Collaboration of States in the Prevention of Illicit Drug Trafficking

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Abstract: The article notes that at present, the collaboration of states in combating crime, including the prevention of illegal drug trafficking, is intensifying. In this activity, a significant role is assigned to the World Customs Organization, which requires their customs authorities to contribute to the establishment of their protected borders by exercising preventive control over a wide range of customs offenses, including the movement of narcotic drugs. Customs offices located at land, air, and sea borders are the main government agencies that must protect the external borders from such threats. The study goal is to improve measures, taking into account international experience, which will become effective in countering drug trafficking. In the study process, a dialectical and worldview approach will be used, which determines the main directions and general principles of cognition. Based on analysis results, the analysis of the modern constraint of illicit drug trafficking will be given by justifying on a theoretical level.

1 INTRODUCTION

Illicit drug trafficking activities are best understood if to consider as an industry with separate stages of production and distribution of narcotic drugs at the wholesale and retail levels. The money received from the drug business goes mainly to organizations that carry out the drug trade, while a part of the population grows coca and opium poppies, receives very modest funds, although they exceed the income of those who cultivate other crops. The appearance of a drug-trafficking industry capable of generating multibillion-dollar annual revenues has greatly contributed to the development of transnational criminal organizations. The relationship between drug trafficking and other types of illicit trade, especially arms, is growing. In addition, the money received from illegal drug trafficking began to be used to bribe officials in state apparatus in order to ensure safe conditions for illegal drug trafficking.

The movement of people within global community and global trade continue to expand, and there is an unfavorable trend with regard to customs offences, which are becoming increasingly systematic and organized on an international scale. The World Customs Organization and a number of other international institutions recognize this growing adverse trend and believe that the customs authorities should occupy a leading place in the constraint of illicit drug trafficking. It should be pointed out that a link between government policies and international trade practices is noted.

Assisting international trade while protecting the border is a daunting task, given that neighboring countries are often the most significant trading partners. Therefore, it is important to actively aid development of cross-border trade and at the same time to solve the problem of illicit drug trafficking. In many ways, the state border location is associated with a number of problems and opportunities.
Successful development of states is impossible without trade in legitimate goods with guaranteed transit on reasonable business planning and, ultimately, on increasing rentability (profitability). Against this backdrop, customs must also identify their needs to ensure that they fulfill their tasks in the fight against drug smuggling and other forms of cross-border crime. In the modern world, goods move across borders in strict accordance with a time schedule, where simplified import procedures have been introduced, with a reduced number of customs accompanying documents and increased use of business computerization. In the changed environment, customs services are in dire need of access to commercial and time-sensitive information and intelligence data in order for anti-drug activities to be effective and efficient.


It should be pointed out that there have been no specialized studies devoted to countering drug addiction, given the role of the World Customs Organization.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methodological apparatus of the study is based on an integrated and systematic approach, the principles of historicism and scientific objectivity, a
complex of general scientific and, in particular, scientific methods. These approaches made it possible to consider the mechanism of interaction between law enforcement agencies in conjunction with authorities. The historicism principle assumes consideration of the development regarding the constraint of illicit drug trafficking in connection with the change in various ways of influencing it. The principle of scientific objectivity involves the consideration of events and phenomena without expressed preferences, that is, objectively. The historical and legal method made it possible to gain knowledge about the legislation and legal practice of the period on issues relating to the activities of state bodies that prevent drug trafficking. The historical-comparative method made it possible to identify patterns in the changes in interaction of the authorities with foreign states in the domestic political course context. The use of this methodological apparatus makes it possible to recreate a complete historical picture and comprehensively study the features of preventing illicit drug trafficking, on the basis of which to identify mechanisms of interaction, analyze their practical implementation in providing assistance to states.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

With more efforts and greater funding by states at the national level and increased cooperation at the international level, significant advances can be made in combating drug trafficking.

The priority directions for the prevention of illicit drug trafficking are the development and use of technological means to combat their spread. It is necessary to highlight the conditions that could increase the efficiency of this activity. The tasks need to be classified according to urgency into short, medium and long term. Each of them is considered as means and methods of observation over a wide area, tactical means of combat and inspection not provided for by instructions.

