

Importance of Drug Precursors' control in the EU and New trends in their diversion.

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European Commission
DG Enterprise and Industry
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What is a Drug precursor chemical?

- **A chemical substance with many essential legitimate uses, in many downstream industries**
 - § Pharmaceuticals, plastics, food, aroma, cosmetics...
- **A substance frequently used for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**



Production of heroin



OPIUM



MORPHINE



HEROIN



HEROIN HYDROCHLORIDE



ACETIC ANHYDRIDE

(100 – 400L needed to prepare
100kg heroin hydrochloride)

ACETONE/ETHYL ETHER

(1 500 – 2 000L for 100kg
heroin hydrochloride)

HYDROCHLORIC ACID

(30L for 100kg heroin hydrochloride)

ACETIC ANHYDRIDE
Usually used for production
of cellulose, dyes, plastics
and medicines. Illicitly used
as a key precursor for heroin
production.

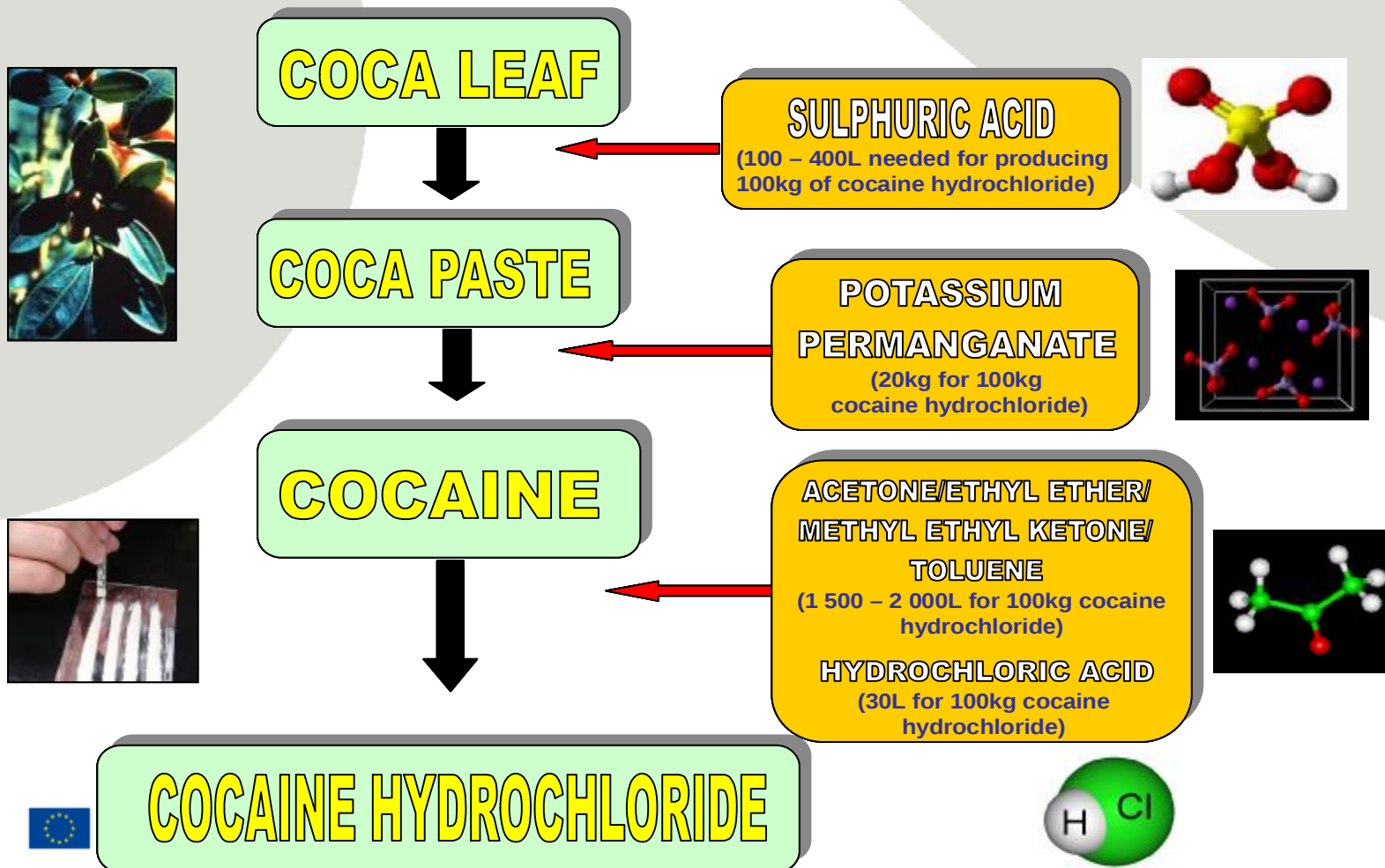


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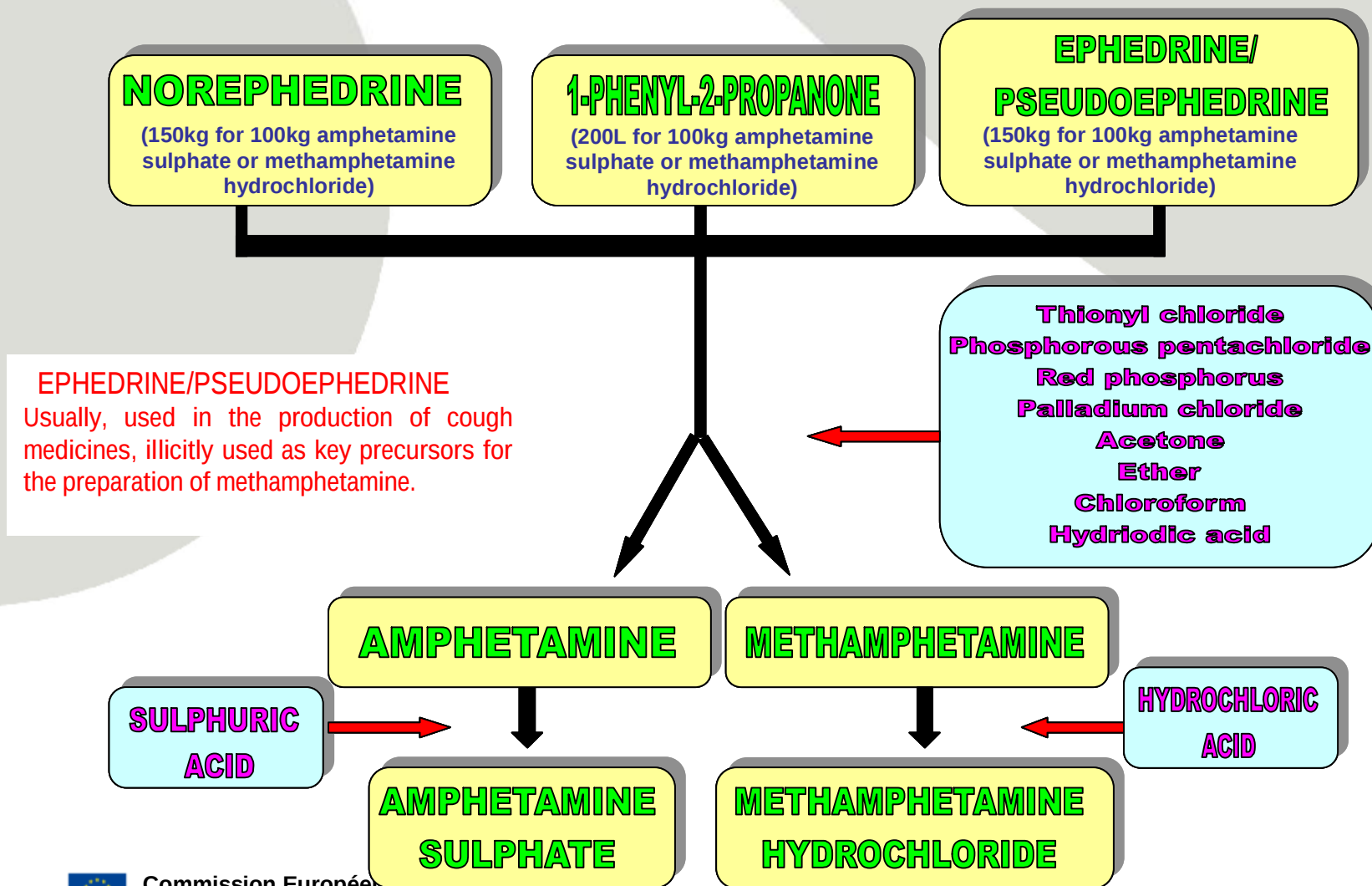
Production of cocaine

POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE

Largely used in the water/waste industry, leather industry, medicines. Illicitly used as an oxidizer in reaction with the plant coca to produce cocaine.



Production of methamphetamine and amphetamine



Scale of the Problem

- 1litre of 1-Phenyl-2propane (BMK)
 - ▶ 50 000 street doses of amphetamine
 - ▶ with street value > 800 000 €
- 1litre of Ephedrine
 - ▶ 20 000 street-doses of Metamphetamine
 - ▶ with stree value > 400 000 €

Why controlling the legitimate trade of chemical Drug Precursors ?

No drugs without precursors !!!

- ▶ Diversion preferred way of traffickers to get the chemicals they need for illicit drug production
- ▶ Striking the right balance between optimal diversion control and while allowing legitimate trade without unnecessary burden.



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Drug precursor control & EU drug strategy

- Drug precursor control is part of the European drug strategy
 - § Measures to counter diversion and trafficking of drug precursors are an essential part of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2009-2012
 - § They are part of the overall EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012



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EU Legislation on drug Precursors

- ▶ **Implementing UN Convention 1988 Article 12**
- ▶ **Existing since 1990 and revamped in 2004**
- **Regulation EC N°273/2004 (intra EU trade)**
- **Regulation N° 111/2005 (External EU Trade)**
- **Regulation N°1277/2005 (implementing measures)**

Directly applicable in all 27 EU countries



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What are the drug precursors subject to control?

- 23 Scheduled substances as at UN level but divided in 3 categories:
 - § Category 1: Key precursors
 - § Category 2: less sensitive and 'pre-precursors'
 - § Category 3: basic bulk chemicals with wide range of uses in manufacturing processes
- EU voluntary monitoring list



Substance	Licit Use	Illicit Use
Category 1 1-phenyl-2-propanone N-acetylanthranilic acid Isosafrol (cis + trans) 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl propan-2-one Piperonal Safrole Ephedrine Pseudoephedrine Norephedrine Ergometrine Ergotamine Lysergic acid	Pharmaceuticals Dyes, perfumes Soaps, flavourings Perfumes Repellent, flavourings Cold medicines, perfumes Cough medicines Bronchodilator Nasal decongestant Migraine treatment Obstetrics Organic synthesis	Amphetamines Methaqualone MDMA MDMA MDMA MDMA Amphetamines Amphetamines Amphetamines LSD LSD LSD
Category 2 Acetic anhydride Phenylacetic acid Anthranilic acid Piperidine Potassium permanganate	Textiles, bleaching Penicillin manufacture Dyes, pharmaceuticals Solvent, rubber Biocides, synthesis	Heroin Amphetamines Methaqualone Phencyclidine Cocaine
Category 3 Hydrochloric acid Sulphuric acid Toluene Ethyl ether Acetone Methylethylketone	Basic chemistry Basic chemistry Solvent, gasoline Solvent, anaesthetic Solvent, plastics Solvent, degreaser	Cocaine/Heroin Cocaine Cocaine Cocaine Cocaine/Heroin Cocaine/Heroin Cocaine



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How does EU control of legitimate trade in Drug Precursor work ?

- Principle of cooperation/partnership between authorities and industry
 - § EU Guidelines for the Industry
 - § Notification of suspicious transactions to authorities: a key instrument in control for both scheduled and non-scheduled substances
 - § Providing information on trade movements
 - § List of non-scheduled substances – voluntary monitoring list



How does EU control of legitimate trade in Drug Precursor work ?

