ERÜNAL SOCIAL SCIENCES HIGH SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2025

STUDY GUIDE

UNODC

AGENTA ITEM

Addressing Drug-Related Problems and Gang Activities

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

Hüseyin Demirel

ERÜNALMUN2025

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1. Letter from the Secretary General;

Honourable participants of ERUNALMUN'25; as the secretariat of this glamourous conference, we are highly welcoming you to this journey. And extending appreciation of ours by thanking all of you one by one for choosing The Legacy of Legend.

Our marvelous academic and organization teams worked intensively, spend months to prepair you the best MUN experience that you could ever seen.

Throughout this journey; you will have the chance to debate your ideas by being the part of discussion, improve your negotiation skills, learn new diplomatic terms, enchance your leadership and communication qualifications. And most importantly you will be able to Lead the Light of our future.

We hope you all wonderful committee experience, if you have any issues you are free to contact us

via ozcanramazanrahmi@gmail.com
seloosesn@hotmail.com

Kind regards, Selin Esin & Ramazan Rahmi Özcan
Secretariat of ERUNALMUN'25

2. Letter from the Under Secretary-General;

3. Introduction to the Committee;

3.1. History of the Committee;

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC; French: Office des Nations unies contre la drogue et le crime) was founded in 1997 as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division in the United Nations Office at Vienna. It adopted its current name in 2002.

The agency focuses on international terrorism, political corruption, drug trafficking and abuse, crime prevention and criminal justice. It is a participant in the UN Development Group.

The Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was created by the merger of the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division at the United Nations Office at Vienna. In 2002, it underwent a name change to UNODC, or United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

UNODC is a part of a network called the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI), along with several other institutions and centers throughout the globe that deal with crime. Its goal is to improve global cooperation in the fields of criminal justice and crime prevention. "Exchange of information, research, training, and public education" is made easier by the network.

With its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, UNODC, which will employ over 3400 people globally by the year 2020, also includes 115 field offices and two liaison offices in Brussels and New York City. The Executive Director of the organization is chosen by the Secretary-General of the UN.

3.2. Functions of the Committee;

Esteemed delegates United Nations Office on Drugs And Crime has all of the functions to obviate nearly every illegal activity in their realm of authority.

Strengthening Member States' Capacities to confront threats from transnational organized crime by helping Member States ratify and implement the UN Convention against transnational organized crime and its protocols by;

- Collecting and disseminating data for policy analysis,

- Promoting evidence-based policies to counter transnational organized crime and disseminating good practices,

- Raising awareness about the organized crime "Gang Activity" victims and their rights.

Normative work to assist in the ratification and implementation of international treaties, and the development of national legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism.

UNODC's approach to the drugs issue is multifaceted and encompasses the most diverse aspects of the subject, with orchestrated and specific actions in the areas of health, education and public safety, among others.

- On one hand, in order to contribute to demand reduction, UNODC implements projects for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of addicted subjects.

- On the other side, seeking to reduce supply, it promotes programmes to combat money laundering associated with the illegal drugs market, to monitor illicit crops and to strengthen governments' capacity to intercept and restrain drug trafficking.

And dear delegates, lastly I am adding a document from the official UNODC site for you to better understand the functions of the committee.

