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Working document

Drug Precursors Committee

Subject: Communication from Member States pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 111/2005 and Article 29 of Regulation (EC) No 1277/2004

Delegations will find attached a working document on the communications from Member States pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 111/2005 and Article 29 of Regulation (EC) No 1277/2005.

Contact information

Suzanne STAUFFER

DG Taxation and Customs Union – C3

Tel: 32/2/295.69.78; Fax: 32/2/296.54.04 or E Mail Suzanne.Stauffer@ec.europa.eu

Nicolas IMBERT

DG Enterprise and Industry – G2

Tel : 32/2/298.41.76; Fax: 32/2/295.02.81 or E mail Nicolas.Imbert@ec.europa.eu

1. INTRODUCTION

On the basis of communications made pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 111/2005 and Article 29 of Regulation (EC) No 1277/2005, delegations will find herewith information on seizures/stopped shipments made in 2005.

In 2005, 256 seizures/stopped shipments were reported by 26 Member/Accession States. Such reports involve scheduled substances, non-scheduled substances covered by the 'EU Voluntary Monitoring list' and other non scheduled substances, which also include preparations containing ephedrine and pseudo-ephedrine.

Among the 256 reported cases, there were 241 seizures¹ and 15 stopped shipments.

164 of the cases involved scheduled substances. 45 % of these cases on scheduled substances concerned Category 1 substances followed by Category 3 (43 %) and Category 2 (9 %).

92 (35 %) of the reported cases involved non-scheduled substances. The majority (59 %) of these cases are substances not covered by the EU Voluntary Monitoring list. 23 % of the cases involve preparations. 26 % of the cases involve GBL. It should also be noted that amongst the cases involving non scheduled substances there are "stopped shipments", e.g. for substances not under legislative control, the mechanism to stop shipments could be successfully activated.

75 % of all cases (seizures/stopped shipments) were carried out by 7 Member/Accession States. 4 Member/Accession States did not report any cases.

Biggest cases in terms of numbers were made for: **Ephedrine (31), Hydrochloric Acid (28), GBL (24), Toluene (18), Preparations containing Ephedrine (16), P2P (13), Sassafras Oil (12), Acetone (12), Pseudo-ephedrine (9), Acetic Anhydride (8).**

Biggest cases in terms of quantities were made for: **Toluene (1 000 000 kg), Ephedra (802 000 kg), Acetone (45 971 kg), Acetic Anhydride (16 747 l), Hydrochloric Acid, PMK (5 147 l), Potassium Permanganate, P2P (2 213,63 l), Ephedrine (1 621 kg), GBL (958 l).**

8 substances are mentioned both among the TOP TEN cases in terms of numbers and quantities. On the other hand, there are also extreme cases for example 802 tons of Ephedra which represent 2 reported cases, or 16 seizures (5339 tablets) of preparations containing ephedrine which represent about 214 grams of ephedrine.

Interesting cases/trends:

- **Ephedra:** The very important quantities of ephedra are noteworthy. Within a very short amount of time several EU Member States were targeted (presumably

¹ NB: 9 controlled deliveries were counted as seizures.

for import and re-export). In most of the cases, the EU authorities were informed through pre-export notification from China. The pre-export notification (PEN) mechanisms proved extremely useful because it enabled the EU authorities to react adequately.

- **Ephedrine:** Relatively high number of cases involving ephedrine. Most of these cases involve relatively small seizures (for example 11 seizures of a total of 5,3 kg, or 4 seizures of a total of 75 kg, 7 seizures of 2,28 kg, 4 seizures of up to 27, 3 kg). Most of these small seizures seem to have been intended for use (in small kitchen labs) within the EU. However, there was also a seizure of 1088 kg. In this case, the ephedrine was trafficked into the EU with the intended final destination being presumably outside the EU.
- **Preparations (E):** Relatively high number of preparations (16) with relatively small amounts of ephedrine. The reported cases involved transport via mail and/or via passengers from Canada, USA and Turkey, but also from within the EU.
- **BMK:** There were several cases of BMK seized in road traffic (some in spare tanks of trucks, others from passengers travelling with the EU). While in some cases the origin was reported as unknown, in others it was reported as presumably having been sourced in Eastern Europe (and trafficked into the EU).
- **PMK:** There were 4 seizures of PMK. In most of the cases the origin was reported as unknown. There was an important seizure of PMK (3 960 kg) trafficked via the sea, so the traditional source still seems to be in use.
- **Safrole:** Small amounts of quantities and numbers of cases reported. However, there seems to be a risk that traffickers try to produce safrole themselves.
- **Sassafras oil:** Albeit small quantities, there was a series of seizures involving sassafras oil including controlled deliveries. The important role of the Internet for sourcing the sassafras oil should be stressed. Some of these cases involve EU imports/ exports. In this context it is also noteworthy that third countries accuse EU for not being aware of EU imports of sassafras oil. During the last CND, Australia tabled a resolution aims at improving the conditions of control.
- **GBL:** Noteworthy number of seizures (24) of GBL involving relatively small amounts. In some cases, the GBL was presumed to be of EU origin, in others the origin was reported as unknown.
- **Red Phosphorus:** This substance was recently put on the EU Voluntary Monitoring list. There was one reported seizure. It was also reported to have been encountered during an illicit lab raid.
- **Non-scheduled substances:** It is noteworthy that 35 % of the cases (including stopped shipments) involved non-scheduled substances. This underlines the effectiveness of the voluntary co-operation.

