

## **J. Drug policy and organised crime**

### **Reference**

P. Williams, 'The nature of drug-trafficking networks', in *Current History, A Journal of Contemporary World Affairs*, 1998, 97, p. 154 – 159.

### **Commentary**

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This contribution was taken from a special issue on Narcopolitics of the journal *Current History*.

In 1998, a special issue of the Journal *Transnational Organized Crime* was published on "Combating Transnational Crime", containing articles from several, internationally respected authors on the subject.

See: P. Williams and D. Vlassis, 'Combating transnational crime, Concepts, Activities and Responses, in *Transnational organized crime*, 1998, 4, nrs. 3&4.

More information on the journal and the special issue can be achieved from:  
URL: [frankcass.com/jnls/toc.htm](http://frankcass.com/jnls/toc.htm)

### **Abstract**

Law enforcement efforts and military interdiction have failed to degrade, disrupt or destroy the networks trafficking drugs into the United States and Western Europe. A large part of this supply reduction failure can be understood in terms of the organizational superiority of drug trafficking supply networks over the more traditional bureaucratic organizations that dominate interdiction and law enforcement efforts.

By using networks, transnational criminal enterprises and drug-trafficking organizations enjoy enormous flexibility and are able to respond rapidly to new strategies and techniques developed by law enforcement.

Therefore, governments and law enforcement agencies have to think and act much more in network terms; they need to develop the same kind of flexibility through the creation of informal transnational law enforcement networks based on the trust that is exhibited by drug-trafficking networks.