



The role of Europe in global drug policy – towards the 2016 UNGASS

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Overview

- Europe, Latin America and the 1998 UNGASS
- Changes in the global drug policy landscape
- The OAS report and scenario process
- Challenges to the global drug control regime
- Reasons for Europe to join the global debate
- The drug policy calendar and agenda for 2016

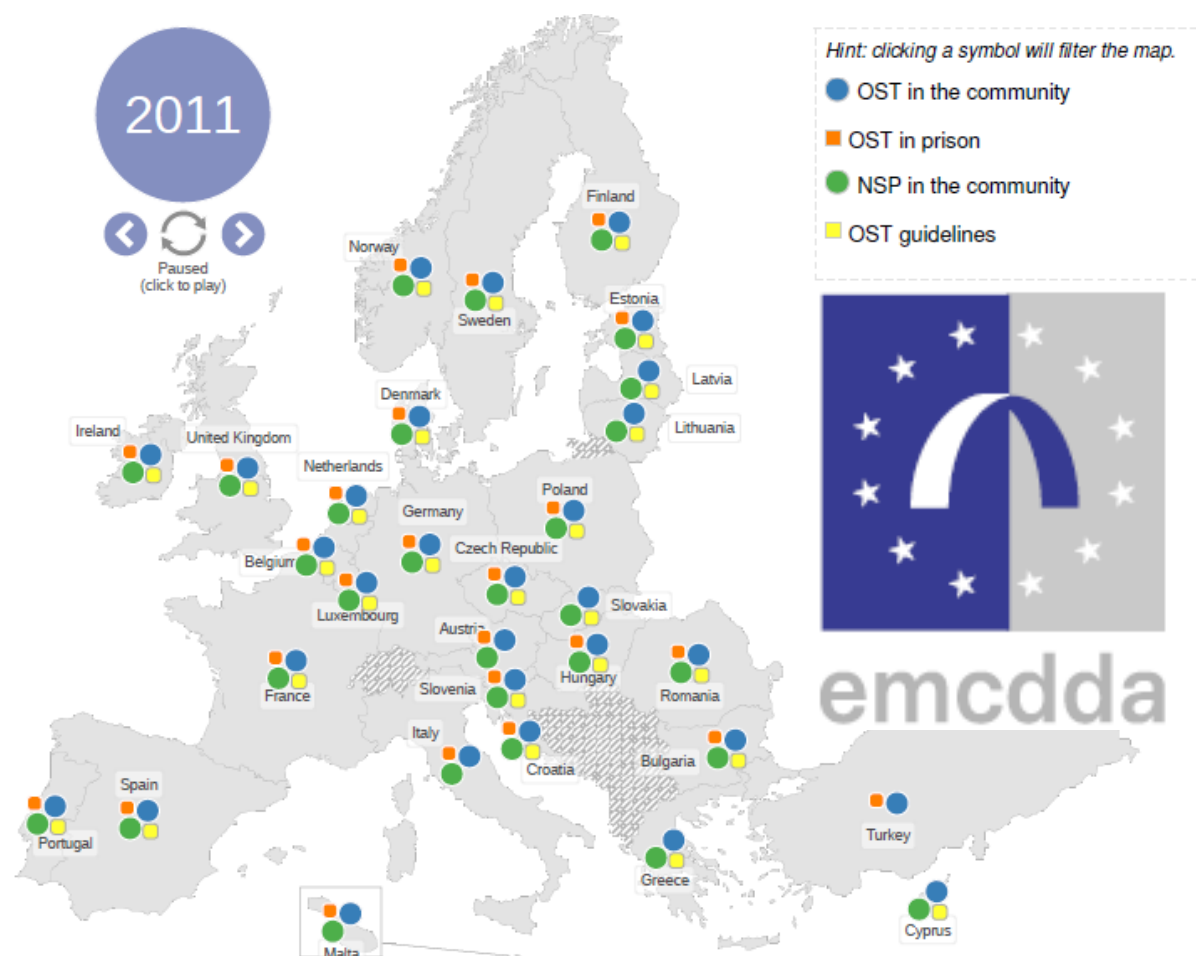
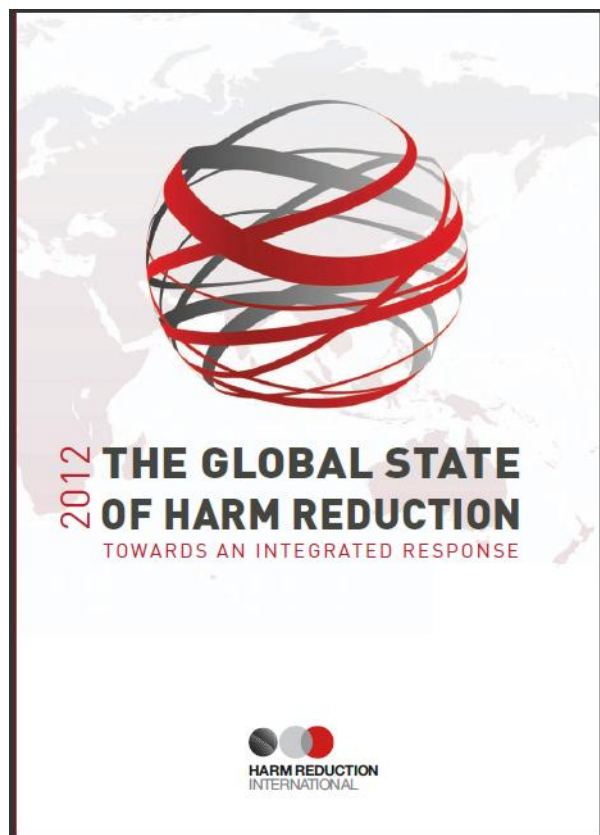
Background: 1998 UNGASS & review