2. POINTS REQUIRING FURTHER SPECIFIC CONSIDERATION

- Preparations containing ephedrine and pseudo-ephedrine: The available figures do not necessarily allow drawing the conclusion about a growing threat of diversion of preparations in the EU. However, further fact finding is recommended concerning trade and production of these preparations in the EU in order to better assess the situation.
- Ephedrine/Pseudo-ephedrine: The diversion of ephedrine and pseudo-ephedrine needs to be watched closely from various perspectives (is there a rising threat of methamphetamine manufacture in the EU? And/or is the EU only targeted as transshipment zone?)
- Safrole rich essential oils: To discuss the usefulness of having HS codes to identify legal trade and to improve the ability to distinguish the legal trade from traffic.
- Examine whether there is any information that can be extracted from these statistics to help improve targeting of controls.

ANNEXES:

1. Seizures and stopped shipments – breakdown by substance,
2. Seizures and stopped shipments – breakdown by country,
3. Cases (seizures and stopped shipments) – breakdown by country and substance,
4. Quantities (kilograms) – breakdown by country and substance,
5. Quantities (litres) – breakdown by country and substance,
6. Quantities (tablets) – breakdown by country and substance.

1. Seizures and stopped shipments – breakdown by substance

Drug Precursor	Seizure	Stopped shipment	Total
1 Phenyl 2 propanone	13		13
3,4 Methyleneoxyphenylpropan 2 one	4		4
Acetic anhydride	5	3	8
Acetone	10	2	12
Anthranilic acid	1		1
Ephedra	1	1	2
Ephedrine	31		31
Ergometrine	1		1
Ethyl ether	3		3
Hydrochloric acid	27	1	28
Methylethylketone (MEK)	2	1	3
N-Acetylanthranilic acid		1	1
Phenylacetic acid	1		1
Piperidine	1		1
Potassium permanganate	4	2	6
Pseudoephedrine	8	1	9
Safrole	2		2
Sassafras oil	12		12
Sulphuric acid	8		8
Toluene	17	1	18
Non-Scheduled Substance			
1,4-Butanediol	2	1	3
Benzaldehyde	2		2
Formamide	1		1
Gamma Butyrolactone	23	1	24
Methylamine	3		3
others	35		35
Preparations (E)	16		16
Preparations (PSE)	7		7
Red Phosphorus	1		1
Total	241	15	256

2. Seizures and stopped shipments – breakdown by country

Member State	Seizure	Stopped shipment	Total
Austria	2		2
Belgium	17		17
Cyprus			0
Czech Republic	7		7
Denmark		1	1
Estonia	11	1	12
Finland	36		36
France	21	1	22
Germany	21	3	24
Greece	1		1
Hungary	3		3
Ireland	2		2
Italy	1	1	2
Latvia	1		1
Lithuania	2		2
Luxemburg		3	3
Malta			0
Netherlands	14	5	19
Poland	3		3
Portugal			0
Romania	14		14
Slovakia	54		54
Slovenia			0
Spain	20		20
Sweden	3		3
United Kingdom	8		8
Total	241	15	256