4. Introduction to the Agenda Item;

4.1. Introduction;

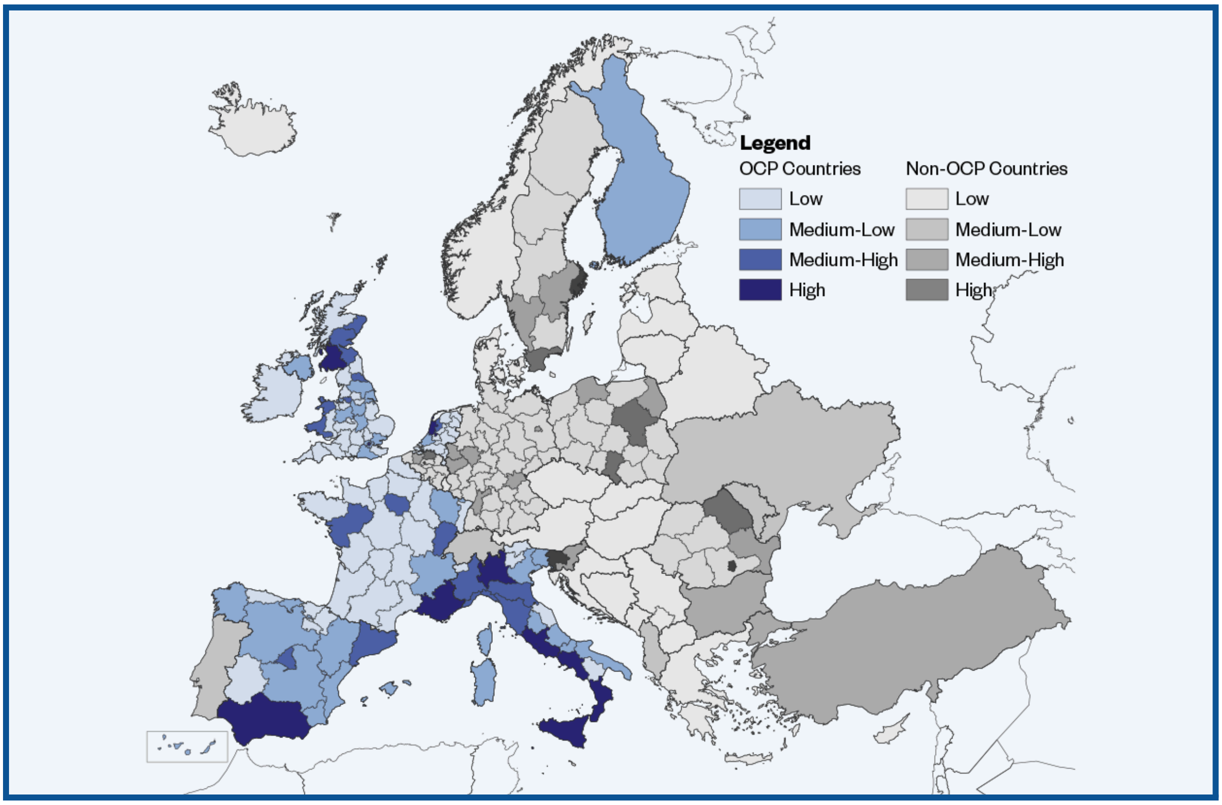
A gang is a group or society of associates, acquaintances, or family members that identify with or claim authority over territory in a community and participate, either individually or collectively, in unlawful, and possibly violent, activities. A gang has a clear leadership and internal organization.

When talking about banditry in American history, Barrington Moore, Jr. suggests that societies lacking strong "forces of law and order" may see the emergence of gangsterism as a "form of self-help which victimizes others." He describes European feudalism as "mainly gangsterism that had become society itself and acquired respectability through the notions of chivalry."

London was "terrorized by a series of organized gangs" throughout the 17th century, some of whom went by the names of the Mims, Hectors, Bugles, and Dead Boys. These gangs frequently clashed with one another. Members wore "colored ribbons to identify the various factions." Criminals and gangs began forming the groups that would eventually come to be known as London's underworld during the Victorian era. The criminal underground began to form its own social strata, often referred to as "families," which frequently consisted of lower-class individuals who engaged in pickpocketing, prostitution, forgery and counterfeiting, commercial burglary, and money-laundering operations. Slang and argot used by Victorian criminal organizations to identify one another, such as those spread by street gangs like the Peaky Blinders, were equally distinctive.

Young people in metropolitan areas establish street gangs, which are mostly renowned for gang warfare and street fighting. When referring to neighborhood or street-based youth organizations that satisfy "gang" characteristics, the terms "street gang" and "youth gang" are sometimes used interchangeably. A street gang, according to Miller (1992), is "a self-formed association of peers, united by mutual interests, with identifiable leadership and internal organization, who act collectively or as individuals to achieve specific purposes, including the conduct of illegal activity and control of a particular territory, facility, or enterprise."

4.2. Major Gang Activity in Countries;



APRIL 16, 1997

Austria: Groups from Albania and former Yugoslavia are involved in pimping, drug trafficking and burglary. Gangs from other central and eastern European states (CEECs) are also active. Russian crime gangs are present and the Italian Camorra and Cosa Nostra operate money-laundering operations. Turkish gangs are involved in importing heroin via the Balkans.

Belgium: Most gangs operate internationally. Main links are with the Netherlands, Germany, Russia, Ukraine and Turkey. There are additional contacts with the Italian Mafia and Colombian drug cartels. Police enquiries point to money-laundering links with legitimate businesses. Their investigations also suggest the involvement of organized crime in the recent spate of child abductions.