- Monitoring of operators and of commercial transactions
 - § Licensing / registration of operators
 - § Import /export authorisation, pre-export notification of transactions
 - § Obligations on documentation, labelling, record keeping
 - § Information obligation to competent authorities
 - § Customer declarations



Annual Report on EU drug Precursors seizures

- All EU annual summary reports available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/files/new_page/report_2008_en.pdf
- 2009 Summary report soon available



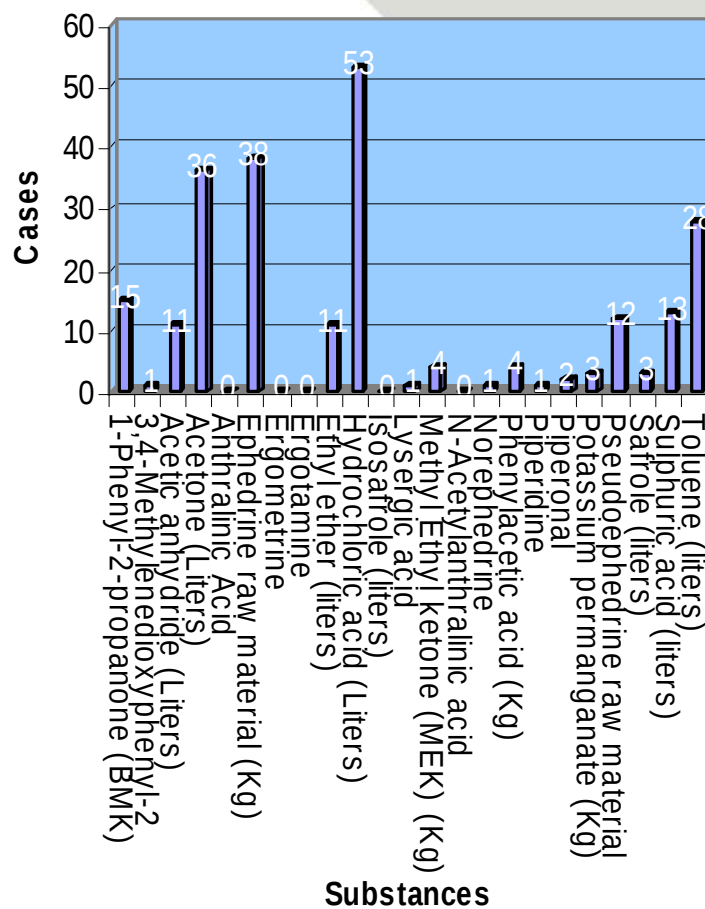
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Main findings of 2009

- Overall in 2009:
 - § 237 cases of scheduled substances (214 seizures + 23 stopped shipments)
 - § Increased trend of cases involving Category 3 and non-scheduled substances.