- Latin American initiative: balanced approach
- Europe: guiding principles demand reduction
- Progress: ‘reducing adverse consequences’
- Progress: ‘Alternative Development’
- ‘Eliminate coca, poppy and cannabis by 2008’
- 2009 CND review: no progress, no change?
- ‘Eliminate coca, poppy and cannabis by 2019’
- Changes in drug policy landscape since 2009

Civil society & Global Commission

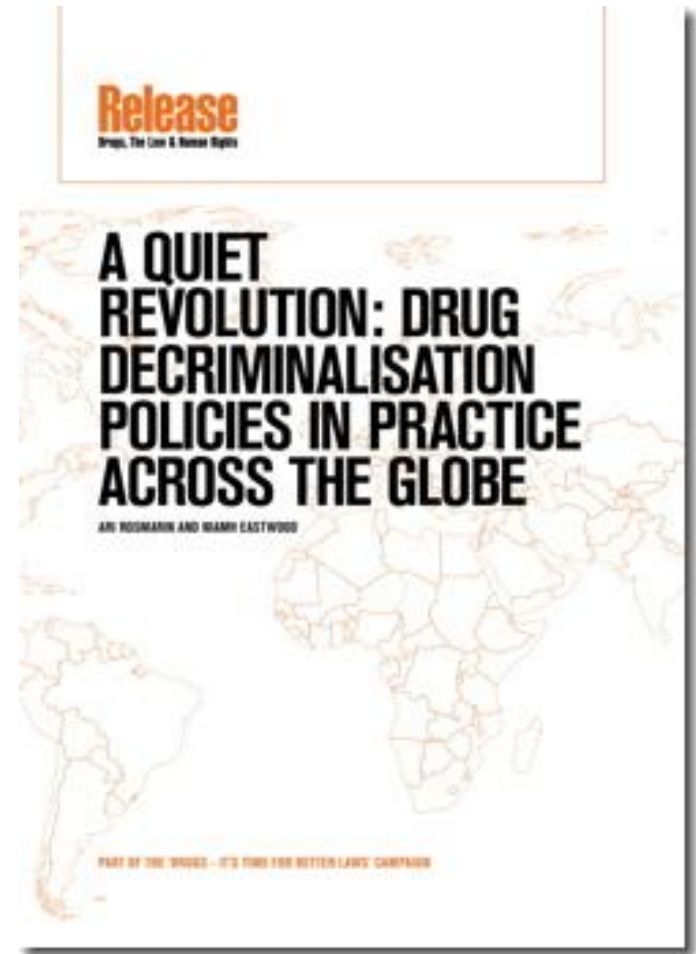


Harm reduction: practice & paradigm



Decriminalisation: a quiet revolution

- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia (state level)
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Germany
- Italy
- Mexico
- The Netherlands (de facto)
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Poland
- Portugal
- Russian Federation
- Spain
- Uruguay
- United States (state level)