Denmark: Motorcycle gangs are the highest profile groups, with three chapters of Hells Angels and Bandidos backed up by numerous 'satellite' gangs. They are involved in the sale of firearms and amphetamines. Groups from Poland, former Yugoslavia and other CEECs are active in the drugs trade, vehicle theft and burglary. Half Of the heroin currently entering Denmark is controlled by Pakistani and Turkish gangs. Links with the Colombian cartels account for a significant percentage of cocaine imports.

Finland: Organized crime is relatively underdeveloped with around ten groups, including two motorcycle gangs. All are based in the south of the country. One has links with the Netherlands and is thought to be involved in drug trafficking. Others are involved in the illegal sale of cigarettes and alcohol, forgery, theft and fraud.

France: France's geographical position on one of Europe's main 'drug routes' means much crime is drug related. Gangs have links with Spain, Poland, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium,Albania, Turkey, Columbia, Argentina, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. Investigations have uncovered links between the drug trade and art thefts. Car-theft rings transport stolen vehicles to Poland, Africa, South America and Asia. Money laundering is prevalent with Russian and Italian gangs using the Côte d'Azur as a favorite base.

Germany: Most groups are involved in the 'classic' areas of criminal activity such as drug trafficking, prostitution and various theft rings. Only seven of a total of 572 known organizations comprise more than 100 members. Around 70% of criminal activity has an international element and there are strong links with Italy, Turkey, Vietnam, Poland, and former Yugoslavia. Organized crime costs Germany an estimated 5.4 billion ecu a year.

Greece: Greece does not appear to be a particular target. Three very small groups were recently discovered. The first comprised four Albanians, the second seven Bulgarians and one Greek, and the third one Greek and two Italians. The groups were involved in vehicle theft, illegal customs searches and trafficking in art treasures.

Ireland: There are eight main gangs, all based in Dublin. They are principally involved in drug trafficking and armed robbery, but are active to a lesser extent in vehicle theft, trafficking in firearms and extortion rackets. Gangs are well structured with strict codes of conduct and harsh penalties – including execution – for members. All eight have extensive links with foreign counterparts. There are some 75 smaller gangs who tend to confine their activities to Ireland and are not generally involved in the drugs trade.

Italy: The four traditional mafia organizations – the Sicilian Mafia, the Camorra, the ’Ndrangheta and the Criminalità Pugliese – control most major organized crime in Italy. The Chinese triads, Colombian cartels, Turkish clans and some Russian gangs are also present. The Italian gangs are involved in drugs, extortion, public corruption, trafficking in arms, illegal disposal of toxic waste and money laundering. They own many legal as well as illegal businesses world-wide.

Luxembourg: Luxembourg’s secretive banking laws make it an attractive location for money launderers and many investigations are currently under way. Russian groups are known to have operations in the Grand Duchy. Italian, Chinese and ex-Yugoslavian gangs are also thought to be active.

The Netherlands: The drug trade is by far the largest area for criminal activity. National groups tend to be fairly loose associations involved in the sale of soft drugs. Around 15 ‘international’ gangs have been identified which are primarily responsible for introducing hard drugs into the country. Other areas of activity include car theft, extortion and trafficking in human beings.

Portugal: Drug trafficking, kidnapping, murder and car theft are the main areas for criminal activity. Groups from France, the Netherlands, Romania, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, Cap Vert, Venezuela, Colombia, Germany, Brazil, Morocco, the USA and Canada are all active with the Colombians dominating the drug trade.

Spain: Around a third of identified groups are exclusively Spanish. Some 16% are made up of foreign nationals with the remaining 48% a ‘mixture’. Links exist with Colombia, Morocco, Portugal and Argentina. The South Americans concentrate their activities in Madrid, Catalonia and the eastern Mediterranean coast. African gangs are more prevalent in the South. Drug trafficking is by far the largest single activity.

Sweden: Organized crime is fragmented. Money laundering is carried out predominantly by Iranian gangs which are also involved in social security fraud. The country’s liberal refugee policy means trafficking in human beings is particularly prevalent, with Russian, Iraqi, Iranian, Ethiopian and Somalian gangs all thought to be involved. Domestic groups produce child pornography and home-grown motorcycle gangs are involved in drug trafficking and racketeering.