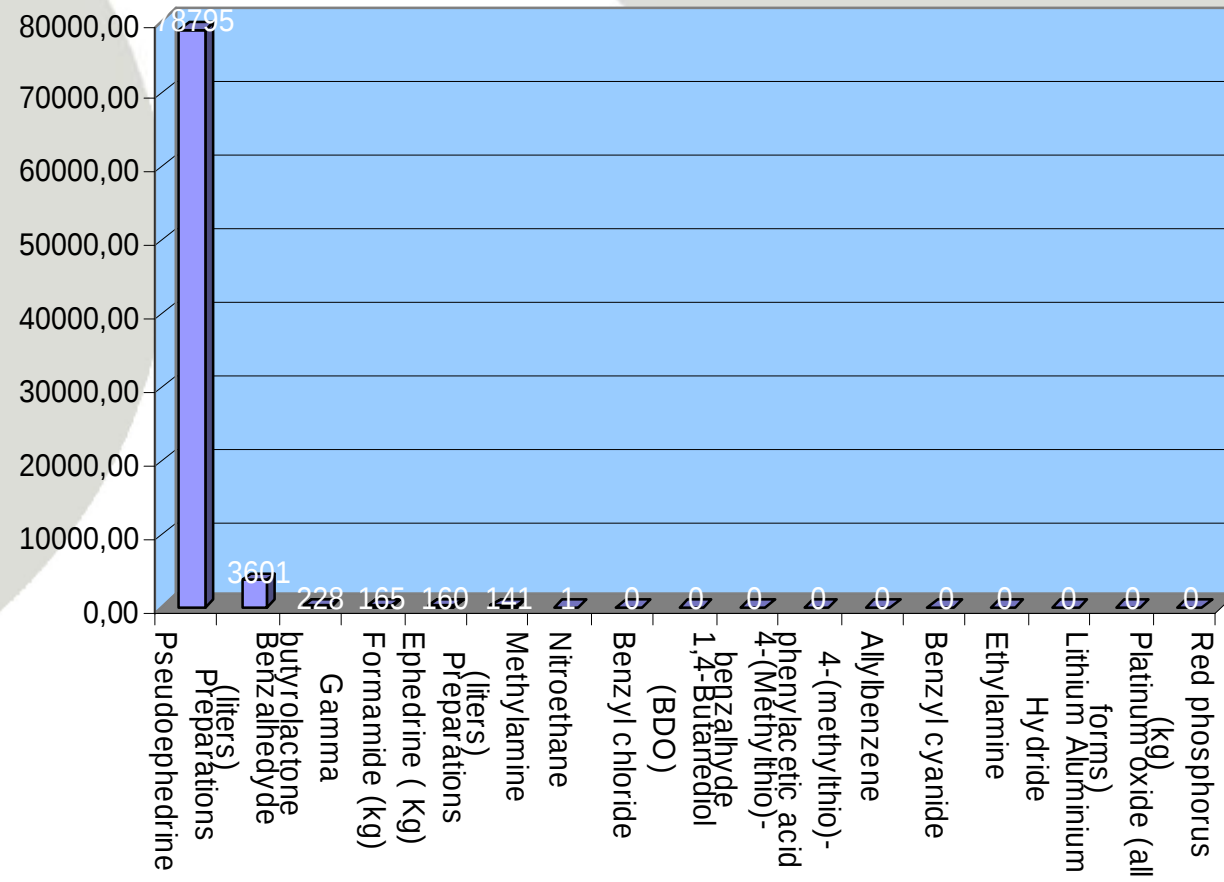


2009- Number of cases Seizures and Stopped shipments of scheduled substances



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2009 -quantities of non-scheduled substances seized or stopped