Breakthrough: Bolivia & coca leaf

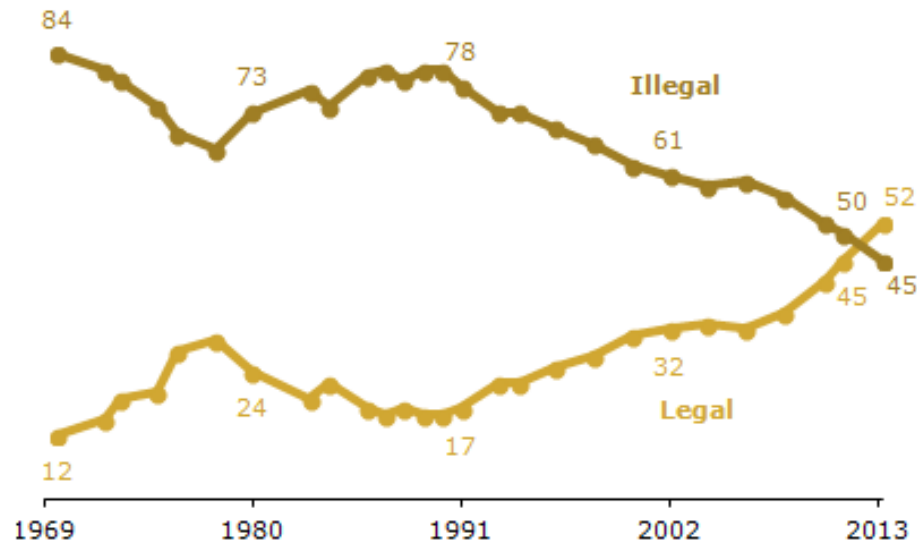
- Denunciation & re-adherence with reservation
- ‘Integrity’ of the treaty system challenged
- Reconciliation drug control & human rights



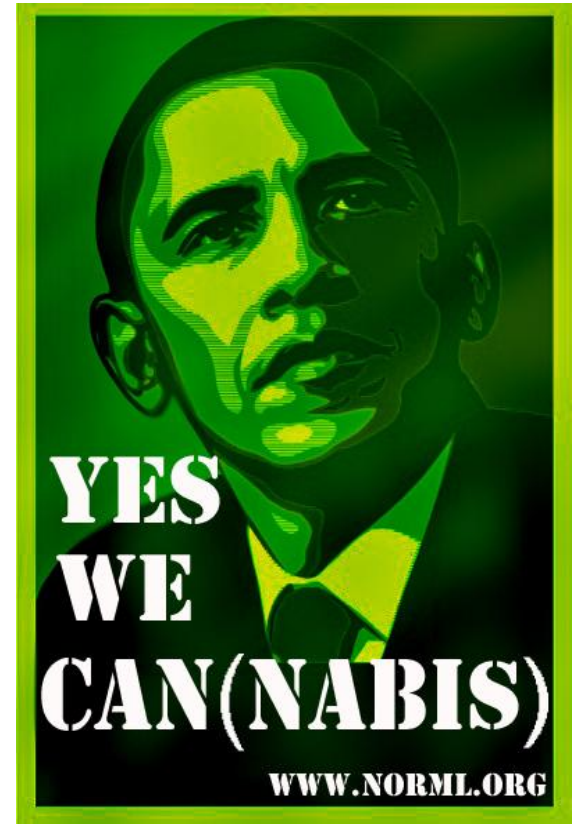
Breakthrough: cannabis in US

Views of Legalizing Marijuana: 1969-2013

% saying marijuana should be ...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.
1973-2008 data from General Social Survey; 1969 and 1972 data from Gallup.