United Kingdom: Drug trafficking is the main activity. British gangs are often organized along family lines and are also active in car theft, armed robbery and forgery. Turkish gangs are responsible for around 80% of heroin imports into the UK. They tend to be based in London with extensive local contacts in other cities. The market in crack cocaine is dominated by Caribbean-based groups.

4.3. Drugs and Related Problems;

An analysis of the supply-related indicators for the commonly used illicit drugs in the European Union suggests that availability remains high across all substance types. The market is now characterized by the relatively widespread availability of a broader range of drugs, which are often available at high potency or purity. Large seizures of drugs being trafficked to Europe in intermodal shipping containers have continued to be detected, with commercial supply chains a key target for infiltration by organized crime groups. Europe also remains an important production area for some substances, especially synthetic drugs and cannabis.

High drug availability has been accompanied by a greater diversity in the substances on the illicit drug market, exposing consumers to a wider range of psychoactive substances. These include new synthetic drugs, for which knowledge about the health risks is often limited. This raises concerns about the potential for the greater use of illicit substances in general and the increased risks associated with some of them. People who use drugs may be at greater risk of adverse health outcomes, including poisonings and deaths, through consuming, possibly unknowingly, higher-potency or more-novel substances, or mixtures of substances where drug interactions may increase the potential health harms.

Although important knowledge gaps remain, research and investment in service development means that in the areas of drug prevention, treatment, harm reduction and support to recovery, we now have a better understanding of what interventions are likely to be effective. The interrelated nature of problems associated with drug use and other complex social policy issues also means that there is a greater recognition of the need for more integrated and comprehensive responses. Synergies are therefore needed with policy and practice in other important areas, including housing support, generic healthcare, youth and elderly services, mental health provision and the criminal justice system. However, both the availability of drug-specific responses and examples of well-developed, integrated models of care are extremely heterogeneous at the European level and, in many countries, there is a need to invest more in both of these areas.

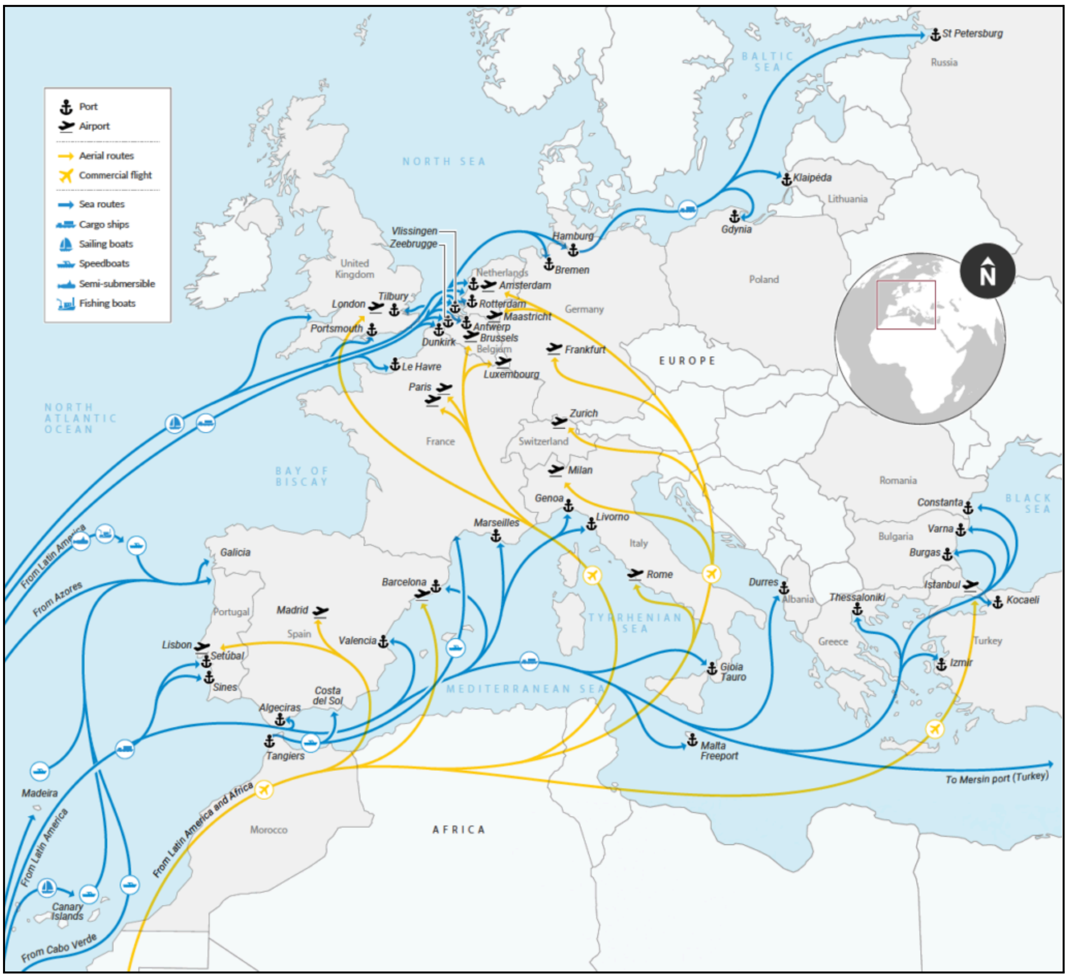
Drug Trafficking In Europe;