As problems, it is necessary to highlight the following: study and development in the field of automatic processing of data obtained during the inspection of border areas; fundamental provisions for the creation of databases and information networks that register financial crimes; creation of high-speed networks for processing extremely large amounts of information; integration of massive parallel computer data processing systems into a single network; creation of simple, efficient and inexpensive systems for accessing information on combating crime; development of a national plan for management of information resources to combat the spread of drugs.

On the problem of study and development in the field of activities of customs authorities, it is necessary to strengthen control over the operational situation; operating conditions of automatic data processing systems; to specify the main directions for the identification of suspects.

The operating conditions for automatic data processing systems include the creation of databases, software for universal computing systems, packet switching in the network, the use of a large number of personal computers, a large volume of input messages leading to file changes, quick response actions at border areas, the presence of multifunctional databases.

Areas for identifying suspects include checking tourists and transit passengers, documents, registering suspects, identifying suspects using databases, as well as using interface devices, non-autonomous interfaces defective due to incorrectly formulated program requirements, and providing quick access to data.

The main requirements for automatic data processing systems include fast and reliable identification, compatibility of travel documents, software-to-hardware interface, interactive access to databases, redundancy of communication systems, stability, accuracy, and compatibility of hardware and software.

Particular attention should be paid to The design of information access control systems. It is emphasized that such systems should be simple, efficient and cheap. The main in the control system development should be hardware and software solutions, as well as encryption.

A national plan for the management of information resources of customs authorities on combating the spread of drugs is required for each state, including such issues as: plan goals; achieving these goals from the stage of posing a drug problem to the need to make a decision; functional analysis of the entire cycle at the international, national and cross-border level; stages of improvement; security, secrecy, integrity; security programs; the state of the anti-drug plan.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Considering the fact that a significant share of illegal drug trafficking comes from abroad, the main task is to constraint and improve the efficiency of customs
authorities. There are a number of framework documents that cover air, sea and land operations and ensure that customs administrations work together with trade associations to combat drug trafficking. Collaboration provides vast opportunities for member countries involved in solving problems affecting both traders and trade organizations. Customs and the business world mutually benefit from a collective approach. Customs officials have the opportunity to gain sensible trade information to increase their efficiency and vigilance against drug trafficking, and the business world benefits from liberalization of laws and simplified customs clearance.

In the United Kingdom, one customs team focused on training local freight agents as part of drug detection training. During the one-month training, a message was received from one of the traders about a suspicious cargo that had already passed customs control. As a result, drug trafficking in the amount of 5.6 million dollars was suppressed. Operational information sent to the country where the drugs came from allowed the seizure of 19.2 million dollars’ worth of drugs.

The Irish Customs Administration's anti-drug program, which encourages maritime personnel as well as local residents near ports and airports to report any suspicious activity, has also had positive results. As a result of the information received, a large number of narcotic drugs were confiscated, including 600 kg of cocaine found on board a converted trawler, and sentences were issued to punish the perpetrators of these crimes.

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, it was approved in 1991 at the ministerial level of the states – Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Canada, France, Japan and the United States, which supported a business partnership within the framework of the World Customs Organization. In the future, the program received a new development and resulted in a series of Action Plans, which provided for the strengthening of cooperation between companies and law enforcement agencies.

The new approach has changed the relationship between customs administrations and the business community, especially in the area of transportation. The efficiency of customs services has improved significantly with real-time access to commercial information, which has led to a large number of drugs seizures. Combined with predictive risk methods, the exchange of commercial and trade information has provided a more professional approach to identifying illicit drugs.

The World Customs Organization's program is currently focusing on the practical implementation of a partnership approach with an increasing number of joined countries. In 2000, an Implementation Support Group was formed, which should deal with those customs administrations that wish to develop their own trade and cooperation programs. These administrations will receive technical assistance and training appropriate to their own needs, and the projects created should be further supported by the Assistance and Public Relations team.

It is planned to study and implement opportunities for cooperation with other organizations and their programs, including the UN Drug Control Program (UNDCP), the EU program (PHARE). In practice, the information obtained by customs within the framework of the partnership can be used effectively when all elements of the customs service are in readiness for action. The basis for effective performance should be assessed against a number of elements: current legislation; systems that encourage the legal provision of information and assistance in preventing the movement of illegal drugs; access to operational information; effective enforcement measures; effective communication with customs administrations of other countries.

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