Breakthrough: cannabis in LA



*“Someone has
to be first...”*



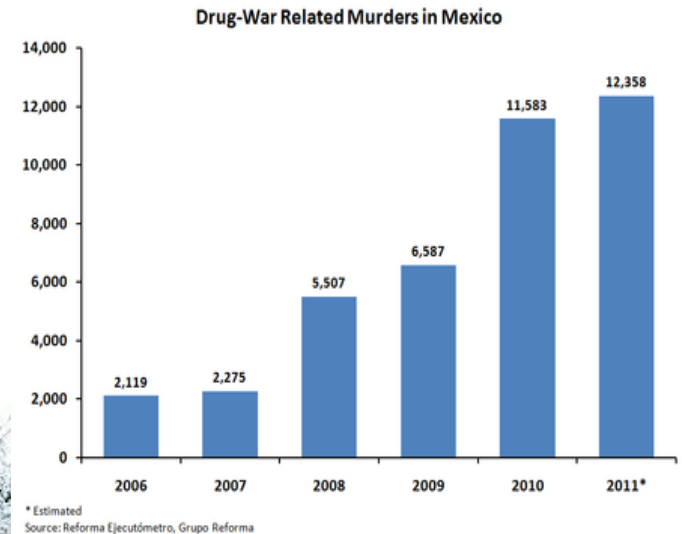
Five significant changes

1. Civil society & Global Commission impact
2. Harm reduction: practice & paradigm
3. Decriminalisation: a quiet revolution
4. Breakthrough: Bolivia & coca leaf
5. Breakthrough: cannabis - US & Latin America

Irreversible global reform trend, fuelled in Latin America also by consequences of War on Drugs

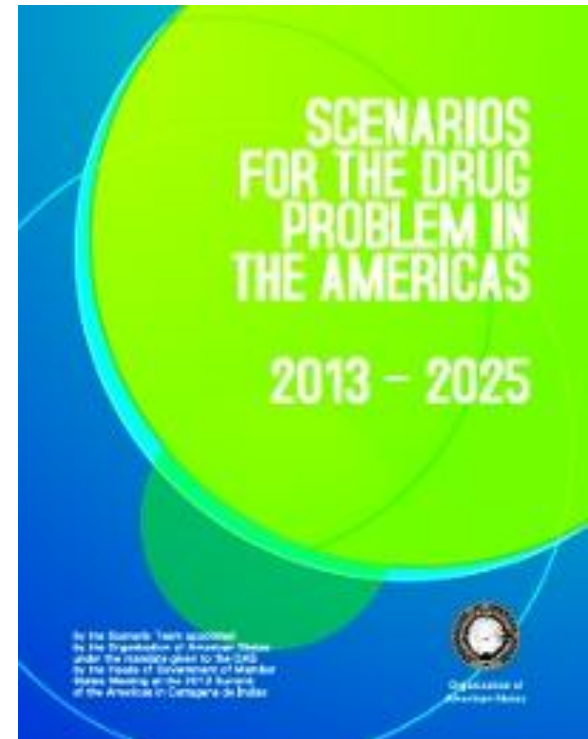
'War on Drugs' & violence

- Militarisation
- Human rights violations
- Aerial spraying
- Fuelling armed conflict
- Incarceration crisis
- Crime & corruption
- Explosion of violence



OAS report & scenarios

- Cartagena summit mandate
- Analytical report
- Scenario planning process
- The four scenarios:
 - Together
 - Pathways
 - Resilience
 - Disruption



Divisions in the OAS debate

- Hemispheric political & drug policy divides:
 - ***Driving:*** frustrated about collateral damage of war on drugs, unclear about drug policy reform agenda, preference for hemispheric consensus
 - ***Hesitant:*** exploring drug policy reforms in practice, low confidence in OAS, preference for other regional blocs
 - ***Obstructing:*** hostile to drug policy reform, keen to maintain OAS structure and hemispheric consensus
 - ***Absent:*** promoting Latin American independence and alternative regional blocs to replace OAS, confronting US hegemony but hostile to drug policy reform