From a business perspective, trafficking cocaine to Europe is a far more attractive prospect than targeting the US. Prices are significantly higher and the risks of interdiction, extradition and seizure of assets significantly lower. A kilogram of cocaine in the US is worth up to US$28 000 wholesale. That same kilogram is worth around US$40 000 on average and as much as nearly US$80 000 in different parts of Europe.

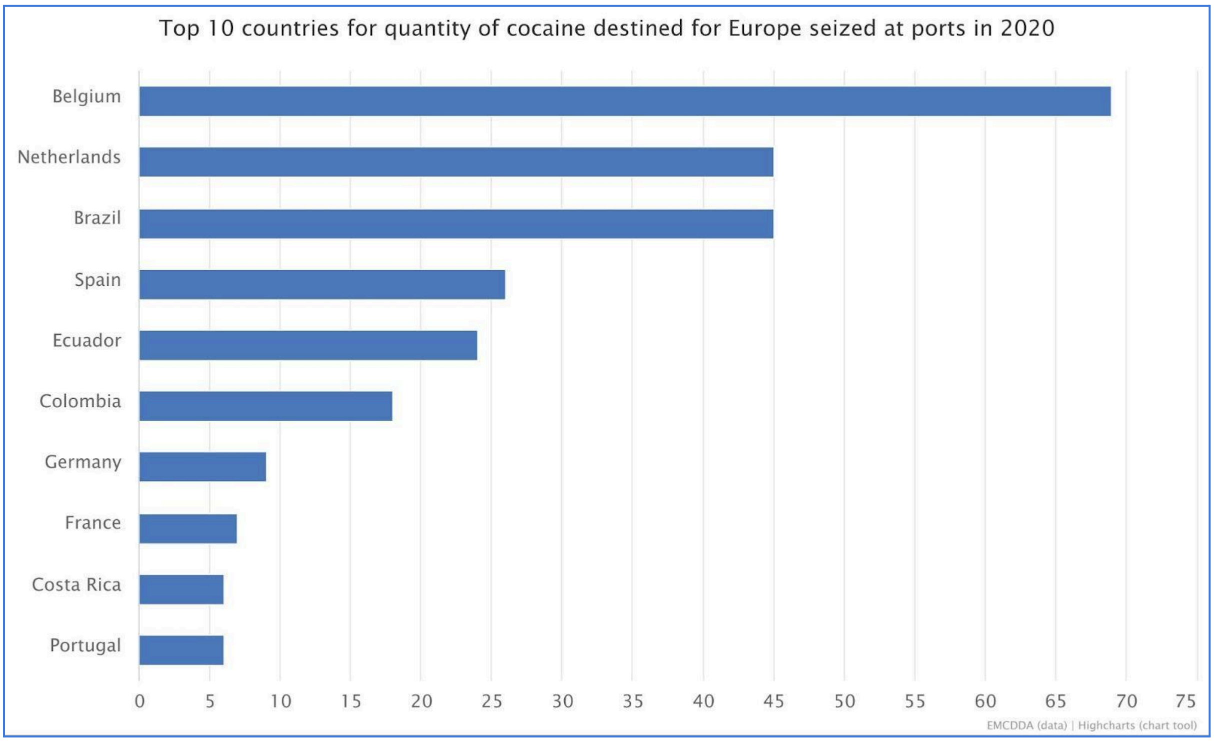
From the perspective of the authorities, the future of cocaine trafficking to Europe holds many dangers. While European and Latin American governments struggle to contain the pandemic and associated economic carnage, organized crime sees new opportunities.

