

O. Selected media clippings

Reference

Survey Illegal Drugs, in *The Economist*, July 26, 2001, URL: drugscope.org.uk/news_item.asp?intID=394

Editorial Desk, 'Time to Move on Drug Law Reform', in *The New York Times*, June 13, 2002; URL: nytimes.com/

K. Ahmed, 'Drugs leak sows policy confusion', in *The Observer*, July 7, 2002; URL: observer.co.uk/politics/story/0,6903,750970,00.html

M. Bright, 'Police urge major rethink on heroin', in *The Observer*, December 9, 2001; URL: observer.co.uk/politics/story/0,6903,615814,00.html

HIV/AIDS 'still a big problem' among EU drug users, says drug agency, EU drugs agency in Lisbon, June 26, 2002; URL: emcdda.org/infopoint/news_media/newsrelease.cfm

Commentary

Some exemplary articles were selected, based on a screening of the Guardian (URL: guardian.co.uk) and The Observer (URL: observer.co.uk); The New York Times (URL: nytimes.com); The Economist (URL: economist.com); The Washington Post (URL: washingtonpost.com); the Financial Times (URL: news.ft.com/home/rw).

Furthermore, the News&Press Office from Drugscope (URL: drugscope.org.uk/news_home.asp) and the News and Media Services from the EMCDDA (URL: emcdda.org/infopoint/news_media.shtml) were screened as well.

These articles were selected because they are illustrative of the – political – sensitivity of the debate on drug policy (reform) and the sometimes emotional way in which drug problems are being portrayed by the media.

From 28 July until 3 August 2001, *The Economist magazine* included a special report, examining the case for ending drug prohibition.

The magazine examines the issue's history, risks and rewards in drug policy reform, drug use patterns, an overview of the nature and scale of drugs' harms, governments' failing attempts to stem the flow of drugs, alternatives to 'drug war' and other topics.

Special reports on the drug issue can also be found in *the Observer*; see: URL: observer.co.uk/comment/story/0,6903,672526,00.html

Furthermore, three articles on legislative reform were included, showing the multiplicity of the actors involved in the debate, the sensitivity of the subject and the controversy associated with drug policy (reform).

The first is an article from *the New York Times* in June 2002, describing the discussion on New York's State's legislative reform for a significant expansion of the use of drug treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration for non-violent drug offenders.

The second article appeared in *the Observer* in July of 2002 and describes the UK Governments' initiative to lay an order before the House of Commons to move cannabis from a Class B to a Class C Drug, at the same time doubling the maximum length of sentence dealers will serve, resulting in critique from divergent actors involved.

The third article, appeared in *the Observer* in December 2001 and highlights the proposal by Britain's Association of Chief Police Officers, to no longer prosecute heroin users if they agree to register and inject prescribed heroin in strictly controlled 'shooting galleries' under medical supervision, because they believe this approach will break the link between addicts and property crime and will allow the police to concentrate on major drug dealers and organised crime.

Finally, a press release from the *European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction* (EMCDDA) was included.

In pursuance of this year's theme of UN International Day Against Drugs, namely HIV/AIDS, the EMCDDA issued a press release on the matter. Overall, the EMCDDA is concerned that if control measures such as prevention including needle exchange and condom availability had been sufficient, the problem of HIV/AIDS among intravenous drug users should have been slowly diminishing in the most-affected areas. Therefore, they have the impression that control of HIV/AIDS in intravenous drug users is still insufficient.

The EMCDDA press releases offer good information on the latest developments from the EMCDDA, on key topics, on results from research projects, etc.

The EMCDDA website holds a list of news releases disseminated by the EMCDDA since 1998; URL: emcdda.org/infopoint/news_media/newsrelease.cfm