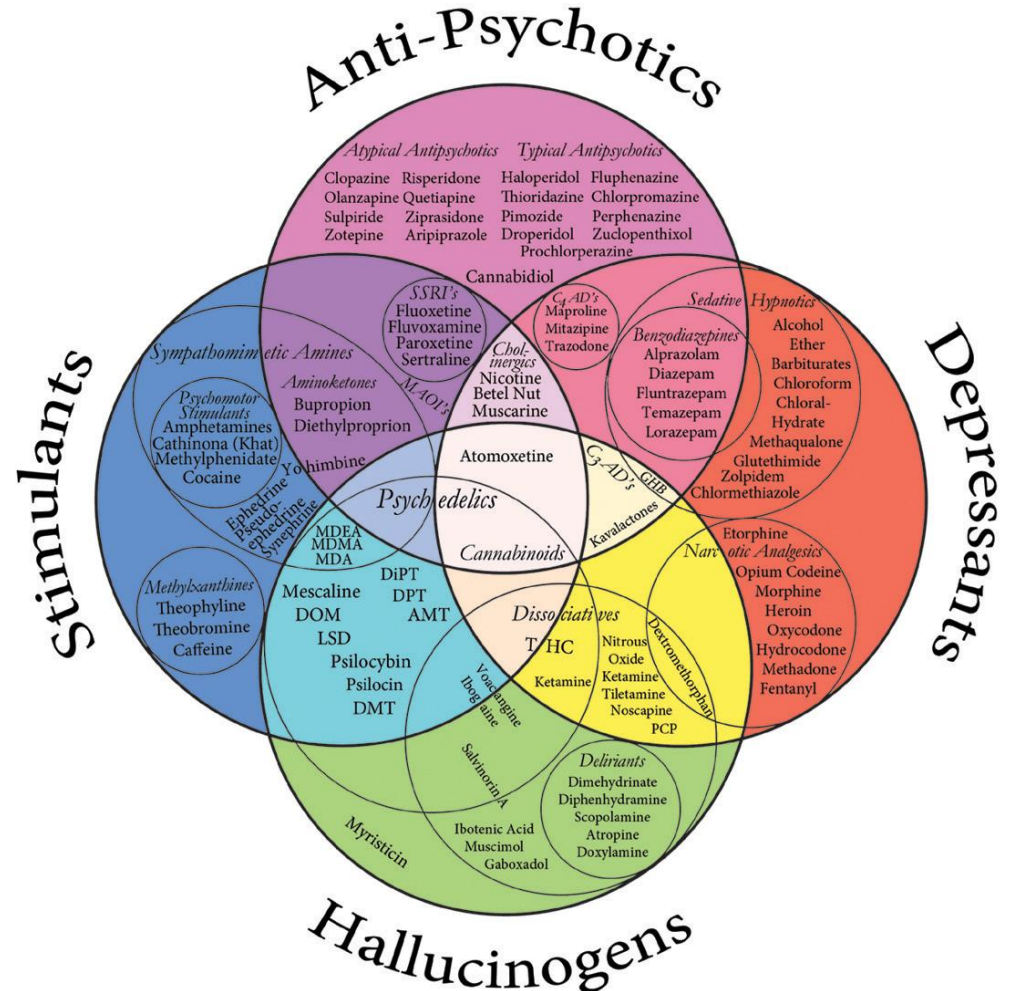
Latin America & Europe: common ground?

- Internal divides and political pressure to reach regional common positions on both sides
- Formal transatlantic drug policy dialogue structures very unhelpful and frustrating
- Some reform-oriented countries on both sides interested to explore more collaboration
- Doubts about a common reform agenda
- Challenges to the global drug control regime

Challenge 1: classification

“the international classification into narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances according to whether the substance is governed by the 1961 or by the 1971 Convention has no conceptual basis. The legal definition of many psychotropic substances is entirely applicable to narcotic drugs, and in many cases, the reverse is true.”

UNDCP (2000)