The cocaine trade is now populated by a variety of different types of criminal syndicates, which are made up of many different and mixed nationalities. There are no longer criminal structures like the Medellín Cartel, which controlled cocaine production in Colombia and sold their drugs on the streets of Miami and New York. Criminal networks today rely on subcontracting out much of the work to different transport specialists, assassins for hire, corruption nodes and money launderers, as well as legal actors such as lawyers, accountants and bankers. Different criminal nodes will align for a particular shipment, then drift apart, searching for new opportunities and trafficking constellations and trafficking constellations.

For the fourth consecutive year, record amounts of cocaine were seized in Europe in 2020. At 214.6 tonnes, this represents a 6 % increase from 2019 Three countries, Belgium (70 tonnes), the Netherlands (49 tonnes) and Spain (37 tonnes), accounted for about 73 % of the estimated European total, but large quantities were also seized by Italy (13.4 tonnes), France (13.1 tonnes), Germany (11 tonnes) and Portugal (10 tonnes). Seizures in Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, France and Germany in 2020 were the highest on record .



Meanwhile, new records were also established elsewhere in 2020, including Greece (1.8 tonnes) and east European countries not traditionally associated with cocaine trafficking or consumption, such as Bulgaria (1 tonne), Poland (3.9 tonnes) and Turkey (2 tonnes). This indicates that entry points of cocaine shipments are diversifying and that cocaine consumer markets are developing in eastern Europe including Turkey.



Cocaine traffickers flexibly use a wide range of innovative trafficking methods, which evolve over time in response to enforcement efforts and other factors. Although cocaine also enters the EU by air, the main route used to smuggle the drug into Europe is still the maritime route from South America to western Europe, especially taking advantage of the licit containerised trade. Maritime transport allows the smuggling of large quantities, and the nature of international commercial maritime traffic means that a vast number of routes can be and are used. In addition, smaller, private sailing boats or even semi-submersible vessels are capable of bringing in large quantities of cocaine in single shipments, entering Europe at many points.Cocaine smuggling by air primarily involves the use of commercial passenger flights, cargo aircraft and general aviation (private aircraft). Fairly large shipments of cocaine are smuggled directly from South America and the Caribbean to western Europe by private business aircraft, and use of this method is expected to increase in the future. Stricter border controls and more effective security checks may encourage criminal networks to use secondary international airports and small airfields.

Commercial Passenger Flights;
Cocaine and other drugs are concealed by passengers on commercial flights, either in their luggage or in/on their bodies. This smuggling method usually does not involve corruption although some crew members or technical staff can also use commercial flights to smuggle drugs. Typically, this modus operandi involves transporting smaller quantities of drugs ranging from a few hundred grams to 20-30 kilograms.

Cargo Flights;
Cocaine is concealed in parcels or incorporated in the goods transported on cargo flights. Typically, the drugs are concealed by the sender of the legal cargo. The quantity of drugs smuggled using this method may vary from less than a kilogram to hundreds of kilograms.

Private Jets;
Private jets are typically used by criminal networks to smuggle larger quantities of cocaine over longer distances, including transatlantic flights, as they are perceived to be subjected to less stringent controls. Private jets are able to transport more than 1 tonne of the drug. This method usually involves corruption, especially of the crew members of the aircraft.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV);
UAVs, also known as drones, are currently used by criminal networks to smuggle small quantities of cocaine to locations that are difficult to reach, especially prisons, or to avoid land borders. The UAV market is expanding rapidly and the most advanced commercial UAVs are able to travel for several hundred kilometers and carry over a hundred kilograms in cargo. It is therefore likely that criminal networks will seek to acquire and use this method in order to smuggle larger quantities of drugs over longer distances in the future.

5. ***Questions to be addressed;***

- How would a gang affiliated person be detected and what would be done to them for their sentences ?

- What identifies as an illegal substance usage and what is the road to stop the usage ?

- How does illegal substance usage affect the young youth and what can be done to stop it ?

- What can be done to stop the gang affiliated people who cause property damage and what type of punishment will be in order for those people ?

- How can the prostitution that happens through Europe’s most identified areas, which are stated as “Gang” places, be stopped ?

- Are legal drugs a problem to society or not ?

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