
Sep  
2013



### EUROPOL CONFERENCE ON COCAINE EXTRACTION-CONVERSION LABORATORIES

17  
Jul  
2013



## EUROPOL AND INTERPOL CHIEFS REVIEW TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL POLICING

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

12  
Apr  
2013



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