Challenge 2: rational scale of harms

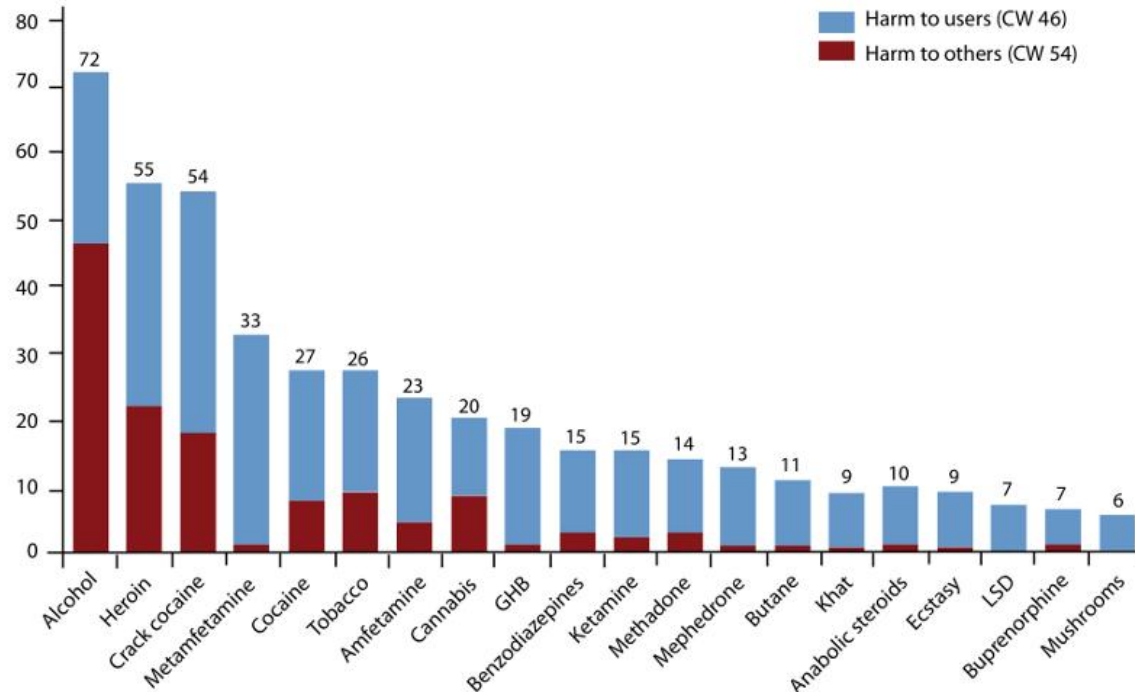
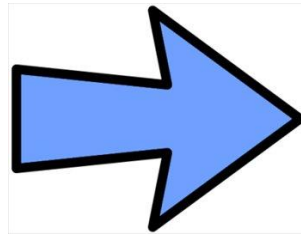


Figure 2

Drugs ordered by their overall harm scores, showing the separate contributions to each overall score of harm to users and harm to others. The cumulative weights (CWs) after normalization (potentially ranging from 0 to 100), as shown in the key, are 46 for sum of all normalized weights for all criteria related to harm to users and 54 for sum of all normalized weights for all criteria related to harm to others. GHB = γ -hydroxybutyric acid, LSD = lysergic acid diethylamide. Reprinted with kind permission of *The Lancet* from Nutt et al. (2010).⁴⁴

Challenge 3: pharmaceuticals



Usual Dosage: Read accompanying prescribing literature.

Swallow tablets whole.

Do not crush or chew.

Dispense in a tight, light-resistant container. Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted between 15°-30°C (59°-86°F).



Attention Dispenser: Accompanying Medication Guide must be provided to the patient upon dispensing.

NDC 59011-103-10

OxyContin® 

(oxycodone hydrochloride controlled-release) tablets

20 mg

100 Tablets Rx Only

Purdue Pharma L.P.

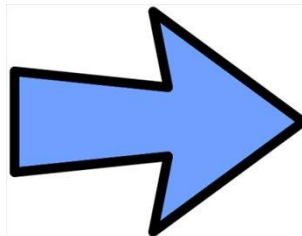
U.S. Patent Nos. 7,109,248; 7,674,799; 7,674,800; and 7,683,072.

This package contains a radio frequency device.

