The Politics of Drugs at the Source and in Transit

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• Number of drug control strategies and practices, introduced and implemented in last few years, leaded to limited shortage of opium fields in Afghanistan, which means some limited reduction of illegal drug transportation through the Northern Path.
The below listed facts are to confirm the above statement:

- The street price of heroin in CA region slightly raised for the first time in last 10-12 years;
- “Chars” – high quality hashish “Made in Afghanistan” – slowly but steadily started to push opioids off the leading position in total volume of seized drugs;
- And still, heroin production is so intensive, and stored reserves are so huge, that volume of illicit heroin transported and consumed in the sub-region comes on the level of DRUG’S EXPANSION
Over the years of its existence, Afghan drug’s expansion:

• Generated and fueled an unprecedented drug-born corruption, which is more threatening for the national and regional security than drug-abusing itself, because it is capable to undermine in the near future the foundations of the state («red heroin»);
• Formed the most prominent manifestation of organized crime in the region;
• Affected political processes in some countries of the region (drug-lords and criminal authorities are elected to the state parliaments or take charge of law enforcement agencies and administrative territorial units);
Over the years of its existence, Afghan drug’s expansion:

• Forced states of the region to allocate for drug-combat measures continuously growing portions of the limited national resources (for instance, recently allocated funds to cover staffing costs of the State Drug Control Agency, Kyrgyzstan);

• It does not allow stopping ethnic conflicts (increasingly growing confrontation of ethnic organized criminal groups; demonization and stigmatization of selected nations);

• It fuels terrorism and violent extremism

• It contributes to progressively growing narcotization of population and incidence of fatal illnesses (up to 65% of new HIV-infection cases resulted from the harmful needle sharing practices among injecting drug users).
• Corruption opens drug-trafficking channels (Border Guard, Customs)
• “Business cooperation” of organized criminal groups keeps the corrupted drug-transporting channels opened, and they are capable to provide armed escort and security, if needed.
• Well-established money-laundering schemes (mainly through the large army of labor migrants and CADII). What is CADII?
• Previous leaders of Kyrgyzstan established the Central Agency on Development, Investments and Innovations (CADII) – the governmental agent that received mandate for different types of financial operations with funds, coming to the country from all sources.
• The new agency supposed to become a powerful “laundry machine”: money from pension funds, granted by donors, tax paid, and illegal incomes of organized crime and drug trafficking – all supposed to be pooled together and mixed up by the agency, and then – to be washed clean through absolutely legal governmental programs
• It is well-known that up to 70% of Afghan heroin is directed to the Western Europe via Iran – Turkey and Balkan states, and those countries do not face problems with “white death” supply. According to experts, up to 60% trafficked through the Northern path heroin “sink out” in Russia. Although, some members of EU (Romania, Hungary, Poland, Baltic countries) already affected by transported through the Northern Path heroin. Meanwhile the drug-mafia is struggling to open up new markets!