
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

PRESIDENT RESEARCH PACKET

The Surge of Illegal Contraband in the
Netherlands

The logo for I'MUN '21 is rendered in a vibrant blue, 3D-style font. The letters are blocky and have a slight shadow effect, giving them a sense of depth. The 'I' and 'M' are connected, and the 'UN' is also connected. The year '21' is positioned to the right of 'UN'. The entire logo has a soft, glowing aura around it.

Introduction

The Netherlands or commonly known as Holland is a sovereign state located in the northern part of the European main continent. The Netherlands is a key member in the European Union where it enjoys cooperation with other European states. Moreover, the Netherlands has its borders open due to the Schengen Agreement of 1985 which helped it ease the travel between member states and trade. This opened the doors for organized drug trade which is becoming a pressing issue that the Netherlands has to deal with. A report commissioned by the mayor of Amsterdam in August described the capital as a "Valhalla for drug criminals". Justice Minister Ferd Grapperhaus warned that the Netherlands wasn't yet a narco-state but was in danger of becoming one.

Background Information

The Netherlands has been described as a central hub for the global drug market due to its many transit ports and the large number of synthetic drugs being produced in the country. This has caused many issues to arise, and violence to become ubiquitous all throughout the Netherlands. This brutality has reached to extreme levels such as a severed head outside a coffee shop, or the murder of a crown witness's brother, Reduan B. These events have all been shown to be tied to drug related conflicts which raises concern about the future of the Netherlands.

Dutch law is very soft on drug offenders. Possession of a kilo of heroin carries a twenty-year sentence in Greece. In Holland, this is only one year. Drug dealing goes on undisturbed in most parts of the Netherlands. In Amsterdam, a class of couriers, mostly with an immigrant background, delivers packets of cocaine throughout the city without any interference from the authorities. This has resulted in newer generations to drop out of school and pursue a career in drug trafficking due to the high rewards with little to no risk involved. This issue is affecting the Netherlands across all its sectors making it a high priority issue.

In February 2018, a commando armed with an AK-47 stormed a youth center, also in Amsterdam, and killed 17-year-old Mohammed Bouchikhi accidentally. At the height of the drug war, many liquidations took place in social clubs frequented by teenagers. In the Netherlands most of these murders have been committed by Moroccan crime groups, dubbed the Moco Maffia, who started out in the 1970s when first migrant workers smuggled hash from their home country to sell in Holland. To conclude, the issue of illegal contraband in the Netherlands is a pressing matter that needs immediate attention to secure a safer, and brighter future for the upcoming generations and the people of Holland.

Guiding Questions

- What caused the rise of illegal contraband in the Netherlands?
- How does the issue of illegal contraband in the Netherlands affect the European Union?
- What can the Netherlands do to combat this issue?
- How can the United Nations aid the Netherlands?
- How does the involvement of mafias affect this issue?

Relevant Sources

- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50821542>
- <https://www.addictioncenter.com/news/2020/01/netherlands-narco-state/>
- <https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/field-report-netherlands-narcostate-and-emergence-methamphetamine-industry>
- <https://www.statista.com/statistics/632372/total-number-of-drug-deaths-in-the-netherlands/>