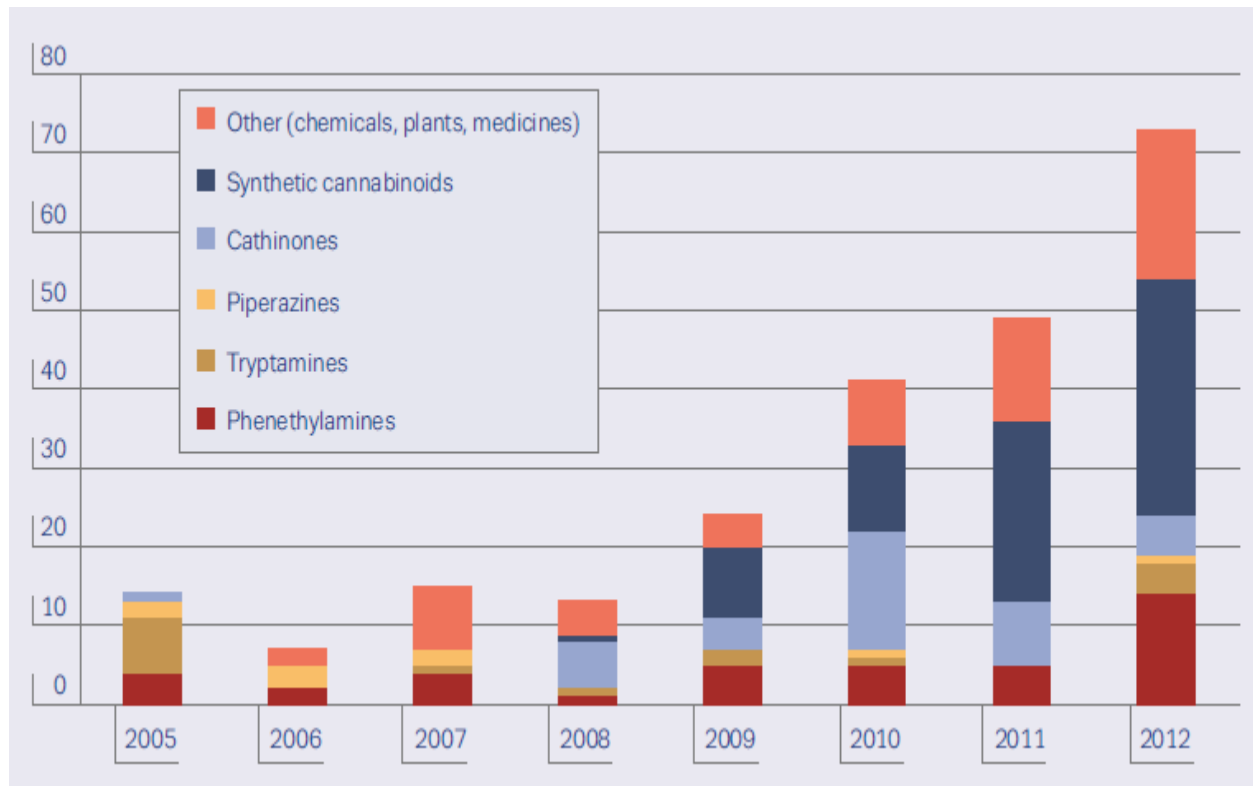


3 59011-103-10 2

Purdue Pharma L.P.
Stamford, CT 06901-3431
xxxxxx-xx



Challenge 4: 'legal highs'



Challenge 5: internet sales



Shop by category:

Cannabis(98)
Ecstasy(26)
Psychedelics(80)
Opiates(24)
Stimulants(27)
Dissociatives(6)
Other(161)



1 hit of LSD
(blotter)
฿2.10



1/8 oz high
quality cannabis
฿5.83



1 g pure MDMA
(white)
฿4.52

Step-by-step:

1. Get **anonymous money**
2. Buy something here
3. Enjoy it when it arrives!

Choose your **currency!**

recent feedback:

seller	rating	feedback
lemonjelly(100)	5 of 5	Product as advertised, arrived in a timely manner in a bubbly envelope.
ctr	5 of 5	GREAT product, fast shipping, good packaging!!
xcentrix	5 of 5	Received purchase within an hour.
3Jane(99)	5 of 5	Quick and sneaky, like a ninja.
neviim(94)	5 of 5	Packaging was good, reagent test were good (not the best) but only consumption will tell.
bloomingcolor(100)	5 of 5	Leave feedback here
P4r4b0l4(98)	5 of 5	Probably one of the stealthiest packaging jobs I've ever seen. Seller kept in touch every step of the
acidfriedmybrain	5 of 5	Fast shipping, potent product, super good communication. Will use again.
GreenCo(100)	5 of 5	Very fast shipping and no odor, great product, will definitely do business again
peaceandlove(96)	5 of 5	Good, responsive seller.

฿1 = \$10.58

Reasons for Europe to join the debate

1. Inconsistency: old compromises & new challenges
2. Ineffectiveness: market resilience
3. Harm reduction: crime and violence
4. Financial crisis: budget cuts & tax revenues
5. Opportunity: breakthrough in the making

Global drug policy calendar

- June 2013: Antigua, Guatemala, OAS GA
- Nov. 2013: Medellin, OAS public security
- March 2014: mid-term review CND
- 2014: special OAS General Assembly on drugs
- 2015: Panama Summit of the Americas
- 2016: UNGASS on drugs in New York
- ... ?

A European agenda for 2016

- Action Plan 2013-2016: “Contribute to shaping the agenda on international drugs policy”
- Policy coherence and ‘one strong voice’
- Emphasis on human rights, harm reduction and alternative development
- National and local room for manoeuvre
- EU common position & informal coalitions
- Realistic reform agenda for the 2016 UNGASS



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