3. Cases (seizures and stopped shipments) – breakdown by country and by substance

Drug Precursor/MS	AT	BE	CY	CZ	DK	EE	FI	FR	DE	GR	HU	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU	MT	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES	SE	NL	UK	Total
1 Phenyl 2 propanone						2			2						1			3							5		13
3,4 Methyleneoxyphenylpropan 2 one		1						1																	2		4
Acetic anhydride						1		1	3						1					2							8
Acetone		3				1			2							1				1	1		1		2		12
Anthranilic acid																				1							1
Ephedra																								1	1		2
Ephedrine				4				11	4	1	1			1						1	7			1			31
Ergometrine																				1							1
Ethyl ether	1																			1			1				3
Hydrochloric acid	1	2				1			2				2								18		1		1		28
Methylethylketone (MEK)																1				1			1				3
N-Acetylanthranilic acid																1											1
Phenylacetic acid																							1				1
Piperidine																				1							1
Potassium permanganate						1														1			1		2	1	5
Pseudoephedrine				1	1																	6			1		9
Safrole						1			1																		2
Sassafras oil								9	2			1															12
Sulphuric acid						1			2											2	2		1				8
Toluene				2		1			1											2	11				1		17
Non-Scheduled Substance																											
1,4-Butanediol						1			2																		3
Benzaldehyde									1														1				2
Formamide		1																									1
Gamma Butyrolactone						2	19		2														1				24
Methylamine		3																									3
others		7									2	1									2		11		5	7	35
Preparations (E)								16																			16
Preparations (PSE)								1																6			7
Red Phosphorus																								1			1
Total	2	17	0	7	1	12	36	22	24	1	3	2	2	1	2	3	0	3	0	14	54	0	20	3	19	8	256

4. Quantities (kilograms) – breakdown by country and substance

Drug Precursor (kilograms)	AT	BE	CZ	DK	EE	FR	DE	GR	HU	IE	IT	LV	RO	SK	ES	SE	NL	UK	Total
1 Phenyl 2 propanone																			
3,4 Methylendioxyphenylpropan 2 one																			
Acetic anhydride																	12320		12320
Acetone																			
Anthranilic acid																			
Ephedra																2000	800000		802000
Ephedrine			27,3			5,35	75,5	1088	15			0,02	35,38	2,28		374			1620,54
Ergometrine													0,06						0,06
Ethyl ether	25																		25
Hydrochloric acid	140										8,86								148,86
Methylethylketone (MEK)													20,7						20,7
N-Acetylanthranilic acid																			
Phenylacetic acid															4,5				4,5
Piperidine																			
Potassium permanganate					1,11										131,8		3900	10	4042,91
Pseudoephedrine			0,03	25										0,03		17			42,06
Safrole					0														
Sassafras oil																			
Sulphuric acid					0														
Toluene					0									1,81			1000000		100001,81
Non-Scheduled Substance																			
1,4-Butanediol					0,43														0,44
Benzaldehyde																			
Formamide																			
Gamma Butyrolactone					4,52														4,52
Methylamine		675																	675
others										1,03				12,61					13,64
Preparations (E)																			216,95
Preparations (PSE)																			
Red Phosphorus														1,24					1,24
Total	165	675	27,33	25	6,059	5,351	75,5	1088	15	1,03	8,86	0,02	56,14	17,97	136,3	2391	1816220	10	1821132,23

5. Quantities (litres) – breakdown by country and substance

Drug Precursor (litres)	BE	CZ	EE	FI	FR	DE	IE	IT	LT	LU	PL	RO	SK	ES	NL	Grand Total
1 Phenyl 2 propanone			26,81			1310			2,82		534				340	2213,63
3,4 Methyleneoxyphenylpropan 2 one	25				3960										1162	5147
Acetic anhydride			0,003		1	16702,5			0,81			43,47				16747,775
Acetone	25600		0,03			4				1		124,6	15,5	1196,8	19040	45989,43
Anthranilic acid												3				3
Ephedra																
Ephedrine																0,01
Ergometrine																
Ethyl ether												14,08		1,5		15,58
Hydrochloric acid	8850		0,33			13	5						8,7	11,3	4205	13093,33
Methylethylketone (MEK)										6				16		22
N-Acetylanthranilic acid										0,025						0,03
Phenylacetic acid																
Piperidine												10,35				10,35
Potassium permanganate												145,24				145,236
Pseudoephedrine													0,03			0,03
Safrole			7,01			25,5										32,51
Sassafras oil					9	7	1									17
Sulphuric acid			15,18			3,5						809,56	0,05	9,5		837,79
Toluene		0,83	9,51			3						72,46	62,64			85,8
Non-Scheduled Substance																
1,4-Butanediol						21										21
Benzaldehyde						1								6		7
Formamide	150															150
Gamma Butyrolactone				13,176		945								0,5		958,68
Methylamine	1375														3950	14959
others													4	2,5	13584	13590,5
Preparations (E)																
Preparations (PSE)																
Red Phosphorus																
Total	36000	0,83	58,87	13,18	3970	19035,5	1	5	3,63	7,03	534	1222,76	90,92	1244,1	42281	114016,74

6. Quantities (tablets) – breakdown by country and substance

Non-Scheduled Substance (tablets)	FI	SK	
Preparations (E)	5339 ²		5339
Preparations (PSE)	8	847	855
Total	5347	847	6194

² Includes 100 capsules.