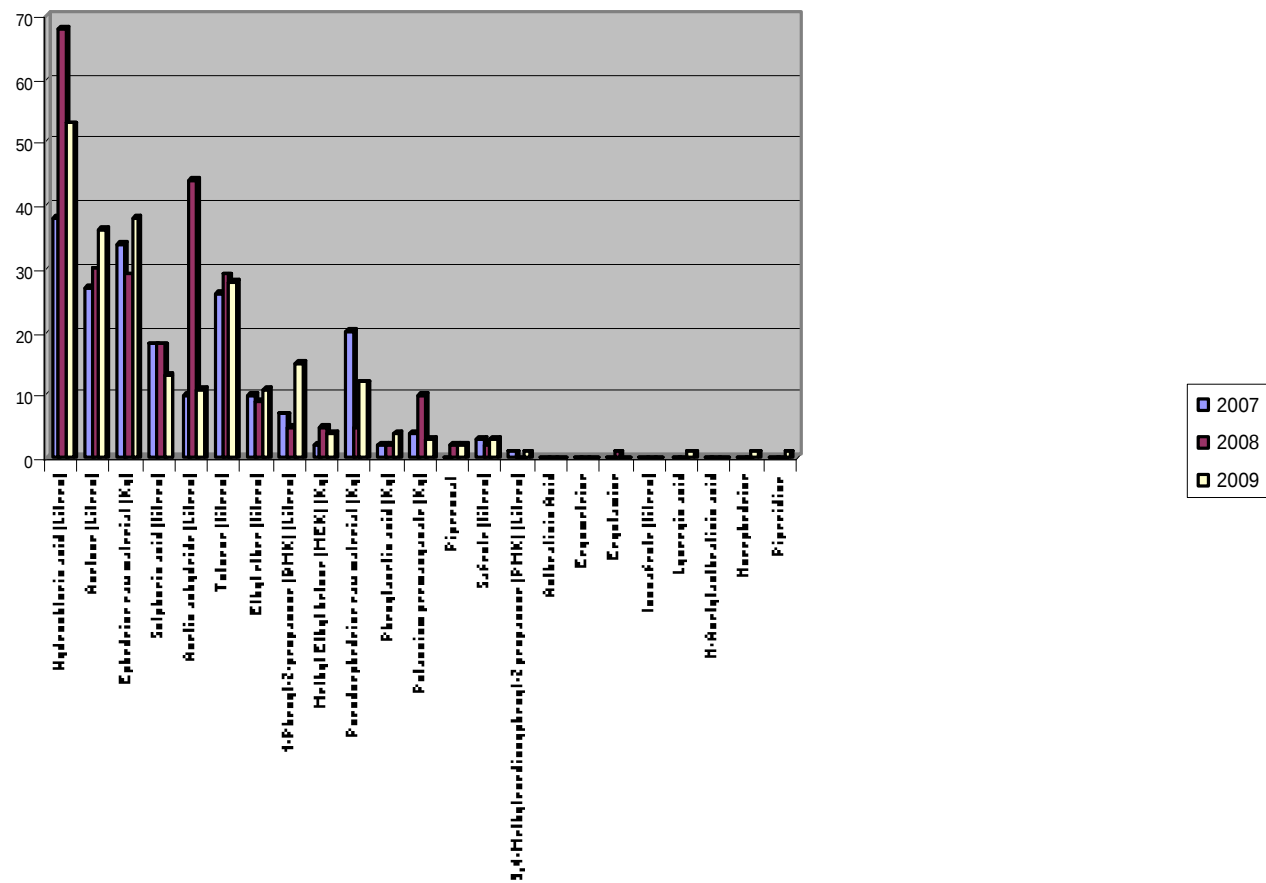
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Comparison of 2007-2008-2009

- Category 1:
 - § Increased of BMK in number of cases (15) and in quantities (863 liters)
 - § Increased in quantities of Piperonal (2 cases but 1500 liters)
- Category 2:
 - § Important decrease of AA seizure from 32 t in 2007, 240 t in 2008 and 33 t in 2009
 - § Continuous absence of cases with PP
- Important increase of some Category 3 substances:
 - § Acetone, Toluene, Ethyl ether
- Important increased in non-scheduled substances:
 - § Pseudo-ephedrine and ephedrine preparations
 - § Steady trend for GBL



Comparison 2007-2008-2009 - Number of cases (seizures and stopped shipments of scheduled substances)



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Comparison 2007-2008-2009 - Number of cases (seizures and stopped shipments of non-scheduled substances)

Substance	2007	2008	2009
Gamma butyrolactone (GBL) [liters]	130	150	125
Propylhexedrine (Kg)	48	28	28
Propylhexedrine [Kg]	35	18	375
Methylamine [liters]	5	8	5
Bromobutylate [liters]	5	8	5
1,4-Bulacardial (BDO)	2	2	2
4-(Methylthio)benzothiole	2	2	2
4-methylthio-phenylacetic acid	2	2	2
8-Hydroxyurea	2	2	2
Bromobutylate	2	2	2
Bromobutylate	2	2	2
Elthylamine	2	2	2
Formamide [kg]	5	5	5
Lithium Aluminium Hydride	2	2	2
Methylamine	5	5	5
Platinum oxide (all forms)	2	2	2
Ethylphosphorus [kg]	10	25	2

Conclusions

- VITAL need to join all our efforts through intense cooperation at national , regional, European and international level across all expertise (health & social , customs, police, education...) if we want to effectively fight against the worldwide drug economy !!
- ...alone nobody can make it !!

Thanks for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/chemicals/legislation/precursors/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_controls/drugs_precursors/legislation/index_en.htm



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